

The Messer Message

June 8, 2007

Dear Friends and Prayer Partners,

Do y'all ever get tired of hearing from us? Seems like we have nothing to say for a while, and then suddenly, we have a lot. Of course if you lived here with me (Becky), I almost always have a lot to say. When I was a kid, my parents used to offer me 25 cents to be quiet for about 15 minutes. :) My nick name was "Chatterbox," and it was well earned.

Well, some of you know that this past week has been a doozy for us. Five of our six children have been sick. At least we did not have six sick kids (try to say that fast) all at the same time. Some had malaria (Hadassah, Lexie and Prisca) and some only had a stomach bug (Leah and David.) Through the vomiting and diarrhea (we use cloth diapers) we managed to produce a huge mountain of laundry which I have just recently conquered! Through it all, we had the wonderful support of our family and friends (thank you for praying for us!) and the good medical advice from my sister, Joan Cuthbertson. We also could sense the Lord giving us wisdom as we were begging for it. It's hard to trust the medical system out here (they do not usually test, they just prescribe) but in some areas, they do know what they are doing. They know how to treat malaria. I also make use of some of my books from Nursing School (my drug book for sure!) and my all time favorite, "Where There Is No Doctor." I'm blessed with many resources to deal with illness, and I do not take that blessing lightly. So many out here get sick in a village and have no means of getting help. They do "indigenous" treatments (some of which do work!) and if they can get into the city, they either go to the hospital, or, in many cases, come to us. Pray for God to always give us wisdom in treating our own families and in suggesting treatments for others. I am happy to report that all are on the mend chez moi (at my house) and we are very grateful! Joan still has one little one recovering from either malaria or the stomach bug--not exactly sure which. He is doing better today though, so hopefully, the worst is past.

Today I went out to go to the store, only to find that the road was all blocked. There is only one main road and the store is on the other side of it. The towns people have blocked EVERY intersection so there is absolutely NO way to get across the main road. WHY? Glad you asked! Because for the past I don't know how long, they have had no television station going here in San Pedro. Those with satellite dishes get T.V. but not the local station. However, on the electric bill, the people have been charged for this service every time. Well, they've had enough. They do not wish to pay for a service they are not receiving (I don't blame them!) and they are making their aggravation obvious. I wish they could find another way to protest, but I guess this will get the attention of the town officials. If you walk, you can cross the road, but no cars and no taxis. As they say out here, "Ca chauffe," meaning, "Times are tough!" At least they are not being violent. I, however, felt a tad violent as I returned home, and began thinking of a different plan for supper. BE GLAD YOU ARE AMERICAN and don't deal with stuff like this on a semi-regular basis!

The ministry continues to go well. We had 30 people at Prayer Meeting last night. Our "Month of May Evangelistic Services" are done (Ruth Marie Cuthbertson did chalk art each Wed. evening.) There were many decisions for Christ during the month. Pray that the seed planted, that has sprung up, will indeed find fertile soil in their hearts. So often, as in the parable, the seed springs up only to be choked by the cares of the world, or to find that the soil is too shallow and rocky. One amazing thing is that MANY Lebanese (Muslim) children came to these services. Even more amazing is that an adult Muslim, Lebanese man also came. He seems to be searching. His name is Ali, and he is the brother of our old neighbor (for whom we have been praying since 2001!) Leah has a real burden for her Lebanese friends, and we have a burden for their parents as well. This is a tough group. They are rich and religious (a deadly combination) and do not see their need for a Savior. One young Ivorian man who works in the market (also Muslim) has told us that he has accepted Christ as his Savior. We (Joan and I) have witnessed to him on several occasions. I hope he is sincere. We've shared the gospel with the market ladies many times. We pray that soon we will see fruit.

Andy had told you about the couple (Albert and Rachel) that had the premature twins (NOT Naomi--her twins are fine!) We are sad to report that both of the premature babies passed away. A possible reason for this (I believe it is THE reason, but won't be dogmatic about it) will break your heart. The man did not have extra money on hand when the babies were born. They were TINY and needed special care immediately. Because he did not have the money on hand, the Doctors and hospital staff just left the babies laying there for SEVERAL HOURS while he ran around trying to gather up the money. When he finally came to us, we got the money for him as quickly as we could, and they started taking care of the babies. As you know, they did not make it. The thought of their neglect really does make my blood boil. God knows and He will take care of that situation. Sad though, eh? Well, the mother, Rachel, professed to be saved already, but the father, Albert, was not. On the last Wednesday of our evangelistic meetings, he told Andy that he had accepted Christ during the invitation. We rejoice with him and are glad that from death has come new life. Isn't that how it always is? From Christ's

death comes our new life. Please pray for this family (they have 2 other children) as they work through their grief. Pray that they will grow in their faith.

Well, just wanted to catch you up to date on the happenings here in San Pedro. Not much travel and lots of clean up--that about sums it up. :)

Thanks for praying for us! We sure do appreciate you guys! Thanks to those who support us financially, and those who send extra gifts. You have no idea how much we appreciate your sacrificial giving so that we can serve here. There is no other place we'd rather be (despite the 3rd worldness) as we know that this is God's will for us. We have peace in our hearts and joy in our lives. As a song I once heard says, "The world did not give it and the world can't take it away!" May you have God's peace and joy in your lives too!

Love in Christ,
Andy and Becky Messer

P.S. Praise the Lord, we have the opportunity to get a very nice (like new) Fender Passport Sound System for our church. The cost is \$500 (Andy says this is a good deal,) and because we are buying it from a missionary who was here before, the system is already here (NO SHIPPING!) If you wish/desire to contribute to this purchase, feel free to send your gift to World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions and mark it for Andy Messer's "sound system." The address is:

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