

## The Messer Message

### May 2006

Dear Friends,

Well, we really do feel like we're set on low boil here. It is incredibly HOT. When I'm all cold in America I remember this heat with some sort of fuzzy, happy feeling. I must be nuts! I forgot just how hot it really feels. Anyhow, I figure we will adjust. Look at all the people that live out here and they have not actually cooked themselves yet, so we should be OK.

The back part of my house (really it is my brother's house) is cooled by an air conditioner in my room--the best place of all to be! There are just a few problems with this situation. #1 I don't want to go out of the back part of my house. This means I don't want to go cook (the kitchen is the hottest room in the whole house!), I don't want to take the kids to the pool and I don't want to go to church or to visit or anything. Another problem is that if I stay in the back I get sort of gloomy and grouchy--no sunshine. So, despite how I feel about the heat, I have been forcing myself to go out! Today I went to the grocery store (for those who know me--imagine how much I am missing Walmart!). Yesterday we took the kids to the pool for Lexie's 4th birthday. I have baked and cooked and been to the Ladies Class that Joan is teaching. I am going to survive this heat and I am going to function in it--if it is the last thing I do. :) So, y'all can pray for me in that matter.

Andy does not seem to be as bothered by the heat. He goes out every single day and works and does what needs to be done. The great news is that he was able to lead a man (Mr. Kouakou) to the Lord a few weeks ago. This happened when he went to get our car which was being worked on as usual (I think it also does not like the heat--my personal opinion.--side note--last month we spent over \$1000.00 on car repairs!! Not fun!) We were both very excited though and praised the Lord for another soul redeemed. Mr. Kouakou has been coming to our church since he got saved. Very encouraging to see. We hope that he will grow strong in the Lord. We do try to follow up with those who get saved. It is easier for them to make the decision to accept Christ than to walk with Him on a daily basis. I guess that is true for all of us.

Tonight Andy and Dan showed the Jesus Film at our church. He said he had about 50-60 people. There were several decisions made after the film. We hope that many of them will begin to attend our church and be disciplined. There is so much work to do here and the people are so open. We keep seeing more areas that need attention but we can only do so much. Here are a few future goals (some may be sooner than others):

1. Get the church built (\$20,000) -- We desperately need more room!
2. Start a youth group -- we seem to lose the kids when they hit the teen years--no youth leader while we were gone. We need to minister to these young people on their level. The kids classes are too "young" for them and the adult services are a bit "old" for them. Andy will be leading the church (adults) and I will be leading the kids (Dan and Joan are moving to their church plant in Lac area). We either need someone to come out and help us, or to get someone in the church trained enough to do the work. Please pray about this!

3. Train Sunday School teachers and men to be pastor and missionaries.

4. Start a sort of young ladies crisis center --There are so many young girls here who live on the streets selling their bodies to live. We want to help them with a sort of shelter. Like a dormitory maybe, and a way to make a living (we were thinking a cook shop--like a small restaurant-- and a shop to sell clothes--they can learn to sew maybe.) This idea may take a very long time to realize. Joan and I both have a burden for these girls, but it is so hard to do anything. It takes money to buy land and build a shelter. It takes people to train the girls and help them. Anyhow, we are thinking about it and praying. We shall see what the Lord has planned.

We now have Internet access from our home. PTL. Andy says it is maybe slower than writing a letter and mailing it. Ha. Exaggeration. Really though, it is quite slow. If you send pictures it takes forever to

download them. We are looking into getting DSL to remedy this problem, but that can take a while too. Life in Africa--take life in the U.S. and slam on the breaks. Creep along at a snail's pace--there you have it.

Andy has been preaching at our church (in French of course) on idols of the heart. Very good and convicting. He spends a lot of time preparing the messages. We really do appreciate your prayers as we do the work here. I tell you, I do love comfort and that is one thing I miss a lot, but I think it has become an idol that God is helping me to see and break down. Even in the heat and dirt and discomfort, I am still treated like a little queen. People open doors for me (Andy opens the gate whenever I go somewhere), the guys from the grocery store carry my stuff for me, my house helper does tons for me and I am spoiled. I should be so thankful and I am. Just need to get over the heat and the dirt.

The kids are all doing fine. All are better now from the flu that we all came down with the first month here. The only one who did not get it was Andy. That was a big blessing. We have been doing school (in the back part of the house) and that is also going well. The kids are glad they do not have to go all day long. Just a few hours in the morning and that gets it done. Prisca is her usual cute self and gets into trouble whenever she can. One day she unwrapped all of the bars of soap from the cupboard. Today she dumped Leah's beads--big mess. She dumps water, colors herself with markers, and lives with a general seek and destroy mission implanted in her mind. Hadassah is just as fat and cute as ever. She is nursing very well and probably my most content baby. She hardly ever fusses. Just smiles and eats. She is wonderful. Lexie and Nadia (ages 4 and 5) play together very nicely. They share everything. They both love their cousin Rebekah who is 4 and will be 5 in May. They are so cute to watch together with their little dolls and such. They set them all up in rows or tuck them in bed... It is really adorable. David is enjoying his cousins and they like to play spies with his guns out in the yard. My brother has a snake which eats live guinea pigs about once a month or so. David, and even the girls, were all excited to watch the snake eat. I thought it was gross in the extreme! Very disgusting. Leah has fun with her cousins out here and has seen one of her Lebanese friends from before. She has been making jewelry with the huge and awesome bead set that her grandma got for her in America. (Thanks Mom!)

So, life goes on for us out here. We are thrilled to be part of the ministry and enjoy talking to the African believers. Our desire is to help them grow in the Lord and help bring others to Christ. Satan may try to discourage us (or me) with all the change... but he is not going to win. We know that God is greater and He has a plan for us. It is He who got us here and He will keep us! We are so thankful for the fruit that we have already seen. We are also so thankful for so many friends and family who pray for us, give to us and love us. You will never fully know what a blessing you are! Please keep praying for us and if you EVER get a chance to come visit--you would be more than welcome. Hey, then you could talk about the heat first hand. :) It would probably change your life forever if you spent a few weeks out here. One of the most interesting fields which is very ripe and ready to be harvested. The workers are few! Pray and come!

Love in Christ,  
Andy and Becky Messer  
Missionaries sent by Salem Baptist Church