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 Subject: Fwd: Messer Message, February 2003

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Subject: Messer Message, February 2003

X-Mailer: Juno 5.0.33

From: David A MESSER <andrulius1@juno.com>

X-RCPT-TO: <sharonwatson@wwntbm.com>

Dear Friends,

Andy said it is time for me to write again. YEA! I love sitting here at the computer. I'm not being sarcastic, I really do love it. So, here I sit in a nice tile laundry room in a lovely carpeted home in Winston-Salem, NC U.S.A.!!! I'm still in shock, but it is gradually wearing off. I even must confess I felt a bit depressed at first about being back. It must be a female thing, but I always react that way when my life changes. It does not mean that I don't want the change, but I have a hard time letting go of the old routine and establishing a new one. God is very good, however, and He always gives me the grace and the strength to cope (hey, I'm still here aren't I?) I'm really REALLY learning to be content in whatever state (or country) I am in. It has been marvelous to see God's provision for each need along this path that we have chosen to walk. If you are out there and you believe that God is leading you into missions (He has called us all to "go and preach the gospel" and to be witnesses for Him) DO NOT BE AFRAID! He is our God and He holds our right hand. He has promised to help us and that is absolutely amazing!!! GOD almighty, who created all we see and have, caring about little ol' me and my little ol' feelings. Just remember, do right no matter how you feel about it. Ok, I'm preaching at myself now, so I'll quit.

Let me update you on our lives. We left San Pedro on Wed. the 5th of Feb to drive to Abidjan. On Thursday we flew out of Abidjan around 12 PM. We arrived in Paris that evening and spent the night. I was really scared about having to spend a night in Paris, but really it went super well. The hotel was very nice, clean and comfortable; and it helped us to be refreshed for our second day of travel from Paris to N.Y. We heard that on Friday after we left, the President of Cote d'Ivoire told the people that they should accept the peace agreement. This resulted in angry mobs storming the airport to show their displeasure. I know it is because of your prayers that I never saw any violence of any kind while I was there in Cote d'Ivoire. It was going on, but God just never let me or my kids see any of it. The interesting thing is that the President was supposed to speak on Wed. night the 5th (the riot could have been on Thurs.) but he postponed the speech (he had been postponing it all week) until the next day. God is good. Ok, so we were in N.Y. on Friday at 10 AM. A pastor from that area (Pastor Dierking) came and met us at the airport with coats and warm clothes for the kids. Praise God for His provision. We rented a nice clean van and drove from N.Y.

to M.D. We were so tired and the kids were fussing (not used to being in car seats - I love the car seats!), so we stopped at a McDonalds to let them run and play a bit. Then we checked into a hotel and got a VERY good nights rest. We all woke up at 5:30 AM (jet lag -- wish it would last forever), had a nice family time together of reading God's word, ate a yummy FREE continental breakfast (like we did not pay for that in the cost of the room - Ha ha!), and headed off to Manassas, Va. We stopped at Walmart and got a couple more warm things for the kids (some of the stuff did not really fit them well) before stopping at Andy's sister's house. It was SO wonderful to see them again after 2 full years! My how their kids have grown and they say the same of ours. You'll see when you see us. We went to church at Andy's home church (Berean Baptist -- Pastor Bob Gower) and had a wonderful time of fellowship with all those dear ones. It was so nice to see mom again and catch up on all the family news. On Tuesday, the 11th we left Manassas and headed home to Winston-Salem. We enjoyed being back at Salem Baptist (our sending church) and seeing all our dear friends again. It has been good to hug people and enjoy nice long chats. Thanks to e-mail we did not feel that we were so far out of touch with them, but it is not the same as face to face. So, here we are and we are busily scheduling meetings to see you FACE to FACE as soon as possible. If you are a pastor and Andy has not yet contacted you, please give us a call. Our home number is **(336) 764-3910** and our cell phone number is **(336) 692-2273**. We long to see you and rehearse for you all that the Lord has done in Cote d'Ivoire during the past two years. He has done a LOT! and you were a big part of it! Thank you so much!

Who wants to hear something cute about Leah? Oh, did I hear you all saying, "Me ME ME!" :) We have a cute video called "Grow Grow Grow" by Karen Henley and one song is about being a helper. The other day Leah was cleaning up her room and just a singin' away, "I'm my helper. I'm my helper. I am big, I am strong. I can help me all day long. If I need me, I just call my name. I'm so glad I came to help me." I about cracked up. She is a cutie for sure. David keeps us hopping. Currently Andy is "instructing" him on how we do not dump our drinking water on the garage floor!! He comes up to me often and says, "I love you. Hug me!" He is a cutie too. Nadia is one very expressive 2 year old. She likes to watch another video by Karen Henley (can you tell we like her?) called "The Kitchen Band Parade". She calls it the "Chicken Bam". It is so cute to hear her say anything. Alexis is her adorable self. She is busy cutting teeth and trying to stand up. She can wave "hello", nod and shake her head and charm anyone she meets.

Well, dear ones. Thank you so much for all your love, concern and prayers for us. We are glad to be here because we believe it is God's will for us to be here. We do feel safe, but we did not feel too unsafe in San Pedro either. I guess we just know that no matter where we are, our safety is of the Lord. It did seem to be the wise decision to leave at the time we did (we were receiving much counsel on the matter). We trust God always for direction in our lives and we look to Him to fulfill His purposes in us. If there is anything we can do for you or your church, please feel free to e-mail (andrulius1@juno.com) or call us. We want to serve you and encourage you in your walk with the Lord. Thank you for the encouragement you have been to us. You will never know how much we appreciate it.

In closing, I'll give you some praises and prayer requests to assist you in praying for us. Thank you for those who do so.

PRAISE:

Yao (the man who is running our church) said there were 38 adults and many children in church last Sunday.

Our safe arrival in Winston-Salem

A car has been generously donated to us by some dear freinds of ours (the Cleveland family in Florida -- may God bless them!)

We are all in good health and adjusting to the cold weather

Someone sent in a gift of \$700 this week (Praise the Lord)

REQUESTS:

PEACE in Cote d'Ivoire

L'Eglise Baptiste Biblique in San Pedro and specifically Yao, Bertain and James who are running it

Finances (if you want details, just ask)

Scheduling of meetings and safety while we travel

Good health for our family

Please don't let this be a one-sided relationship. If you have a prayer need, please e-mail us. We do pray daily and would be glad to add you to our list of prayer requests. God has commanded us to take our burdens to Him in prayer and to help bear one another's burdens, so lets do as He asks. We look forward to hearing from you and seeing you.

Much love and appreciation,
Andy and Becky Messer