

## The Messer Message

### May 2004

Dear praying friends and family:

What do you get when you cross a snake with a cutlass. Answer: Two halves of a snake and a cutlass. We do not know if it has been because of the rain or what, but we have seen our share of snakes lately. On Sunday afternoon, Andy chased one four foot snake until it entered into his workshop and disappeared among the building supplies. He thinks it left during the night, he hopes. Then on Monday in the same area near our house, he saw another snake but much smaller, only about 2 feet long. The snake saw him and tried to hide in a long plastic pipe. It came out on the other side but Andy was ready. The first swing of the cutlass cut it in half and the second swing cut its head off. Hopefully that was not too gruesome for our readers. Neither of the snakes appeared to be of the poisonous variety but Andy was not going to take any chances. That's life on the mission field.

In case you may be wondering, Becky has not had her baby yet. It's like judgment day. It's coming and it's inevitable, so be prepared. Please pray that all will go well for both mom and baby. We are expecting this child to be a girl according to the test at the hospital. David (our only son) will be learning a lot about makeup and dolls. Do not worry. He has several boy cousins here to play with.

The ministry is going quite well. In the next two months, we should be voting on our first members of the church (EGLISE BAPTISTE BIBLIQUE). Then we will see about the deacons and other leaders in the church. The church should be ready to call its pastor in about a year, Lord willing. We are still on hold with our church construction. No money = no building. If any of you would like to help with this project, you should send your gift to our mission. The church has some money but not enough to put up a building. We are patient and they are patient but our first building has become too small and we are in need of space. Please pray that the Lord will supply for this need in his timing.

There is always opposition to the ministry. Saturday evening we do some extensive evangelism in our near by neighborhoods. They are not coming to us so we go to them. This past Saturday, we were giving out some Wordless Bracelets to the kids and their parents. However, a pastor from the EGLISE REVEIL (REVIVAL CHURCH - charismatic) did not agree with what we were doing and began to verbally attack one of our young men. He declared the bracelets were for idol purposes and should not be used (sounds like 1 Cor. 8). Our young men quickly responded by saying that the bracelets were ministry tools that opened the door to share the gospel with the unsaved. Anyway, to make a long story short, the discussion ended with both parties going their separate ways. That's life on the mission field.

Last week Andy went to the local hospital to visit a man and his wife. They were Liberians from Faith Baptist Church in Tabou (about 1 hour west of San-Pedro). The man's wife was in the hospital after complications from the birth. She had given birth to twins in Tabou but both died in the first day. She nearly died as well in Tabou. The United Nations people took her by ambulance to the hospital in San-Pedro. While at the hospital her body began to swell up. Andy went to see how she was doing on Tuesday. She was still weak. On Thursday the husband said she was improving and the doctors were considering her release. On Saturday, Andy received a phone call from the husband which he could hardly understand through all the sobbing. He said that his wife had just died. The doctors had given her two things of blood and within an hour her body began to have great difficulty. By the early afternoon she died. It was truly sad. Weep with those who weep. On Monday, his wife was buried in the local cemetery. You never know what a phone call will bring but that's life on the mission field.

Not all the news has been sad around here. People are still getting saved and lives are still being changed with the Word of God. We ask that you continue to pray for us as we minister to the needs of the people here. As always, you are invited to come work with us. Sorry, we do not need any tourists right now. There is too much to do and few hands to do it. We need some workers. Maybe you?

Prayer requests:

1. Training of national leaders.
2. The upcoming new members.
3. For open doors to present the gospel.
4. That we will keep our testimony clean before others, especially the unsaved.
5. Good health for the family.
6. The continued political unrest in the country.
7. Construction costs (\$15,000)

Once again, thanks for praying with us and for us.

In His utmost care,  
Andy and Becky Messer