

To: marthasmith@wwntbm.com
From: Missions Office Manager <sharonwatson@wwntbm.com>
Subject: Fwd: Messer Family Update 1-14-2004

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Date: Wed, 14 Jan 2004 17:12:13 -0500
Subject: Messer Family Update 1-14-2004
X-Mailer: Juno 5.0.33
From: David A MESSER <andrulus1@juno.com>
X-RCPT-TO: <sharonwatson@wwntbm.com>

Dear Friends,

Life in Africa is ... very different. We are pretty much unpacked (at least the stuff we brought with us). There was some stuff that was shipped on a container and we are working on that. The church people will be glad to see the new Bibles and Commentaries in French. Also, we got a bunch of these things called EvangeCube, a great tool for witnessing. It's a block that unfolds with pictures of the plan of salvation. Great because you can use it with any language. Yesterday, Andy and Dan went around the neighborhood of the church passing out calendars with the plan of salvation and directions to our church printed on them. These are always well received. Next Sunday the ladies of our church will be coming to my house for a "petite reunion"--small get together. We will discuss restarting the ladies classes and I hope to begin those this month. It feels VERY good to get back into the ministry here. It was great to see the members who have been faithful and to encourage them in the Lord. The Bible School (BMM) will be starting soon (this month) and we have at least a couple of guys who are ready to begin. Please **pray** for them. One is Yao (the guy who was leading the church during this past year). He has been teaching Sunday School and his lesson was very good yesterday. He taught about the signs that you are drifting from God and how to get back. Very good lesson for our young believers.

On the home front, please **pray** for us to be able to get some of the house projects done. There are so many light fixtures that are not working and a couple of doors and frames that must be completely replaced due to termites (most of the house is cement, but the doors and frames are wood). Also, it seems that all but one toilet seat in the house is broken. Things just seem to fall apart here. We've had some trouble with the electricity (the guy who was living in our house tried to hot wire some things--Andy was NOT happy) and the car has a couple of small problems that need attention. So, this is life in Africa. Lots to fix, not a lot of money to pay for it all (we are seriously scraping bottom this month due to the purchase of the car, shipping our stuff and setting up house again) and not a lot of time to make it happen. Good soil for growing the fruit of patience. **Pray** for us to have wisdom, patience and a good sense of humor during these days. I am VERY thankful to God that the kids are all in good health and aside from my cold which seems to have reappeared (probably due to dust and mold) we are all doing well. The kids are sleeping on a normal schedule and we are doing home school once again.

The other day I was praying and telling the Lord how we sure could use some good news to cheer us up. WELL, that afternoon we got a package (it was sent in Oct. 2002 for Christmas 2002) from Bethel Baptist Church in Cary, NC. There were gifts in it for each of us and BOY was that a pick-me-up. So nice to know people have thought of you and cared. I know life is hectic in the U.S. I was just there. It is hard to do much of anything but run to the next appointment and try to survive. I remember. But we sure do appreciate it when folks remember us and let us know that they are thinking of us. Encouraging e-mail (thanks so much Mr. Hoey and many others), notes or letters, prayers etc. These all help us not to lose heart. Sometimes the work seems overwhelming (especially at the beginning when the whole thing is staring you in the face), but as the saying goes, "Once begun is half done." Also, I find that when I begin strong and work hard, it is easy to tire out and quit before the job is 100% done. Please **pray** for us to have endurance (right now with the house, during this term with the church and for the rest of our lives) to keep giving it our all until the race is completed.

I hope this letter has not been too negative. We are feeling good and thanking God for His many blessings. Just wanted to share with you some of our burdens and give you a chance to pray (in faith) and watch with us as the Lord takes care of them all. He has promised to meet our needs and the question is, "where is our faith?" We will be praying for you all (especially you, Mrs. Pattisal !! as the big day is tomorrow). We love you in the Lord.

Becky for the Messers

PRAISES:

1. Good health
2. Calm in the country
3. Growth in the church

PRAYER REQUESTS:

1. Yao and others hoping to start Bible School
2. House Projects (money, energy and time to complete them)
3. \$1500 still needed to rebuild Rent account
4. \$15,000 to finish building the church (main building and bathrooms etc.) The work there has come to a bit of a halt as the necessary funds are not available. They are collecting offerings, but these are VERY small in comparison to the need. Andy will give a better update on the church building project when he gets a chance to sit here at the computer. :)

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