

The Messer Message
August 12, 2004

Dear Friends (Nos amis),

Greetings from the Messer home (in other words, Hey y'all!) The kids are in bed (not asleep) and we figured since our last real letter was written in May, it is high time for another update. So, I'll quit jabbering and start updating. :)

First of all, I want to say, GOD has been SO good to us. He has blessed us with many blessings and I wish to share them with you as I'm sure they are due in part to your prayers for us. Our baby Prisca is now two months old and she is growing and doing great. We do not take this for granted and praise the Lord for her safe delivery and healthy growth. I did get her ears pierced (as is the custom out here for girls) so she is looking mighty pretty in my opinion! She has very dark hair and eyes as did my other kids and many say she looks just like Andy. We think she looks a bit like Lexie though she has more hair than Lexie did. Speaking of hair, Lexie and Nadia don't have much of it anymore as Nadia flunked her beauty parlor test when she came to the hair cutting part. I tried to "correct" it, but really, there is only so much one can do with patches here and there of 1/8 inch long hair. OK, so WHY were the scissors down low? I can only tell you they aren't anymore!! :)

Another blessing we've enjoyed has been good health. Most of my family has not been sick at all in the past few months. Nadia and I have had malaria once each since coming back here, but with the medicine (which we began taking immediately) we were quite fine within a day or two. It was kind of nice for me to just go to bed and let Andy run the house for a day. He was a great nurse and almost made me want to play sick a bit longer, but alas I can't have him getting too worn out from doing his work and mine. Anyhow, other than that, we've been really well here and we thank God for it each night. Please keep up the praying as I'm sure that has MUCH to do with it.

As far as our church goes, attendance has been good. Growth is being seen in both quantity and quality. Just this past month we had two men baptized and about four others already scheduled for this month. It is just a pleasure to be doing the work of the Lord. We are praying that our church will continue be a bright light of hope in our pagan-like city of San-Pedro. From this church body, we are seeing God work in various lives. It is always exciting to see young people stirred up about the things of God. We have more young men who want to go to Bible School to study God's Word. The guys who are already in Bible School are still plugging away at it faithfully. Please keep them in your prayers--Yao, Armand and James (they were enrolled last time we wrote), Williams and Koffi (newly enrolled), and Parfait (means Perfect) who wishes to enroll soon. The construction of the main church building is being done slowly in stages. Most

of the foundation has been dug. There are many bricks already made and laying neatly stacked at the church property. We are hoping to have the foundation laid, the floor poured with cement and the baptistry installed by the end of this month! We thank the Lord for His provision thus far, and look to Him for the work that remains. There is still much to be done (walls, windows, doors, roof, painting...) and we do not yet have the funds on hand. We are simply praying that God will supply these needs as they come up. We do not wish our own lack of faith to be a blockade, so we are praying much and pushing forward. God is the head of this work and we are certain that He will take care of every detail for His own glory. We are just two pairs of hands that He may use (along with many others) to get the work done. Do you wish to be involved? Ask the Lord what He would have you to do and then when He tells you, do it.

One more blessing I would like to mention is that in the past week I've had two little girls in my home pray and ask the Lord for His free gift of eternal life. One girl (Marselle) comes from a church where they practice healing, tongues... She believed that since her mother was "healed" that meant she too was a "Christian." She did not know about Christ's death on the cross being for her, or that she had to believe on Him alone for her salvation. After reading many verses from the Bible together, she prayed and told the Lord that she knew she was a sinner, she believed that Jesus died for her and she asked God to please give her eternal life. I pray for her that she will be able to get into a church where she will hear God's Word preached so that she can grow in her knowledge of the truth. The other girl is a Muslim child who lives across the street from us. She plays here a lot (sometime with Leah, but mostly with Leah's toys). Leah and David came into my office all excited one day telling me that Daliah had gotten saved. I'm thinking, "Yeah, right." They (Leah and David) only speak English and Daliah only speaks French. So, I asked Daliah if she understood what they were telling her and she said "No." Well, the door was open, so I explained to her as clearly as I could IN FRENCH what they were trying to tell her in English. Again, we read several verses (John 3:16, Rom. 3:23, Rom. 6:23...) together and when I asked her if she would like to pray and ask the Lord for this gift of salvation, she said she would. I lead her in prayer, but was/am not too sure if she fully understood. She is 7 years old. When I asked her if she had any questions, she asked me if she had to pray this every day. (Muslims say certain prayers each day at certain times...) I explained that you only needed to pray to be saved once, but after that you were a child of God and could pray at any time to Him about anything. We explained how we pray about different things (like boo boos etc.) and she showed me a sore she has on her knee and wanted me to pray for God to help it get well soon. The good news about Daliah is that I don't think her parents talk to her much at all, let alone about being a muslim... So, as long as she keeps coming here to play we are able to teach her about the one true God and Jesus, His only son. I am sure there will come a day when her parents will tell her that it is all a lie and she will really have to decide what she is going to believe. Maybe by then she will see clearly the difference Christ can make in our lives. For now, we continue to show love to her (and the many other Muslim, Lebanese children) who come weekly (as much as we will allow them) to play at the "American's house." Please pray for them. I hate the thought of them jumping happily on our trampoline today and burning forever

in hell for eternity. Pray for us to be bold and wise in witnessing to them and for us to ALWAYS show them the Love of Christ. They are kids (noisy, demanding, disobedient...) and it is not always easy. We covet your prayers and hope that God will use us to break through to these families with the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much to all who support us faithfully with prayer, gifts and financial help. We are definitely a team and this is definitely a team effort. We could never do this alone. We thank the Lord for the very real blessing of YOU! Consider yourselves hugged and thanked!

Prayer Requests:

1. Continued good health for our family and coworkers
2. Church construction needs/costs (\$14,000 US)
3. Conversion of our Muslim neighbors

Lots of Love,

The Messers

Andy, Becky, Leah, David, Nadia, Lexie and Prisca