

Dear Prayer Partners,

Well, God has been answering your prayers in an amazing and mighty way! In just the past few weeks, we have received ALL of our ticket money (the tickets are in hand!!) We are leaving on Wed. March 15 (*less than 2 weeks from now--1 week and 5 days--12 DAYS!!!*) Yikes. Our flight leaves at 7:30 PM from Greensboro (we have to get there by 5:30 PM). We are SO excited! Each day that it gets closer, I get more happy, jittery, excited and nervous. I'm an emotional person anyhow, so all these feelings hopping around inside me can almost make me want to jump for joy and throw up at the same time. Andy, of course, is MUCH more even keeled. Praise the Lord for my sturdy, steady man! He has been working along at the packing and closing details for weeks now. He is SUCH a blessing to our family and a real hard worker. We do however feel the stress of huge, impending change, so we appreciate your prayers VERY much at this time.

The kids are busy at school--Wed. the 8th will be their last day. We are trying to focus on finishing well here in the few days left. Please **pray for my children** as they say "Good-bye" to all their new friends from school. They are excited about seeing their 10 cousins (Dan and Joan's gang) in Africa, so that is a major blessing.

Please **pray for our house situation**. When we first leave, my brother Sam and his family will be living in our house. We will be living in their house in San Pedro, so that is a great swap. In the summer, however, he will be moving out. We have a great friend who is planning to move into the house this summer, but she needs 3 good roommates (godly young women who are mature and responsible--and neat would be a big plus!) to help cover the expenses. You've heard the expression, "Don't count your chickens before they hatch." Well, what if you don't even have any eggs?? That is how I feel right now. The roommates are really no where in sight as of now, and we really covet your prayers on this matter. We know that God can provide them if it is His will and if it is not His will, we would not wish to go against it anyhow, so we are trying to trust the Lord and NOT be anxious. Until we get the renters in the house and paying rent, we will be living on a VERY VERY VERY tight budget! However, we do have a VERY VERY VERY great and mighty God taking care of us!

We want to and need to say a huge THANK YOU to so many folks who have given money, food and time to help us! Hattie, thanks for the meal and we've been praying for Angie! I sure hope she's fine now. Thanks to the churches who sent travel money to pay for our tickets. May God richly bless you all! We are so amazed at His care and your love! We are really NOT deserving of it at all, but God sees fit to pour it on anyhow. All we can say is THANK YOU and Praise the Lord.

One final prayer request is our luggage and set up costs! We have about \$1000 toward this expense already--Praise the Lord. We have quite a lot of extra luggage. The airlines used to be willing to ship them free but those days are over. We are looking at an expense of \$1,397 at least to ship the extra stuff. This is much less than the cost of shipping a container (about \$6,000). We have tried to be careful in what we are packing and have even contemplated going through it all -- a major pain as the cases are packed and sealed -- to leave more stuff here, BUT, it would not make a real difference in the amount of luggage and we need most of the stuff.

Some is stuff for the kids (2 pack 'n' plays, bikes and toys...) that they don't really NEED to survive, but since there are six of them and we're going for 4 to 5 years, Lord willing, we feel that we should try to take things for them as well. Also, we know that we will need an additional \$1,000 on hand when we get into the country.

There are always many expenses -- groceries, gas bottles, car papers... We really need **wisdom** in these areas: packing and shopping in Abidjan. Please pray for God's provision in it all. He has already done so much and we know He will get us through this next month!

Just so you know our plans, we intend to remain in Cote d'Ivoire for at least 4 or more years. If we have to evacuate from there again, our desire is to go to Ghana or Liberia and finish our term there. Please pray for God's wisdom, guidance and provision as we set out on what could be (and we certainly hope it will be) our first FULL term on the field. We sure did learn a lot from the last term of evacuations, but I hope that lesson is over. :) Thanks so much for your prayers and love! We love you all!

In Christ,
The Messers