

The Messer Message

September 25, 2006

Dear Loved Ones,

First of all, let me say, I know why you should always clean up the toys and pillows off the living room floor before going to bed. Last night around 1 AM I went to get a drink and noticed water on the floor in the hall, just outside the school room and living room doors. Thought to myself, "Kids must have spilled something." Got a towel and put it on the water. Went into the living room to get my drink and WOW, lots of water on the floor. Yep, the good ol' dishwasher was leaking again (Is God telling me to NOT be so lazy and just wash my dishes? This thing has flooded our kitchen and living room 3 times now!) This time it was not a mouse induced hole in the pipe. It was some clamp that came loose. So, from 1 AM till 2 AM, Andy and I were singing Row, Row, Row Your Boat (yes, we were actually singing) as we swept scads of water out the front door, through the porch and into the front yard. My idea of an entertaining Friday night (um, early Saturday morning) activity. Later, I was thanking the Lord that #1 we don't have carpet and #2 there were no toys, pillows... on the floor to get ruined. Just one deck of UNO cards (left by the kids of course), and they have all dried out just fine.

Other headlines from our family include wounds healing, church walls going up and one toddler beginning to potty train. Lets discuss the potty training. It is such a pain!!! Only 2 more kids to go for me. Prisca is in that stage. She wears panties and does great (half the morning) and then WHAM--a huge mess somewhere. Then you go on the hunt. WHERE did you put your stinky panties? Clean it all up. Give up for the day. Back in a diaper! Then try again the next day (or maybe take a break). I don't know which is worse--the diapers or the accidents. Anyhow, I predict that in the next 2 years she will be potty trained. Ha ha. After that, we just have Hadassah left.

On the healing issues. We've been injured and are healing. Andy cut his good thumb (he lost his left thumb in a cutting accident last year) right through the fingernail (on the garage door opener which we use on our gate). The pain and blood caused him to pass out and have a seizure. Scared me nearly to death. I am a nurse, but I do not like to watch my family members doing these things. Anyhow, I was actually yelling at him, "Andy! Look at Mommy!" Then thought, "How dumb. I'm not his mom." So I began saying, "Andy! Andy! Look at Aunt Becky!" Uhhh, OK, I'm not his aunt either. Then just went back to saying "Mommy" as figured he may think it was his mom and open his eyes! Besides, who says, "Look at wifey!" No one. He did come out of it (I did not time it so don't know how long he was out), and then after some orange juice and a rather awkward bandage job, he was just fine. Praise the Lord. His thumb is nearly healed now but missing half the fingernail.

I had a minor surgery to remove a small lump (the Dr. said for sure not cancer--just a small cyst) on the side of my finger. It is almost healed now and I am getting all my function back. It was swollen and stiff for a while. Helped me to sympathize more with Andy.

Then we had a guy smash his finger on a very heavy door he was carrying from our yard. I cleaned it and bandaged it, but was thinking that he may need stitches. He left and has not come back, so I have no idea how he is doing.

Last but not least, Prisca cut her little toe (hard to bandage and prone to get dirty) but it seems to be doing OK as well. Are we accident prone or what? Y'all can pray for our safety out here. So far, God has been very merciful and we've not had anything too serious and no infections!

So goes life at the Messer Clinic--not really, but it feels like that sometimes with sick folks coming to the gate. This past month we helped a man with malaria, a baby with fever and diarrhea, the man with the smashed finger as well as several people with headaches. I try to tell the people that the only real nursing I've

done in the past 9 years has been to feed my babies, but still they come. If we don't know what to do, we send them to the hospital. We try to help those we can, however. It saves them money if I have the medicine on hand. I try to keep malaria medicine on hand all the time.

The church walls are going up! Andy sent out an update on that with pictures. We are very excited about this progress. THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO SENT MONEY TO HELP WITH THIS PROJECT!!! May God bless you richly. Anyone else want to help with the roof? Andy says it will be about \$5,000 (5 churches at \$1,000 each or 10 churches at \$500 each!) We are praying and waiting on the Lord to bring in these funds so that this work can continue to go forward. Trust me, Andy and I give to it as well. The people need a bigger place to meet and especially the children need more space. We average 40 kids each week. It is hard when the little ones are in with the bigger ones. Lots of fussing, chair shuffling, pinched fingers when the chairs are too close, smashed toes when someone moves their chair too far back... Please pray with us and consider what you can do to help. If you have already helped--THANK YOU so very very much!

Andy has been doing a lot of counseling with couples lately. None of these so called "couples" are actually married (either by dowry or legally). They have lived together so long that the neighbors think they are married. Most of these couples already have kids so it becomes quite a challenge in getting them to do what God asks of them. We thank the Lord that they (almost all of them) are willing to do what God's Word says. Also, please remember to pray for a young lady that Andy has been counseling in regards to her continual fear of sorcery-witchcraft attacks. Her fear is hindering her from sleeping at night. Her parents are deep into sorcery and at the same time members of the Catholic church.

In Sunday School, we are having a contest. We have two really nice Children's Bibles (lots of nice pictures) in French. They will go to the kids who have come faithfully, memorized their verses and brought visitors for the past 10 weeks. We have one boy who does wonderful. I can see him becoming a pastor or missionary some day. Then there are two boys and one girl competing strongly for the other book. It's been good motivation for the kids to invite others and work on their Bible memory.

Home school is getting better. The kids are adjusting as am I. I keep telling myself, "After Nadia, there will only be 3 more kids to teach how to read." For me, this is the hardest part. Leah is getting easy to teach as she can read and learn more independently. David is doing better, but still needs a good bit of instruction... Nadia needs me to hold her hand in order for her to sound out any words (or so it seems). Lexie begs to go to school--she just doesn't understand yet. The older kids try to inform her that she DOES NOT wish to be in that school room with me. Prisca and Hadassah just want to come in and pull stuff off the shelves. We try to keep them out, but we do have a low shelf with baby puzzles for them. Some days it goes great and other days I'm about to pull my hair out. Overall, it is going better though.

Well, that is about it from the Messer gang. We love you all and appreciate your prayer support so very much. We know Satan hates us being here, but God is much stronger. As long as we depend on HIM and not ourselves, all will be well. He gets us through each new trail and we are so grateful for His hand of love in our lives.

Much love and thanks,

Andy and Becky Messer
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