

The Messer Message

April 2, 2005

Dear Friends and Family,

Hi again. I can't exactly remember the last time I wrote. In case you have not yet heard our big news--we're in the family way again!! Big surprise, baby number 6 is nicely tucked away in his/her (we hope his) indoor, heated swimming pool just waiting for that God made alarm clock to go off and tell him/her (we hope him) that it's time to get out. We think this will be in October--don't laugh, we don't have a date. Trust me, if you had all the details, you would laugh. God is good and He knew that my heart does desire to have 6 children. Did you notice that we're hoping for a brother for David?? This is our last shot but since the baby is already there, I guess it is too late to pray about that. So, just pray for a healthy baby and we'll love whatever the Lord gives us. This should explain any extra forgetfulness or wackiness on my part. I don't know what Andy's excuse will be. :) Ha.

If any of you have followed our family's ups and downs the past several months/years you'll know that this has been a time of real faith testing for us. In the amount of time (4 years) that we would have completed one full term in Africa, we have evacuated 3 times and find ourselves here in the U.S. waiting on the Lord for direction as to WHERE we will be serving Him in the future. We are open to His will and His leading. We tell Him that. We are waiting for Him to direct our paths. This has been a difficult time for us and we often struggle with wanting to know what God will have us to do. We are trying to be faithful witnesses for Him each day in our home, neighborhood and when we go out in town. It's not the same though as a full time ministry. Andy has been doing some substitute teaching which has helped fill some of the days and we do have some meetings lined up which will also help. Please pray for us to trust the Lord and cast our cares on Him. We know that he cares!

Financially we sort of feel that a big machine is busy digging a pit for us each month. One thing that has been a real drain on our finances has been trying to keep our house going in Africa (\$500 per month rent plus utilities and guard...) while living here in the U.S. We have decided that this has to end. Since it does not look as though we will be able to return to Africa before this new baby is born, Andy is currently praying and planning (if it is God's will) to go to San Pedro by himself at the end of April. His goal is to completely pack and empty our house. Once this is done (please pray for strength for Andy) we will be able to stop paying the rent and utilities out there completely. When we do go back (after the elections which are to take place in October--again, Lord willing) we will simply look for a different house to rent. We will probably be able to find one easily because of the lack of foreigners in the country. Our landlord only asks for the rent every 6 months or so and the last time he requested it, the amount required went from \$385 per month to \$500 per month because of the exchange rate. We had set aside the normal \$385, so that was a major drain just to cover that bill which came during the wonderful Christmas month of December. With the utilities being very expensive in the government held southern cities due to people not paying for utilities in the rebel held northern territories, we are convinced that this is a wise move. We hope that it will help considerably with our budget. The hitch is that it will cost at least \$1500 total for Andy to fly to and from San Pedro and pay for food... while he is there. This is three months worth of rent needed at once, but we are sure that the amount it will save us in the long run will be worth it. We are asking you to pray with us that God will supply 100% of this money so that we will not have to dig any further into the hole (which is not really an option for us). Please pray. If it is God's will for Andy to go out there, I'm sure He (God) will supply this need. If you wish

to help with this need, send any gifts to World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions for Andy's trip. The address is: P.O. Box 725 Kings Mountain, NC 28086. We know that God is in control and that He has a plan and a purpose in all that He allows or does. Our faith has been/is being tested. We trust that in the end it will be refined and all junk will be burned right out of us. Sometimes when we see the junk come flying out it is absolutely horrifying and amazing to us. Trust me, we are missionaries, but we are works in progress. We are not totally sanctified yet and we see that God has much to do in our lives. We covet your prayer. I know that if you love the Lord, you are on this same journey (trying to know Him better and do what He wants us to do). It's not easy at all, but it will be worth it. So, don't give up and keep trying to walk with the Lord.

Much love in Christ,
Andy and Becky Messer

P.S. Also, please pray for Armand. He is a member of our church and was a student in the Bible School. He has fallen into sin and the church is in the process of trying to restore him. He has repented, but it is hard to know sometimes exactly how to handle these things. We know to confront and restore, but there are other little and big decisions that are not spelled out in the Bible and we seek to do what is right. We want to base our handling of this on how Christ handled things like this. Please pray for Armand that his repentance would be truly genuine and would be followed by fruit to prove it. Pray for Andy as he is trying to advise from far away. Pray for Steve and Gayle King (fellow missionaries) who are on the scene and trying to help our church with this issue. Pray for Yao and Jean the current leaders at our church to have much wisdom from the Lord and much love. Just stop and pray briefly for this right now and I'm sure the Lord will keep it in His memory that we all acknowledged Him and therefore, He will direct us (Prov. 3:5-6).