

# The Messer Message

## March 22 2007

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Most of you who get our prayer letters are saved (I would not assume that everyone who gets this is saved--if you are not sure--MAKE SURE! Call on the Lord and ask Him to forgive your sin and make you His child.) For those who are saved, you understand that you belong to the Lord and NOTHING can ever change that! Romans 8 is a tremendous chapter of the Bible that always encourages my heart in these matters.

Well, I had a thought today (thinking--hmmm, dangerous for me, eh?) Anyhow, if someone did not have an account in a bank, but continually dropped off money there, what would happen? The bank would not recognize them as a customer since they do not have an account. Perhaps the bank would try to give the person their money back (if they could find him/her). Well, that is about what it is like for an unsaved person (unbeliever) to spend his/her life doing good works. The Bible does teach us to store up treasure in Heaven, and that we are created unto good works. The thing to realize is that the good works cannot save anyone. "Bringing money to a bank" does not make you have a bank account there. You have to fill out the forms. To have an account in heaven, you must call on the Lord and believe in Jesus' death, burial and resurrection as full payment for your own sins. Once the account is open, then by all means, make deposits! It will benefit you when it comes time to withdraw.

So, do you want an opportunity to deposit treasure into your heavenly account? There are always many options. Let me share one. :)

L'Eglise Baptiste Biblique de San-Pédro. Many of you already have treasure from this project. We thank you! The church here thanks you! I'm sure God will bless you and meet all of your needs as He has promised (Philippians 4:19). **Here is where we now stand with the church project.**

- The roof is on! This is a huge blessing and we are able to use the building now even when the rains come (they will be here soon).
- The walls are up!
- The electricity is installed (not yet turned on, but the wires are there!)
- The floor is cemented (it needs a smooth layer put on -- now it is rough cement)

### **This is what is left to accomplish.**

- The doors and windows must be installed so that things can be locked up.
- The floor needs a smooth layer of cement and Lord willing, we would like to have it tiled.
- The walls need to be painted.
- The baptistry needs to be tiled and the a picture painted on the wall over it.
- The pastor's study needs to be tiled and painted.

So, the project is nearing completion. We are excited. We have invested our own time and money into this project as have many of you. We know this is God's work and He is more than able to provide for it to be finished. I love I Thessalonians 5:24 which says, "Faithful is he that calleth you, who also will do it." We've seen God do so much, and He is indeed faithful. Our biggest struggle is being patient, and waiting on the Lord. We want to see things done yesterday, so we can move on to something else. :) I guess if we did not have this drive, we may not have ever arrived here in Côte d'Ivoire in the first place. It takes a lot of work, and we are so thankful to the Lord for the strength He gives. Anyhow, for those who have not yet stored up much treasure in heaven, here's your chance. :) Help the Ivorian believers here in La Cite to finish their church (still need about \$7,000). They are giving, but it will take them MANY years to save up enough to finish this building without our help. It takes them a long time to even be able to support a national pastor, and that is a relatively small salary. I know that most of us attend churches that were built ages ago by people we do not even know. Some of you have been in a church while it has done a building project. In some ways, it's much harder in America, yet in other ways, it is easier. Out here things are not as expensive. Labor is MUCH cheaper. However, we do not have the convenience of fast, professional workers who get things done on time. Many "professionals" are really just learning on the job. :) Everyone just wants a paying job. Many of the businesses out here do not pay their employees on time. When they do pay them, the yearly income for most is so low that they cannot even afford things like deodorant, shampoo, toothpaste... Many come to us just asking for rice or bread. It's easy to put it out of your mind when you are not living here (hey, I do it too.) It is different when you see them every day and you spend your time, money and energy to make a difference on a regular

basis. It's what we have been called to do, and it is what we have been sent here to do. It is a blessing to be counted worthy, and we praise the Lord. So, do you want to join us? You can PRAY! (takes time and it's hard to remember to do it--I know, my life was super busy when I was in America too!) You can GIVE if you have the means. Or you could COME (for you GO) and lend a hand. Our end of the log gets pretty heavy out here sometimes. Seems like there are not too many folks to help hold it up. Believe me, we appreciate VERY much those of you who do hold this log with us. We think of you. The ones who pray and give and have even visited to help out (Pastor Lou Shultz and others!) We thank God for you. We ask God to bless you richly and reward you! We know He will!

Well, that is where we are, and what we are doing. Andy works at the church most days and when he is not there, he is preparing for his messages or Bible Classes or leading discipleship groups (small Bible studies with men from our church). Other than that, we do life, child raising and the normal stuff. We are not super humans and we are not much different from anyone else. We have our ups and downs, and we learn some lessons the hard way, just like everyone else. :) We really REALLY appreciate your prayers! We love getting e-mail from our most excellent prayer/support team!

Much Love in the Lord Jesus Christ,

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