

To: Marthasmith@wwntbm.com
 Subject: Fwd: Messer August Update

To: cjstamp@earthlink.net,mbstugie@earthlink.net,info@service.juno.com,
 bsurratt@triad.rr.com,byron@ontargetforchrist.com,
 MandMTalley@aol.com,tamay331@msn.com,cptttaylor@hotmail.com,
 mthorp@sterling.edu,lptimblin@juno.com,kytoms30@yahoo.com,
 csalvage@earthlink.net,marisky@ifriendly.com,mvaugh1@aol.com,
 sharonwatson@wwntbm.com,ronaldwalker@peoplepc.com,
 JoanWatkins@Bigfoot.com,NateWatkins@bigfoot.com,
 Samtarawatkins4@aol.com,samtarawatkins@bigfoot.com,
 glenned14@aol.com,webers3@ksc.th.com,
 aprildawn_summers@hotmail.com,LouiseCWilliams@charter.net,
 altheia@msn.com,kwills@mtco.com,sarahjoyw@hotmail.com,
 mommysgirl1994@aol.com,MarkMartin6lady@aol.com

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Subject: Messer August Update

X-Mailer: Juno 5.0.33

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

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

Dear family and friends:

August 2003

In Colossians 3:2 we read, "Set your affection on things above, not on things on the earth." If there has been one area of struggle that Becky and I have encountered while on this furlough, it has been with our flesh. As we look around, we see all the things that America has and offers. Our society does its very best to cater to our flesh. Then, as we dwell upon those earthly things, our flesh begins to whisper within us, "You need it. It is not fair to be kept from something you need. You won't find that in Africa. You deserve it." Becky and I will testify that this has been a great battle. But, we will also tell you that there is a answer to the problem. In Matthew 4:1-4, we read how Jesus demonstrated victory over the flesh and the devil. Jesus of course could not sin. However, the need for food was real. Jesus was hungry. After 40 days we would all be hungry. The temptation of self-indulgence was real. But, Jesus chose to do the will of his Father rather than to give into his will and need for food. It is not easy for us to deny our flesh. In fact, it can be quite a struggle at times. Becky and I have been really striving to get rid of those things that will feed our flesh. Is our flesh to still alive? Oh yes! Like a half starved dog it has been begging for any scrap we would throw it. Here is a question for you, "What are you feeding your flesh?" Keep it starved. Set your affection, your devotion and your heart on things above rather than on the things of this earth that will only strengthen your flesh.

Our family has been busy for the past 30 days. One week we were the mission speakers at a Vacation Bible School. It was such a joy to share with the young boys and girls about the world of missions. At least two boys accepted Christ as their Savior and four others committed their lives to Christ. Amen and amen! Even Leah, David and Nadia attended the

classes during the week. Nadia was her cute self as usual. Every time Becky and I would ask a spiritual question, Nadia would blurt out "Jesus!" That was her answer to all the questions. In reality, Jesus is the answer to all life's questions. After the week of VBS, we went to Camp TOHIGLO (To His Glory) for a week as mission speakers again. Again, we got to see God work. The camp was divided between the juniors (ages 8-12) and the seniors (ages 13-18). Before the week was finished, several of the boys and girls had accepted Christ as their Savior and many other dedicated their lives to do what God wanted. To top it all off, several of the young people stated that they were now planning to come out to Ivory Coast next year for a mission trip. Even several of the staff members declared their intent to come out to experience life on the mission field in Ivory Coast. Glory to God. The invitation in open to all who are saved, serious about spiritual matters and serving the Lord with their lives. So make your plans to come work with us next year for a few weeks or more. Just e-mail us at Andrulus1@juno.com for further details. A mission trip will change your life. Besides the week of VBS and camp, we have been in several churches to give an update on our ministry in Ivory Coast and to challenge God's people to be ambassadors for Christ. As it stands right now, we are planning to return to Ivory Coast in January 2004. As a prayer request, we are asking that you pray with us regarding some financial needs that must be met before our departure. God of course knows these needs but the fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) availeth much. First, we need about \$10,000 for another vehicle on the field. Second, our return passage is expected to be around \$5,500. Although our departure is five months away, we need to be planning for this now. If you are able to help with these needs in any way, please send the designated gift to World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions. Your earthly gift will pay heavenly dividends.

The latest reports from Ivory Coast have been good. The government and rebels have declared that the war is over. Now begins the process of disarmament of the rebels. This is supposed to happen at the end of August and early September. Because of the good news, many missionaries have already returned to their homes in the country. Please pray with us again that the peace would remain and that we would be able to return in January as planned.

Prayer Requests:

1. Good health for our family as we finish our furlough.
2. Safety as we travel from church to church.
3. That others would accept God's call to go.
4. That those who have accepted Christ as Savior recently would grow in the knowledge of God.
5. That our flesh would be starved.
6. That our spiritual man would be fed with spiritual things daily.
7. For continued peace in Ivory Coast.
8. For our financial needs before our departure.

Once again we thank you for praying with us and for us.

In His service,

Andy and Becky Messer