

The Messer Message

May 21, 2005

Beloved Friends, ("Dear" sounds very common to me today).

Well, the month of May is almost over and what a month it has been for us. At the end of April my Andy went to San Pedro, Ivory Coast to pack our house (not so we could never come back, but so we could stop paying rent over there while we're living over here). We ARE planning to return to the Ivory Coast (probably at the end of this year or early 2006, Lord willing). Anyhow, he was able in three weeks time to completely pack and move our stuff, get the house painted, help my brother work on his home AND try to deal with several "counseling needed" issues in our church. He came home on May 17th happy but exhausted. He did not really get a tan because he worked inside most of the time and did not even go to the beach one time. Now THAT is dedication! (or is it crazy?) Anyhow, we are so thankful to the Lord for His provision and protection all the way. Andy said it was very calm and quite like "life as usual" out there. He and his brother-in-law Nate Watkins were also able to lead at three people to the Lord while out there. Praise the Lord for that. Our good friends the Kings are still there. They just had their FIRST Bible school graduation (4 men and one lady graduated) and they will be coming home on furlough in a few weeks. Others of our co-workers are planning to go back this summer. We would like to join them, but feel that it will be wiser for us to wait till our baby is born. I'm due in October and the elections are scheduled for that month as well. I don't want to be moving or evacuating or even being stressed out right at the time of the birth. I know it's wimpy, but hey, I'm a girl. If God tells us we should go before the birth, we'll go, but so far He has not, so we are planning to wait.

School is out!!! YEA YEA! We slept in yesterday and today and BOY DID IT FEEL GOOD! The kids did so well and we were so pleased with them. Leah even got an academic achievement award and a special pin. David also got certificates for doing a great job and for good behavior. I was not sure at the beginning if they would make it, but they surprised me and did really well. They just needed some consistent teaching and to stay in one place for a while. I'm SO thankful to the Lord for providing this opportunity. Leah said she wants to stay at Salem till she graduates. She absolutely LOVED her teacher, Mrs. Bush (so did I) and we just can't stop thanking the Lord for His love and care for us.

Yesterday we had some major excitement as a house across the street diagonally from us burned up. The kids got to see the fire department at work up close and learn the danger of fire. One person was seriously hurt (I'm not sure if he even survived) and another was slightly injured. Last night Leah was telling me she was scared because of the fire and worried that our home would catch on fire. We had a good opportunity to discuss the love and protection of our heavenly Father. How He only allows what will be good for us (even the difficult or painful things) and how He will help us get through anything He allows. We talked about verses that tell us to Not be afraid because God is with us. It was a good time to learn these things (though they really take many years to fully grasp--in my opinion).

Today we had a wonderful time with our church family at a huge family fun day. We had a cook-out and did lots of activities at the church camp (peddle boats, a climbing wall--David and Leah both climbed up quite high and then rapelled down--they would not let me try because of my pregnant condition.) It was great fun and fellowship with our church family. We are so blessed by the Lord to be at Salem Baptist Church.

Well, there is really not much news. Please pray for our church in Africa. There are still many little attitude problems that need to be confessed and dealt with--it's really up to the believers and the Holy Spirit. We can pray, but we cannot make them do what is right. We struggle ourselves with keeping right attitudes. Pray for peace, unity and love among our small group of young believers. Pray for Yao and Jean and Armand (if you want specific names) to really guard their hearts and walk close to the Lord. I know the devil wants to bring them down, but I'm sure God will hold them and only let the unwholesome things be sifted out. It's a painful process though. Pray for them!

Oh, I almost forgot, I've felt the baby move. YEA. Guess that means I'm about 4 1/2 months along. :) I'm always glad when I feel that (till it gets bigger and I feel like I getting beat up from the inside out.) Prisca is beginning to take steps all by herself. She still has only 2 teeth and is so little and petite. Lexie is her usual tank self. She has the most adorable little grin and we love to see it! She said she has a baby in her tummy now too and plans to put it in her pocket when it gets born. Nadia is her usual quiet, sunshiny self. She can write her name and loves to do "school". She tries to write all the letters she knows (b i f l d a) and then asks you what it says. We try to pronounce it. She is quite artistic and enjoys drawing and coloring.

We want to close by saying THANK you to Salem Baptist for the wonderful love offering they took up for us this month. Thanks for the faithful support of all of our churches and those individuals who give to be a part of our ministry. What we need most now is your prayers for the young church out there in San Pedro. This is a difficult time for them. They want us to be there. We want to be there. We are just trying to follow the Lord's leading and wait for His timing. He must know that they need to learn to rely on Him, but it sure is hard to see them struggling. I'm sure they will grow through this and I guess we are growing too. :) Gotta keep growing or they'll pass us up eh? May each of you keep growing in the Lord (don't just live the same spiritual year over and over). If you really want to grow, find someone who is spiritually less mature than yourself and disciple them. That really keeps you on your toes. It is wonderful to see them grow and to be forced to put effort into growing yourself. It's God who causes the growth, but it does require us spending time with him and being "attached to the vine" in order to receive the needed nourishment. So, stay attached and He will feed you. Then help someone else get hooked up. Even if it is your own children (or grandchildren, or neighborhood children), I encourage you to find someone and help them to grow in the Lord.

With tons of Love in the Lord,
Andy and Becky Messer