

The Messer Message

June 2006

Dear Friends,

Tonight I come to you with a tale that is partly sweet, partly about a courageous effort, partly sad and partly disgusting. Which part do you want to hear first? Let's just start with the sweet part. :)

Our dog had puppies. The total was six. That is the sweet part.

Now, the part that is sad. Out of the six puppies, 4 have died. I believe that she accidentally stepped on some while she was birthing the others. I was not around as she had them over at the house into which we will soon be moving. There is so much work going on there that our friend Jean (he is the one who was leading the church in our absence, after Yao who was leading it first) said that the noise probably made our dog (Ariel) upset and sent her into early labor. I think the puppies were premature. One died today because he just could not suck and nurse. We did try to feed it ourselves, but no way. Poor thing.

OK, on to the disgusting part. The one dog that died today, well, it was fed to a snake on purpose. How gross is that? My brother had a huge python snake in a glass box here (I think it is so nasty, creepy and stinky!) They normally buy live guinea pigs to feed it (thankfully it only eats about once a month). I do NOT watch when they feed it. Ok, so I watched a little out of morbid curiosity, but then it was just too gross so I left. Well, why kill a live guinea pig when the puppy was already dead? So they fed it to the snake. I hope this isn't making anyone sick.

Finally, on to the courageous part. We have moved the mommy dog to our house over here along with the two puppies that are still alive. They are quite feisty and we think they will make it. I have to help them nurse every 2 hours. They don't have their eyes open and can't even latch on at all. However, once I get them on, they do seem to nurse quite well.

I know this has nothing to do with ministry, but it has consumed my day. I want these puppies to get stronger and learn to eat on their own without my help. It's hard for me to nurse my own baby, care for the kids, the house and meals... while puppy-sitting all day. But even for little things like this, God gives grace. I reminded Leah (she was quite sad about the puppies that died) that God knows when a sparrow falls and I'm sure he knows about our puppies. That is comforting to me.

Andy is still working hard on the house. We move in a couple of weeks. He is also busy preparing for his Bible Institute class tomorrow (he teaches each Sat. morning). This Sunday we are having the first service at Dan's church in Lac. It is called l'Eglise Baptiste de l'Evangile (Evangile Baptist Church). Our two churches (Andy's and Dan's) have been meeting together for the past 3 years. In two days they will separate. This is exciting and sad at the same time. It's great for them to have a church in their own area and not have to walk so far. It has a lot more potential to reach others around there. We are just going to really miss them. We've become like one body with them and our church will be sad when we see their empty spots. Guess we'll just have to get out there and invite more folks from our area to fill them up, eh? We appreciate your prayers during this time of transition.

My brother, Sam, will be coming out in about 3 weeks to head up the World Cup Challenge soccer outreach. It will be a very exciting and busy time. Life is always full and busy out here. Course it was in America too. :) As Pastor Kistler said to us once, "better to burn out than to rust out!"

We so so so appreciate all of you who faithfully support the ministry out here. Without your support and especially your prayers, I don't think we would make it. God is also very faithful and I'm ever so thankful to Him for His love, mercy and grace. I'm not just saying that. I really mean it. He has been so good to us.

We hope that each of you will have a good and fruitful week for the Lord. May God bless your Sunday services in each of your churches. Be sure to go and enjoy some nice English hymns in a clean, cool church. :) We do enjoy church out here as well, but it is VERY different. :)

Love to all,
Andy and Becky Messer