

The Messer Message

July 2005

Dear Friends And Family,

Hey y'all. Andy asked me to write a prayer letter so you would know what we're doing... Well, you know me, if anything terribly exciting had happened I'd have written. BUT, so you know we did not fall off the face of the earth -- here we are! We are still in Winston-Salem and I only have 3 months left till Baby time. I'm due in October (I don't know a date and I don't want to know a date because I'm sure the baby does not know one). God knows the day it will be born and if He tells me, I'll tell you all. :) I'm guessing it will be sometime late in October (that way if it comes early I'll be happy). So far I'm doing fine and feeling normal for pregnancy. I'm thankful that this is my last time doing this (really and truly it is--barring a miracle).

Ok, on to more serious matters. How are things in Cote d'Ivoire? Andy told me that the president of Cote d'Ivoire just signed in some laws that he (the president) says should make the reunification (big word eh?) of Cote d'Ivoire much more likely to happen. He says there is now nothing standing in the way of the rebels disarming. We are praying that he is right, and that the disarmament process will begin (and finish) in time for elections. We'll have a much clearer picture of the situation by the time our baby is born and will be able (Lord willing) to make a wise decision at that time as to whether to return to San Pedro (our hearts deep desire) or go elsewhere (another West African country most likely). Please pray with us for peace and stability to return to Cote d'Ivoire. The work of the Lord is going strongly even in our absence but like Paul saw the need to return and encourage the churches, we also see this need. These are very young believers, there is no strong leadership (though God has provided a man named Jean and his family who are doing a terrific work, along side of Yao who lead it for that past couple of years). There has been some division and troubles in the church (Andy was trying to help them handle the conflicts Biblically when he was out there for 3 weeks in May) and things are being resolved. The devil would love to bring this young body of believers down by petty jealousy and arguing... (as I'm sure he wants to do in your own churches as well). We must guard against his attacks. Remember that the Bible says, "speak evil of no man," so when folks irritate us or don't do things our way, we should be careful not to sin against God in telling all our friends about it. Please pray for our believers in San Pedro to learn to confront problems by "speaking the truth in love" and going directly to whomever they need to confront (not telling other people). They also need to apply the verse that says to not let the sun go down on their wrath. If we as the body of Christ would just obey His Word, these problems would still come up, but they would be quickly resolved without all the hurt feelings and ongoing bitterness that tends to develop. So, please guard your own relationship and please pray with us for those in San Pedro.

The kids are all doing great. Thank you for praying for them. They are growing and healthy and we are working on training them. Sorry if you see them acting up and praise the Lord if you see them being good. It's an up and down thing for all of us. We want to do what is right and sometimes our flesh just wins (getting too much flesh feeding and not enough spirit feeding). Thank the Lord for His desire to sanctify us and make us into His image. We just need to learn to submit and allow Him to work. It often means letting go of things that we think are so "precious" to us, but in the end we are much happier without them. I heard a song that said something about the "freedom we find in the things we leave behind." It's hard to teach this to the kids when I have not fully done it myself, so we are all works in progress. Leah just turned 8 (she is very sweet and loving) and Nadia will be 5 in a couple of weeks (she loves to draw and is one of my best helpers). David will be 7 in September (I love how he helps me without complaining most of the time--he is also very affectionate

with mommy, but shy with others). Lexie is 3 (she is so funny and full of life--guaranteed to make you laugh). Prisca is 1 and amazes us with what she can say and do. She is VERY cute and loves to smile and wave at people. She is tiny and walks around looking like a little elf. Baby number 6 seems to be doing fine. It moves and wiggles like the others did. We can't wait to see what it is (we've no idea) and though we hope for a boy, we are equally excited about another girl. We do have names picked out (get ready....) Ezekiel or Hadassah. Both are in the Bible, so if you've never heard of Hadassah, look it up in the book of Esther. :) Please pray for a healthy baby and a safe delivery (and a quick, painless--OK, less pain-- labor would be nice too!) Ha ha.

In closing, Andy wanted me to tell you about the project we are working on for San Pedro. It has been in the works for a while now and we've been able to gather quite a lot of helpful information while we have been here in the U.S. We want to start a radio station to broadcast the Word of God with sound preaching and teaching (in French) in Cote d'Ivoire. We have a place for it on a huge hill, and Andy has permission from the people who are in charge of that stuff for the country. He would be able to get a frequency that would be broadly heard throughout the area. All we lack is the equipment. He has spoken with some folks from our mission who have a radio station (FBN-Fundamental Broadcasting Network) and we have learned that the equipment will cost about \$4000.00 U.S. This is portable so he will be able to broadcast from wherever we have to be. We even have a former missionary from Cote d'Ivoire (John Holmes) who said he would record messages in French for us to put on the radio. This could be such a tool to get the gospel out to places where we cannot go ourselves. I'd say most, if not all, of the villages have a radio and people would be able to hear God's Word and edifying music right where they live. Here in America we take this for granted. We can listen to Christian radio or tapes or CDs so easily, we often don't even bother (choosing flesh feeders instead). The Africans are hungry for truth and this would be a wonderful way to get it to them. So, please pray with us. We know that if this is God's will, it will happen. Though it seems overwhelming at times, it is nothing to Him. If you wish to help with this project, you can send your gift marked radio project for Andy Messer to World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions (P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086). If we all work together, I'm sure that it can be accomplished in no time. It reminds me of when my Dad was working on the radio station in Liberia. Once when he had to raise a lot of money for a project (I was little, I forget if it was for the radio or for an airplane), he called it A.I.M. (Ants In Motion). Ants are little, but working together they do huge things (move things many times bigger than themselves). So, \$4000.00 may seem like a lot, but if many people do a little, it can be done quickly. Also, I keep reminding myself that "little is much when God is in it!" So, pray with us and lets see if God is in this. We believe He is! We've already seen Him do so much by way of getting the permission from the government.

Guess this note has already gotten long. We do so appreciate all of you, our friends. Your encouragement, letters, cards and e-mail, financial support, faithful prayers--we're not really any different from any of God's children and we feel very undeserving of the royal treatment that we receive from our churches--but we are super thankful and we pray that God will bless you richly for your love for Him, demonstrated by your kindness to us. As I once read, "May you drink from your saucer, because your cup runneth over!"

Lots of Love,

Andy and Becky Messer
Leah, David, Nadia, Lexie, Prisca and #6