

The Messer Message

May 27, 2007

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Greetings to you who are scattered around the world. Some of you are in Mali. Some of you are in Brazil. Some are in Canada. And some of you are in heaven (well that is what the majority of the people out here think of America). Wherever you are located, we send you our special greeting. It is such a joy to be able to communicate with you in this manner. Remember, the best communication is a two way street. We would love to hear from you.

The ministry is going very well. We have been meeting in our new Church building since Easter. Thanks ever so much to all who contributed. If you want to get in on that, it is not too late. :) We still have much to do to complete it (still need about \$8,000). The people are very VERY happy to have the space and the comfort of a bigger building. They were very cramped in before. Especially the children were cramped. We had about 50 to 60 kids in one small classroom. Babies, toddlers, elementary kids and teens. It was very hard to do crowd control, baby-sit, teach the little ones and the older ones all at the same time. Now, because of the new building, the old (semi-large) room where we used to meet has been divided into two classrooms. We also built another smaller room for the babies. So, now, the babies have a nursery (small cement room with a window and a door and mats on the floor--like a nice home for some families out here). We have put a box of toys over there, and the babies seem to like it just fine. The children under age 10 are in my class. We were able to have tables built for them so they can actually sit and color. They used to have to sit on the floor and put their pictures on their chairs. They love the smaller group setting AND they love the tables with little chairs. I had 24 children in that class today (and several were absent!) The children over age 10 are being taught by a man named Armand. His wife Emma keeps the nursery (because their son does not stay in there for anyone else anyhow.) Armand and Emma are the ONLY legally married couple that attends our church.

We have a lady (Naomi) who just gave birth to twins (David and Samuel) a few weeks ago. She has been coming with the babies. It's great. One of her friends (they live together in a community) usually comes with her to help with one of the babies. It's a great way to get them to come. Naomi's "husband" (he has paid dowry, but not married her legally) just recently made a profession of faith. PLEASE pray for him (his name is Furegence) to be serious about walking with the Lord.

There are many others in our church who need to grow in the Lord. Many unwed mothers (we need wisdom in counseling with them!) Many single men (pray for them to live pure lives before God.) There are a lot of children who come without their parents. Pray that we will reach these parents. We do visitation each week. We try to visit these homes and invite the parents to church as well as share Christ with them. Many will make a quick profession (we think to make us happy) but few prove to follow the Lord faithfully.

During the month of May, Andy had been having special evangelistic services each Wednesday night. My niece, Ruth Cuthbertson, who is very artistic, does chalk art to go with the sermon. At the end of the month, whoever brought the most visitors will get to take home one of her pictures. They are very big and very nice. Also, they have a hidden picture that can only be seen with black light. Her dad made a special easel that has black light attached. The winner will be given a black light (they are sold fairly cheap in town here) to enable him/her to see the hidden picture at home. We have had about 70 people each night and there have been many professions of faith. Pray for us as we follow up. We want to see these people growing spiritually.

On the home front, the kids are doing well and growing fast. I want the older kids to slow down and the younger ones to speed up. I love it when they are about 6 to 10 years old. They do school (it is fun to see them learn new things and understand), they have interesting conversations, they can get their own snacks and water, they are potty trained (even at night for the most part) and they can play games. They still go to bed early (so you can relax with your hubby) but they can stay up later without "crashing" and crying a lot. They don't really need a babysitter if you are just going out for a quick trip in the daytime (at least out here--our yard is walled in and we have a house helper, adult Ivorian woman, who could handle any emergencies). So, the three oldest kids (Leah, David and Nadia) are in that wonderful time of life. I wish I could keep them there (for at least 4 or 5 years). Lexie, Prisca and Hadassah are in the "we make you work" stage of life. Change diapers, get them snacks, clean up their messes, read baby stories (we read chapter books which are more interesting to the older kids) and stop them from killing themselves or each other. They are super cute (which covers a multitude of aggravations) and we enjoy them a lot, but I still think life will be easier when they are between 6 and 10 years

old. After 10 I guess you are getting into adolescence which has its own set of troubles. I've never been there, so I have nothing to say about it. :)

We really do want to thank all of you for your continual prayer and financial support. Many of you have prayed and given faithfully over the years to make this ministry happen out here. Take heart, the reaping time is at hand. We are seeing much fruit. We know it will be accounted to you as well. We are very VERY thankful to you. Our mail system was messed up out here for several months, but it is moving again, so we can now write all of the Thank You notes that are overdue. We can't really express to you properly how much we appreciate you and count on you. We appreciate the prayer and the encouraging notes that so many of you send our way. The good advice is very helpful and fully accepted. May God bless you and meet your needs.

Please don't forget to pray for the Radio Station permit to be granted. It is in the right hands (along with several other requests from various ones seeking Radio frequencies). We are just waiting and praying. It could be granted at any time. PLEASE join with us in prayer. We want God's timing on this!

Please also be in fervent prayer for a family who had some twins (boy and girl) born prematurely (a month early). The baby boy has already died and the baby girl is trying to hold on to life. Andy said that the baby girl was about 10 inches long - so tiny. The doctors have her in a special cube to keep her warm. The mother has made a profession of faith but the father has not. Please pray for his salvation as well.

Prayer requests:

1. That the government will grant the Radio Station Permit. We already have the funds to purchase the equipment - amen!
2. For souls to be saved and lives changed with the gospel.
3. That our family will be a godly example to others.
4. For the church building projects in the towns of Tabou (Faith Baptist) and Nero (Liberia United Baptist). E-mail us for specifics.
5. That our Bible School students (Yao, Jean, Parfait, Williams, Patrice and Evrard) will finish strong.
6. That our church (Eglise Baptiste Biblique) will be able to call its own national pastor in the next few years.
7. That the believers in our churches will see the importance of a pure life before God. Many are unwed mothers.

Much love in Christ,

Andy and Becky Messer
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