

## Local Church Flying - Camel Caravan Evangelism

When we gave presentations to churches last summer we said that one of the goals for this year was to increase the amount of local church flying. Much of January was spent arranging meetings with local church leaders and looking at ways that MAF could help local organisations to spread the gospel.

As a result of this, we recently had the honour of flying some workers and journalists from Every Home for Christ (EHC) to Ati in the centre of Chad.

In Chad, camel caravans are a traditional source of news and entertainment to small villages all over the desert areas of the country. A camel caravan provides an interesting diversion from the common work and routine of village life, meaning that the caravans are almost always welcome to spend some time camping near a small village. National EHC workers in Chad use this tradition to spread the Gospel to countless villages in the desert regions of northern Chad. Travelling in areas with no mobile network, running water, or electricity, this camel caravan brings music, entertainment and Christian reading materials.



Each camel has two riders, and everyone is equipped to share the gospel with those around them using leaflets, music, videos, and stories. Caravan life can be difficult and all the household goods and equipment must be carried on the camels with the riders. The caravan travels frequently to new areas to reach more people and find fresh grazing areas for the camels.

For this trip, a portion of the caravan was sent from their current location to meet with journalists and the country director of EHC in Chad for meetings and interviews.

The journalists took pictures and interviewed the teams about the work they were doing and their backgrounds. Flying with MAF made it possible for the team to get to Ati without spending a day travelling by road and therefore spend more time carrying out training, having meetings and gathering stories to publish and share this unique form of ministry.



Photos courtesy of EHC - Camel Caravan near Ati, local house, and reading tracts

Most of the national EHC workers used to have a good lifestyle and many comforts that are no longer available to them since they turned to Christ. But the Gospel is worth more to them than wealth and prosperity. It was a humbling experience for all involved to hear about the choices they have made to serve Christ. We are optimistic that the relationships we are developing with local organisations and the local church will see many more flights like this happen in the coming years.

## Home Assignment 2019

This year we are planning to be back in the UK from mid-August until beginning of October. This time will include medicals, renewals of licences for Becki, training, family holiday and of course time to speak about the work in Chad this year. We will be arranging the dates with our supporting churches over the next few weeks and will send out the dates soon. Please get in touch if you would like to arrange a visit, either personal or for a church group.



Outside St Andrew's, Buckland Monachorum. September 2018

## Prayer

- After being tantalisingly close to having an AOC (Air Operators Certificate) issued, the authorities have taken the process back two steps (this is affecting all operators). Pray the process can be finished soon.
- Families have left Chad to change program or go on home assignment so the team is left short staffed. Pray for energy to complete the tasks that need doing over the coming months.

## Praise

- For the increase in local church flying hours during the first 3 months of the year.
- The next permanent program manager and his wife came to visit Chad to meet the team in February. We look forward to them arriving later this year.
- We enjoyed a restful and restorative two week break in March.

## Bethan's Blog

I am nearly 7, tomorrow will be my birthday party. I'm having an endangered animal party and a rhino cake. I have one baby bird that I am looking after, everyday I give it food, drink and cuddles. We went to Morocco on holiday and saw our friend Ruth, she brought a lead for my pet rabbit. I rode on a donkey, it was called Kiwi. It was bumpy, smelly and quite scary but I didn't fall off! They use donkey's to carry everything in Moulay Idriss because cars can't get up the paths, we even saw one carrying a big fridge.



## A Letter from Luke

I am speaking more, exploring more and becoming more and more independent. I enjoy helping Daddy fix things, playing with anything Bethan wants and being doted over by all the girls on the compound (at the moment I am the only boy and the youngest so I get 'looked after' a lot!). I love trains and cars and anything purple. I do not like swimming so I sit on the side of the pool and just keep my toes cool.

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