

The Messer Message

October 25, 2005

Dear Friends And Family,

Boy have we seen the power of prayer here lately. I think that when we are not seeing it, it is simply because we are not really praying much. I must confess that I often fall into that category. However, I have seen God answer some prayers VERY specifically in the past few weeks. One really BIG answer was the incredibly fast delivery of our sixth baby. So many people were praying for me, and while we knew it would not be painless, we were asking God for a quick labor. Well, He answered! My total labor was about 4 hours of which only about one hour and a half was really hard. I dilated from 3 cm to 7 cm in one hour and then from 7 cm to the baby being out was only 8 min. Yes, minutes! I was so surprised and overjoyed to have that sweet little girl out of me! Her name is Hadassah (pronounced Hu Dass Uh) Rose Messer. She was born at 12:38 AM Wednesday the 12th of October. She weighed 7 lb 11 1/2 oz. and was 19 in. long. She is a totally adorable little live dolly and we are SO thankful to the Lord for this wonderful blessing. We are all doing very well and the other 5 kids are just loving their new baby sister. Leah was with me at the birth, Nadia and Lexie woke up and saw the baby just after the birth and David (who would not open his eyes) had to wait till morning. Prisca slept through the whole thing (we did not even dream of trying to wake her up in the middle of the night). My mom was with us at the birth and my sister Pam just barely missed it as she was driving from her house to ours. All in all, it was a great birth (minus the pain and it would have been fabulous).

Another answer to prayer has been in the lives of a couple that is having marriage trouble. Though things are not fully restored there has been some major improvement that has given us cause to rejoice. We know that God is able to heal broken homes and turn hard hearts toward Himself. There are other couples for which we are very burdened at this time, and seeing God answer prayer in other's lives only encourages us to pray hard and don't give up. He is able (Eph. 3:20)

A third specific answer to prayer happened just a few weeks ago as I was driving to pick up my niece and nephew. If any of you know me well (Becky) you will know that I am TERRIBLE with directions. My brother-in-law says I can't find my way out of a paper bag. Really, I am directionally challenged. I was in a rush as I left my house (when am I not in a rush?) so I forgot my cell phone and I had not gotten directions from anyone before leaving the house. I have driven to my brother's house before but never by myself. I've always had someone in the car saying, "Go left here. Go right here..." So, as I was getting on the high way, I was getting worried and seriously doubting if I could find my way to their house all by myself. Then I thought/prayed, "Lord, you know exactly the way to their house and your Holy Spirit IS here with me, so please show me the way." It is hard to explain, but I did not take one wrong turn. When I took a right I was not sure and then there would be a landmark that let me know I was on the right road. It happened at each turn until I arrived at their house. I was amazed and thanking the Lord for His guidance even in such a little matter. God is good! He does care about our "little" concerns. I'm learning more and more, but my prayer is, "Lord, increase my faith!" So to those who have been praying for something or someone for years--don't give up. Just be fervent in prayer and wait on the Lord.

We have really been praying that the Ivorian government would grant us the permit to have a radio station in our city of San-Pedro. So far they are telling us to wait. They also said that it might be quicker if we grouped with other religious groups (ex. the charismatics). We have no intention of grouping/associating with other groups. We have been called to a life of separation not to a life of association. Please pray with us that the government will grant us the radio station permit. We are one of the few groups that has actually turned in all the paper work that they have required. Currently, our radio station account has \$625 in it. We need \$4,000 to get the radio equipment that will be broadcasting throughout the day to over half a million people. Please pray that these funds will come in so that we can carry the radio equipment with us when we return to Ivory Coast early next year, Lord willing.

The political situation in Ivory Coast has stabilized. The United Nations and peace keepers from west Africa have brokered a deal with the rebels and the government. The deal would allow President Gbabo stay in power another year. However, he must appoint a new Prime Minister with the consent of the rebels. During the next year, the President and Prime Minister will work out a plan for free and fair elections by the end of 2006. We will see how this goes. Our brother-in-law, Dan Cuthbertson, is currently in Ivory Coast. He reports that all is well and the people seem pleased that progress is being made. Our goal is to return to Ivory Coast early next year. One hurdle to an early return is Andy's left hand. If you did not hear, Andy lost half his left thumb and badly injured his pointer finger in a battle with a circular saw a little over two months ago. The plastic surgeon would like us to wait 6 months (from the time of the injury) so that a new/fake thumb could be made. The insurance company will pay for one new thumb but all the swelling must be gone before this is done. Another prayer request associated with our return is that our airline tickets will cost around (\$5,000). If you would like to help with any of these financial matters, please send your gift to World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions, PO Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC, 28086. Just be sure to note exactly what the gift is for.

Our final prayer request involves the need for another vehicle. With the birth of Hadassah, our mini van will no longer seat all the essentials (six kids plus one mother-in-law). If you know of someone who has a vehicle that could be loaned until early next year, please let us know by e-mail or phone (see below).

We would like to thank all of you who have prayed for and given financially to our ministry. Your participation is vital and we have not overlooked your faithfulness and labor of love. May God bless you as you serve Him in your neck of the woods.

We love you all,

Andy and Becky Messer
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