

The Messer Message

February 2004

Dear Everyone,

Andy says it's time for another update. See, we communicate with each other. :) We are feeling quite adjusted again (in fact, it almost feels like we never left). The house is getting in order and the remaining projects are the kind you do little by little as you have time and funds (not pressing or urgent at all). Andy has replaced all the screens that were torn (this was important because of malaria), and all the lights that did not work (this was important because of stubbed toes). Smile. The door frames that were eaten by bugs have been seen by the carpenter who is in the process of replacing them (things always take time out here). Andy is working on putting sliddy things on my drawers so they will open more easily and we won't keep pulling the handles off trying to get into the drawers. Andy has also been working a great deal at the church property trying to get the plumbing all fixed (Praise the Lord he is a PK -- plumber's kid). I asked him the other week if I could use the restroom at the church. He just looked at me. I said, "Well, does it work?" and he said, "Yes, but you can't lock the door..." I hesitated trying to decide if I wanted to risk it or not. Then he added, "...and you can't flush." OK, I'll wait! HA. Anyhow, Lord willing it will be functional by this Sunday.

Another bit of change is that Andy will begin preaching this coming Sunday (in French of course). He is going to be doing a series of messages on Corinthians so please pray that God will use His Word to help our people grow spiritually. We were very pleased and excited to have 5 new visitors last Sunday, one of which accepted Christ as his Savior after the service. Then, later that same day, a man came to our gate at night and Andy was able to share Christ with him as well. Andy said both of the new believers were at prayer meeting and showing a desire to grow in the Lord. Praise God for the wonderful work of His Holy Spirit. No matter where you go or what language is spoken, the Holy Spirit can convict and draw people to God. We just watch in awe as He works in their lives. Andy also said he sees a lot of spiritual growth in Armand (the guy who is going to Bible School with Yao). We are just praising the Lord for these bits of encouragement in the work and ask you to continue praying for our church and especially for Yao and Armand.

The family is doing well. So far we have not been sick. This is wonderful as the last time we came out it seemed we were ill for at least a month. Coming into a mold-free environment has been a tremendous blessing (thanks to my brother Nate Watkins and his wife Karol). We are enjoying the African food again and thank God for the abundance of fresh fruits and veggies that we get here. I've even been able to buy nectarines, plums and grapes at about the same price we paid in the U.S. Of course bananas, oranges, grapefruit, mango, pineapple and passion fruit are cheaper, but we are really enjoying the variety. The main veggies we can get here are zucchini, eggplant, okra, green beans, potatoes, cabbage, lettuce, parsley, cucumbers, tomatoes, onions and garlic. It is hard to find broccoli, spinach or corn, but we eat a lot of the other stuff to make up for it. We eat rice each day for lunch with a different sauce (there are LOTS of sauces that you can have). So, life is good here when it comes to food. Supper is a little harder to plan, but we manage just fine. We eat sandwiches, spaghetti, pizza, lasagna, soups and salads. If the food sounds good, we encourage you to come on out for dinner. We'd love to have you! Course you'd have to stay for a few meals (2-6 weeks minimum is our advice).

This brings me to my next topic. Andy said if there were a couple of folks interested in coming out this summer, we'd be so happy to have you. So, if you want to take a short summer mission trip, please, e-mail us

and let us know. We could easily handle two people (not quite ready for a large group, but would look forward to that for next summer perhaps). The bigger group trips take more planning anyhow. So, if you are interested, just get in touch with us and we can help you plan the details.

In closing, we want to thank the ladies of the Dorcas fellowship for their contribution toward French Bibles and Commentaries. What a blessing. Also, thank you to all those who gave extra gifts last month. You do not know how much we needed them and what a blessing you have been. We know God knows our needs and we thank Him for using you to meet them. I pray and trust He will reward you eternally for your part in our ministry. Thank you to all who have been holding us up in prayer. WE APPRECIATE IT SO SO MUCH!!! All of the missionaries out here need extra prayer as things have been very difficult due to the drop in the exchange rate. Everyone is short on money and the prices have gone up because of the war. We've all been struggling and though we try to help each other as much as possible out here, it's been very difficult for everyone. If you want to remember us by name in your prayers, we are: the Messers, the Watkins (Sam & Tara, Nate & Karol and my mom, Joan), the Cuthbertsons (Dan & Joan -- her pregnancy is going well and they look forward to meeting child number 10 in about 2 months.), the Gaults (Steve and Beth) and the Kings (Steve and Gayle -- she has been ill with the Shingles, so please pray for her complete recovery). We appreciate it even if you just take a short moment to ask God to watch over all of us and take care of us. Mainly, we need wisdom and strength for the work.

We love you all and pray for you as well,

Love in Christ,
Andy and Becky Messer