

The Messer Message

April 25, 2005

Dear Friends,

Ok, that sounds like he's leaving for good doesn't it? Andy is actually going to the Ivory Coast for 3 weeks, and he leaves day after tomorrow!!! YIKES. Time flies too fast (I'm hoping the 3 weeks will fly as well, and he'll return safe and sound to us). I think most of you know he is going over to pack up our house. There has been some confusion on this point. We ARE planning to go back to San Pedro (Lord willing after this baby is born--in case you have not realized it, we're expecting number 6). There is a new peace deal (this one was formed without France's involvement), and the disarmament process has begun (large weapons only for now). There is a plan to try to completely disarm (maybe a "buy each weapon back" type of plan) and we are praying that this will be a success. However, we do not believe that it would be wise for us to head back over before this disarmament is complete, or before the scheduled elections in October of this year. I am also due in October, so I do not wish to be evacuating any time around that date. We want to see some real progress in the peace process before we head back over there. In addition to this, we are not out of the hole yet (financially) so we really cannot go anywhere until this is adjusted. We are working on it and many of you have helped--- THANK YOU MORE THAN YOU CAN KNOW!! The kids are doing well in school and our plans at the moment are:

1. Pack up our house so we can save \$800 per month on rent and utilities.
2. Help the kids finish out this school year.
3. Work on getting our debt completely paid off.
4. Have our baby.
5. Evaluate the situation in Cote d'Ivoire and decide if we should go back or look for a different field (most likely somewhere in West Africa).

So, that is about all I know, therefore, that is all I can tell you. We appreciate your prayers for Andy as he travels to and from San Pedro. Please pray for him to get everything closed in our house and moved out. Also, please pray for him to have wisdom in dealing with some relationship problems that have come up in our very young group of believers out there. The devil loves to bring strife and discouraging situations trying to get our eyes off the Lord so we can doubt God's goodness and love for us. This in turn will lead us right into depression. Well, we are shouting "NO WAY!!!" We know that God loves us and has a plan for us (Jeremiah 29:11 "For I know the thoughts that I think toward you," saith the LORD, "thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.") We will continue to trust the Lord day by day and lean on HIS wisdom, not our own. We will keep you informed of His leading in our lives and we thank you so much for your prayers and support during this time of waiting.

One more prayer request. Some friends of ours who are missionaries in Ghana with our board (W.W.N.T.B.M.) have just lost their little 2 1/2 year old daughter. She had cystic fibrosis and apparently became ill with an infection which took her life. We are SO heart broken for them. I cannot fathom the pain they are feeling. PLEASE pray for them as they are going through some very deep waters out there in Ghana. I know you will bring them before the Lord. Their names are Ronnie and Becky Walker (she is an MK from Africa) and they do have other small children.

Love in Christ,
Becky for the Messers