

# **The Messer Message**

## **May 2006**

Beloved Friends,

Hi from the Messers. This is Sunday afternoon. We had good services at church today, but we were all late. Why? Well, it rained (I don't just mean 'rained', I mean RAINED) last night. It was pouring, pounding, pummelling our tin roof. You can only imagine that sound if you have experienced it. As I told my kids, once you grow up hearing the African rain, it will stay in your memory forever. When you go away from Africa, you will most assuredly miss the rain. For those who have lived here, am I not right? Well, it finally stopped around 6 am at which point I was wondering if I should just go ahead and get up...but we still had one good hour to sleep and we were VERY tired. So, at 7 AM, guess what? No one woke up. I think Andy and I each thought the other was going to say, "Come on, it's \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock --GET UP!" Now if it were up to me to wake everyone up, I think we'd all still be asleep. Fortunately Andy does actually wake up in the morning all on his own. He woke me up a bit frantic saying, "It's 8 o'clock!! Hurry." Our church starts at 8:30 AM -- normally. He called my sister to let them know we were running a tad behind (it is impossible to get 6 kids up, dressed, fed, shoed and out the door in 30 minutes), and she said basically not to worry because everyone was going to be late today. In fact, we had quite a smaller crowd for Sunday School than normal -- imagine being awake a good bit of the night from pouring rain, leaking roofs, electricity going off (it does that almost every time it rains), then getting up and walking miles in the mud. By church time we had a normal crowd though and I ended up with 46 kids. Also, thanks to the rain it was much cooler. :) Praise the Lord. I was thinking how dependable and faithful God is. He will send the rain each rainy season, and the plants can count on it. Isn't He good. I told the kids that when they were complaining about it--God does not care if you complain about it, the plants are depending on Him, and He is faithful. They said, "Well, do they (the plants) need to drink THAT much water?"

Hey, we want to really express our thanks to all of our supporters. Many of you should get personal thank you notes for the gifts you have sent. I normally do this and will get caught up one of these days. For now, please accept our thanks via this note. We so SO appreciate each person who prays, gives, writes... We have the best team of supporters ever, and Lord willing, together, we can reap much in God's harvest field. Last week there were several decisions for Christ and many stay after to speak with Andy about spiritual matters. It is encouraging to see their growth. God is still working in people's hearts (including our own)!

A few prayer requests and I'll let ya go (not like you are being forced to read this, eh?) First of all, you know about the church building. Please continue to pray that the money will come in for this to be accomplished. We are asking God for 19 more churches to pledge \$1000 each. It would be wonderful to get the church built this year, and be able to focus on the preaching, teaching and training parts of the ministry for the rest of our term here.

Second, we are trying to move from my one brother's house (Sammy's) into my other brother's house (Nate's) some time next month (June). The house still has LOTS of work to be done on it. Andy has been working over there almost every day and every spare moment that he has. He comes home soaked with sweat, eats lunch, changes clothes, and goes back for round two. He has done carpentry, masonry, tile work, plumbing, painting and about any other job you can think of in building a house. He is getting good practice as we just finished doing the same thing in Winston-Salem on the house we bought from my mom. He may end up becoming an expert. :) My brother-in-law, Dan, has helped him a lot and knows so much about all of this kind

of stuff. He has already built his own house out here and does an excellent job at anything he tries to do. We call Dan "McGuiver" and Andy is "McGuiver Jr." Seriously though, please pray for safety, progress and a smooth transition between houses. It's a lot of work, but to borrow an expression from Mrs. Loftis, "we have big motors." God gives us strength and grace for each day and for each job. We just appreciate very much your prayers.

Last, there is a large team of people coming out here towards the end of June. They will be conducting a major outreach using the World Cup Soccer Tournament. This has the potential to reach MANY people with the gospel. My brother Sam is heading this up and Andy and Dan are doing much coordinating of the effort out here. There are several churches (all very new and young) involved on our end. Also, with a team coming there will be a lot of "hospitality" work to be done. My other brother, Nate is trying to come and help us with the work on his house--along with some guys from the States who really know how to build. Two of Nate's kids want to come with him and help with the Soccer ministry as well as the house project. They (my niece, Lois, and nephew, Micah) had to leave here quite suddenly when their mom got sick two years ago. Many of you know this is hard on MKs. They really REALLY want to come back out here. My prayer request is that if it is God's will, they will be able to get the funds for the trip over. It might be a bit selfish, but I would really like to see them as well. Also, please pray for safe travel for all who will be coming out, for the outreach to be effective, and for us to be well organized. This stuff is coming up in about 6 weeks, so you may not hear from us until the event is over. Hope you won't forget to pray about it.

Well, hope you all have a great month of May. Happy Mother's Day to all you mom's who are reading this.

Much Love in Christ,  
Andy and Becky Messer