

## The Messer Message

### September 2005

Dear Friends And Family,

Well, it has now been nearly 3 weeks since Andy cut off his thumb. Guess it is high time for an update. I'm not sure I told you in my last e-mail (however, many of you already know) the doctors were not able to reattach his thumb. Therefore, his left thumb is quite shorter than his right. It is cut off just below the first knuckle. It has taken some adjustment (both physically and emotionally) for Andy to deal with this, but I think he has handled it with much grace and a very godly perspective. He now looks forward to seeing that thumb reappear in Heaven some day. He has not lost his sense of humor (which I am growing to love more each day!) or his determination to get things done. He has really impressed me with all that he has been able to accomplish around the house with one hand and three fingers. His pointer finger (left hand) was also badly cut and had to have a nerve sewn back together. He has a splint that helps him keep the finger in the right position so the nerve can heal. As it heals he get occasional shooting/stabbing pains, but has been able to be pretty much completely off pain medications for the past 5 days (he was not allowed to drive till he went 2 full days without the *prescription* pain med -- he can take ibuprophen but he has not even been using that the past 4 days.) Needless to say, the driving thing was a big incentive. :)

Today was a big day as he got all his stitches removed. I have not actually seen his fingers because he did his own dressing change this afternoon. I was going to do it (was actually in the process of unwrapping it) when my mom came in from getting my three kids from school to inform me that Leah was not with them and was missing. We all flew into "FIND LEAH" mode and by the time I got back home with her, Andy had already changed the dressing. Leah was in huge trouble. She had run away from her grandma and hid in the church --they had a special grandparents day program at the church--and proceeded to go to our friends house near the church for a visit. Everyone was looking for her and some were getting near panic, but, Praise the Lord, we did find her. My kids are just so used to the freedom of Africa and they do not really understand the dangers of being kidnapped... Needless to say, we had a big lesson in that one today. I don't think she will do that again.

Well, it is quite late and Andy just got home from a counseling conference. Time to get some rest. We have been so blessed by God and we are so thankful for all His servants who have helped us during this thumb ordeal. So many friends have encouraged us, prayed for us, given their time to help us move and settle into our house... We COULD NOT have done it without their help. We trust the Lord will reward and bless them as we would never be able to truly show our appreciation!!!

Much love,

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

PS. We now have \$500 toward our Radio Station project. Praise the Lord. We still need \$3,500 to complete it. If you would like to help with this need, please send your gift to WWNTBM, PO Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086. Please note that it is for the Messer's Radio Station project.