

The Messer Message

August 23, 2004

Dear Friends and Loved Ones,

Hey. It's me again! I know I just wrote you all, but boy has stuff happened since then. :) So, I'm going to just write you again--it's not really too difficult. It IS 11:30 PM and I SHOULD be in bed (my whole family is sleeping--finally), but I tell you what, this is the BEST QUIET time in the day. :)

So, the scary news first. About a week or so ago, Noelle, the lady who helps me with the cooking/house cleaning... actually killed a green mamba snake in our hall just outside my bedroom door. All of our bedrooms open to this hall. SCARY eh? She was whacking the things head over and over with a broom saying, "Tu est vaincu!" which means, "you are defeated!" I thought she was just going nuts over a cockroach, but came out to see a smooshed snake. YUCK!! and YIKES. So, we gave the kids a good talk about NEVER playing with snakes if they ever see one. Then Andy went around and plugged up any and all holes that he could find where the snake could have possibly entered the house. We think it came in through a hole in our window screen where a tube runs from the water purifier to our garden. So, you can all pray about this eh? One pastor already e-mailed and said one of his members was praying for us that morning. God is listening!! I was a bit nervous (am still very much alert) about walking around the house in the dark after that.

Construction on the church is going along. The men are there working every day. There are some paid contract workers and a few men from our church as well. We feed the church guys lunch each day that they work. It is really great of them to give their time and we trust God will reward them for this service. My Dad (Chick Watkins) used to say, "If you will do anything for money that you won't do for God, then money is your god." Please pray for safety for the workers as they dig, make bricks, pour cement etc. They are working on the foundation and the baptistry. It will be nice to have baptisms in a bigger place than the water storage tank we have been using.

Andy is getting ready to start the Bible School program at the church. The program is designed to train national pastors and church leaders. It is a two year intense program which includes all the basics. We are still hoping and praying that the Lord will lead someone or a couple (J and S?) to come out and teach music either full-time or part-time in the school. America has most of these qualified people and our mission fields have very few. Would you consider using your musical gifts on the field with us?

On the weirder side. There is a guy named Titus who likes to hang out in front of our gate. Dan Cuthbertson knows who I'm talking about (smile). Titus was asking to marry their daughter. The guy may have been on drugs (or maybe he still is on drugs). He acts VERY strange. He has tried to behave inappropriately around my little girl, so the kids are never allowed to go out when he is around our house. WELL, the other day he was there and just would not leave. Andy tried to convince him to go away. We even called the police (they said Andy would have to come and get them and bring them here--I'm not joking!) but they finally said they could do nothing about him since he is considered a "fool". There is no mental hospital in our city and no where for Titus to go (but he does stay somewhere, I just don't know where it is). So, after hours of him just sitting with his head on our gate and his arms in a very strange posture, he finally got up and began to eat rotten food from our garbage bag. Ok, so that was it. I was totally grossed out and felt very sorry for him. I took him a plate of food and a glass of water. I had the plate in my left hand and the water in my right hand. I

said, "Titus, are you hungry?" He said, "Yes, very hungry." I said, "Don't eat the garbage! Here, eat some food." As I offered him the plate, he began to fuss at me saying, "Don't give it to me with your left hand. Give it to me with your right hand..." So, I switched hands and he took the food saying, "Thank you very much. God bless you." It was kind of funny and quite sad. Anyhow, he has come back a few times and each time I just take him some food (he's going to stay around whether I feed him or not) and after eating, he leaves (usually). He is one messed up guy. The last time he was "feeding" the plants with tiny spoonfuls of rice. Once he was fussing at us for going in our gate by what he considered the "out" door. He even came in our yard one day when Andy had left the gate open for a church worker to come for lunch. He was walking along the wall as if he needed it to guide him. When Andy asked him to go out, he just walked back along the wall to the door and went out. We were able to witness to the kids who were standing around the street watching him. I told them if they don't accept Christ while their minds are clear, they may end up like Titus (maybe from drugs, maybe from sickness...) and then it will be too late. Have you accepted Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord? Are you putting it off? If you are waiting, I sure hope you don't wait till it is too late. Sad to think of Titus living such a pathetic life and then spending an eternity of worse! Come to Christ while there is still time!

On the frustrating side, let me just share a few Lexie episodes! She is our 2 year old. First it was 7 cups of yogurt opened and dumped on the floor (rug) or half eaten and thrown in the trash. Then it was a whole can of coffee opened and dumped all over my box of craft supplies. The latest was the bathroom flooded by a WAY too full tub. OK, you say, "Where are her parents?" Beats me. I think they were doing dishes. :) Don't worry, we have not done anything drastic, but we are thinking about building a cage. Her one saving grace is that she is SO SO SO cute. And boy can she TALK! If you want to meet her, just come and visit us. :) We've plugged the holes, so you shouldn't have to worry about snakes in the house--though you may want to bring your broom! :)

Much love in Christ,

Andy and Becky Messer
Missionaries with World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions

Thought for today: If speaking in tongues were for today as many charismatics believe, why would our omniscient God reveal truth to one person who cannot be understood when he speaks and then reveal it again to another person who could attempt to interpret it (or so they think)? It seems that all the confusion could be avoided by "by-passing" the first speaker completely.