

The Messer Message

July 2004

Dear praying friends,

If you have not been praying, it's OK, you can start now. I realize when one does not hear from a missionary for a while, it is easy for one to sort of forget that missionary exists. :) I've been in the same boat. However, I'm trying harder to remember others since I see how much we need prayer especially during the times when we can't find time to communicate. So, Prisca is sleeping and I have a moment. Let me communicate!

The ministry is going well but since my brother-in-law, plus my sister and their 10 kids have left for the U.S. (it is time for their furlough) we have been working on this church plant alone (OK, we're never alone, but you know what I mean). Andy has been SUPER busy with preparing messages in French, doing visitation, discipleship etc. There are three men from our church (Yao, Armand and James) who are now attending the Bible School out here (run by Baptist Mid-Missions missionaries and one local pastor). Two of these men missed a class some time back, so in order for them to keep up in the program, Andy is teaching the class to them (Old Testament Survey). He is teaching two days a week (this week was actually 3 days) from 8 AM to 12 PM in French. I stress the "in French" part because it is still a great challenge. The point of all of this is that it requires many hours of study and translation work for Andy each week (in addition to his normal duties as husband and father). So, please pray for us and especially for him. The class will be finished by the end of August and then things will hopefully calm down a bit.

On the home front. Prisca is growing. Lexie is growing. Nadia, David and Leah are (how did you guess?) growing. Daddy and Mommy are — exhausted. :) I don't think any of my other kids have moved as much as Prisca. She lays next to me and I think I'm laying by an octopus. Maybe she'll be an athlete some day. She also does not believe in extended periods of rest. Lord willing this will improve. We are all adjusting to the changes and new demands with the gracious help of the Lord. I was thinking of that verse that says, "For in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." And I was praying, "But Lord, I feel like I'm gonna faint." However, He does give strength for each day (and night). I'm sure many of you are in situations that feel difficult or painful (maybe even impossible) and you may wonder how you will get through it. One thing I've learned thus far is that since the Lord has not taken me home yet, He has somehow gotten me through every single hard place in my life. I'm very thankful that I know things change. No matter how bad it seems, things will change (could get worse, but then again, could get better). If they get worse, you look back at the bad and say, "That was a piece of cake compared to this!" If they get better, you look back and say, "I never want to do that again." AH life. So, whatever you are facing at the moment, hang in there and trust the Lord to bring you through it. AND, if you can communicate — let someone know you need prayer support or physical help eh?

Andy wanted me to let everyone know that he has killed another snake in our yard (it was a cobra this time). I have killed several roaches (trust me, it takes as much courage for me to kill a roach as for Andy to kill a snake). So, who wants to come visit us? Really, it's not so bad. It all reminds me of one of my favorite sayings, "Safety is not the absence of danger, it is the presence of the Lord." From all that has happened in our lives, it is very obvious that He is indeed present here with us (just as He promised)—so come on out and join the adventure.

Prayer Requests:

1. Church construction— funds still needed (about \$15,000) to complete the building.
2. New believers and those recently baptized — spiritual growth
3. Men attending Bible School: Yao (Yah OH), Armand (Armand) and James — faithfulness
4. Health for our family and our fellow workers in the ministry — one of the local pastors here has a son who has seizures. The boy's name is Joseph

Praises:

1. Protection and Health for our family (I had and recovered from Malaria this month but was only sick for a couple of days — Praise the Lord).
2. Growth (spiritual and numerical) in the church (L'Eglise Baptiste Biblique)

Much Love,

The Messers