

Viana do Alentejo, August 4, 2008. We are now deep into the summer and I am starting to see a few patterns develop of how things will most likely be during the next 12 months. Lucy is already in Iraq, and so far, not bad. Her biggest complaints seem to be the excessive heat and the fact that she feels a bit claustrophobic with the compound life. As I said, not bad! I am already here in Viana, getting used to the sweet, easy going, relaxed and relaxing country life. In addition to all else, I am enjoying the immeasurable pleasure of being able to leave my sister's farm and find myself on a narrow and beautifully winding country road, surrounded by typical Alentejo views of cork oaks and olive trees. Right now the daily highs are indeed a bit too high, but all together, life could be worse. Only the kids are far from what will be there routines for this next year. Ben is here with me, Filipa is still in summer camp back in the US, and she will not get here until mid August. Then in early September I will take them back to their boarding schools and by that time we will have fully completed our transition from living in Chad to living ...multi-Continental-ly!

More soon! BRgds, Jorge

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