

The Messer Message

January 2007

Dear Friends and Family,

Greetings, Bonjour and Hi to all of you from San-Pedro, Cote d'Ivoire! Can you believe how quickly the month of January has flown by? OK, maybe for some of you it has crawled. If you were expecting a baby at the end of the month (or early next month) I bet the time crept. For us, out here in San-Pedro, the time is flying. There is always so much to do. We do all that we can, but find that there is still much more that we have not accomplished. We often ask ourselves, "Are we doing what GOD wants us to do, or are other things taking a priority spot that they do not deserve?" Sometimes, I'm sure we do succeed in doing God's will, and other times, I'm sure we fail. We think of Paul, and his declaration that he had not yet reached the goal, and he still struggled with the flesh. But, where sin abounds, grace does much more abound! Praise the Lord!

Speaking of sin abounding, please be in prayer for our young church family out here. It seems that so many are living lives that are completely ripped to shreds because of the numerous sinful choices. We know that God can heal and set them free, but humanly it often seems impossible. I'm glad for Ephesians 3:20 which assures me that God is more than able! We appreciate your prayer for these young believers that they will grow in the Lord and experience His grace in their lives. Please pray that they will have the courage to make changes!

A long term goal that we have is to one day build a girl's home. We are seeing more and more the need for a place like this. Not only for the young women (to keep them off the streets and give them Biblical as well as academic education) but also for many older women who have been kicked out of their "homes" by their "husbands" (many were not married in the first place). Many of these women have small children. They usually end up trying to find another man to support them (this hardly ever involves marriage) and just repeat the sinful cycle. It is so sad. Sometimes I feel very hopeless about it, but I know that God sees them and loves them. He can make a way for them to change. Please join with us in praying about this!

The family is doing well (again). They were sick a few weeks ago. Hadassah started it (we thought she was just teething) but then Prisca caught it. Prisca was the worst (tossing cookies for 2 days straight) but she finally pulled out of it. Just in time, because Leah and Nadia came down with it in domino fashion. Next came Lexie, and then to top it off, Andy had a bout with what I believe was malaria. Out of the whole family, David and I were the only ones to not get sick. I hope we can just skip that one all together. At the current moment all are feeling better and getting appetites back... Praise the Lord! I know many of you prayed for us during this "flu" time, so thank you very much!

The church is still waiting for a roof, floor, and electricity. Some of the material has been purchased (thanks to so many who have sent gifts to help with this project!!) We still need \$2,300 to complete the roof, \$1,750 for the floor and \$1,200 for the electricity. Pray on!

The Radio Station frequency request has been submitted and we have been informed that it is being considered. We have VERY high hopes that they will indeed grant us a permit to broadcast. We have been in touch with the man who is able to build the station (it fits in two suitcases) for us. Many have donated funds toward this project and we are very thankful. To complete the Radio Station, we still need about \$3,000 (includes the shipping from the States to San-Pedro). Again, pray on!

Well, I think that about sums up this past month. We've been averaging 40 adults and 50 kids each Sunday at church. Several have prayed for salvation, and many have joined our membership class with a desire to be baptized and join our church. We appreciate so much your prayers and your support in the work out here. May any fruit that we reap be accounted to you as well. We love and appreciate you more than you can know.

Much love in the Lord,
Andy and Becky Messer

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