

Dear friends and family,

Thank you for your prayer, support, and encouragement leading up to and during my trip to N'djamena, Chad. It was very fulfilling using my structural engineering skills with Engineering Ministries International to design a support center for TEAM Missions. The project was successful and



we will have finalized construction drawings for them by the end of the year. It was truly an amazing experience. Prior to leaving I had all sorts of expectations as to what I would see and the things I would learn; however, I never could have imagined who I would become. I have experienced a transformation bigger than just learning to be grateful for the things we take for granted: food, shelter, vaccines, education, and literacy. This trip gave me a whole new perspective on the needs of this world and what my role in meeting those needs could be.

On the last day our hosts, TEAM Missions, took us to a historical village with a little museum with artifacts in it. This historical village was tucked away in an actual village. This was our first time getting out of the capitol and meeting people who didn't even speak French, they spoke one of the 120 different languages of Chad. The village was made up of mud huts with straw roofs; there was sewage and garbage in the streets. The children were very interested in our group and followed us everywhere. I was getting over-heated inside the museum so I stepped outside by myself. There was a gate with four or so children cracking it open to watch us. A young girl (the one in yellow in the picture to the right), probably not yet two, left her friends at the gate and began walking towards me. The kids called her back but she kept coming towards me, she stopped at my feet and held up her arms for me to pick her up, I did. As I was holding this baby, I did what I always do when holding a baby, I sang "This Little Light of Mine". As I sang and swayed my finger I watched the flies crawl in and out of her eyes and nose, I smelled the stench of feces on her, I saw her distended belly and sunken face, and I thought about what her life would be like. She would always want for food and clean water, she will always lack sanitation and comfortable shelter, and if she survives past the age of five she will probably never learn to read. Worse than all of that she may never hear The Gospel in her native language, she may never know that Jesus loves her, and she may never get to experience the hope that comes from having a personal relationship with God.



While I was singing to this child I felt the tremendous weight of not only her humanitarian needs but even greater her spiritual needs and it brought me to tears. In one moment I realized how important the work TEAM Missions is doing in Chad is, because just in this village there were 200 other children with the same needs as this little girl, and there are too many villages in Chad just like this one (www.chad.team.org). TEAM Missions is fighting the odds and working hard to plant churches among the different languages and people groups in Chad. At one point in this village we talked with the leaders about how to fix their broken water pump, I thought it was the perfect symbolism of their spiritual needs:

“Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks of the water that I will give him will never be thirsty again. The water that I will give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life.” John 4:13-14



Upon returning home and processing what I’ve experienced in Chad I am realizing this trip was more than me just getting to see and understand the physical and spiritual poverty of another nation, it was me finding my niche in God’s Kingdom. Now my heart is broken for the needs of the world and I’ve been given the mind to do something about it. I can say with so much more confidence now that I can make a difference with my education, skills, and spiritual gifts in this life because I just did exactly that. I cannot wait to see where God calls me to serve next. I am so thankful for your encouragement and support because it made this experience even more meaningful knowing I was just an extension of a body of believers serving God together.

Thank you,

Emily