

The Messer Message

August 10, 2008

Dear Prayer Partners,

Hi. I just had three things I wanted to tell you all. I'll go from most important to least -that way if you only read the first part it will be the part that counts. J

ONE: Please pray for our friend Rebecca—the lady whose baby died inside her back in February. She is very sick and in the hospital. We are not really sure of the cause but she has what is called ascites (fluid collecting in her abdominal cavity). They drained about 3 liters of fluid in the past week. For the past couple of days she has not had more fluid, so we are glad for that. They have treated her for parasites in the liver (no real tests done to be sure this is the cause) and we are also looking at starvation (major lack of protein in her blood) as a possible cause. We (Joan and I—Joan more than me) have been running back and forth and trying to help her. It's not a nice feeling to think that they won't really do anything at the hospital unless we come there and tell them what to do. They just drain the fluid and send you home. They don't try to figure out WHY it is there or to do something to help you really get well. I think they assume you will die. Rebecca really needs your prayers (she has a husband and 4 small kids). Pray that Joan and I will have much wisdom as we try to help her. A Doctor friend in America gave us some ideas and we tried to get the albumin (protein) that can go in an IV, but they don't have it here at all. We are currently going to try raw egg milkshakes to try to get the protein into her body. She is able to eat a little and seems to be improving just a tiny bit—PLEASE PRAY FOR HER. Joan and I are praying and very much trying to help her survive. It's hard to make you know what it is like. Frustrating at times and also a great faith stretcher at the same time. God is in control and life is ultimately in His hands. He is able (Eph. 3:20) so we ask that you join with us and pray for Rebecca.

TWO: This is kind of funny. I forgot to tell you guys a cute little thing that happened at VBS. J A little girl came in a bit late and it was her first time at our VBS. The class that she was to join was having snack time. So, I handed her a cup of Kool-Aid as I was showing her to her classroom. She (I'm sure thinking this was some kind of Catholic communion thing) asked me very seriously if she had to swallow it all. Poor kid. They often have no idea what things mean... they just do what they are told to do. That is why we have to be so careful to explain and try to assess if they understand when we present the Gospel. Many (especially women and children) will pray and say anything you tell them. We prefer that they form their own prayer to accept Christ for just this reason. If they don't understand what they are doing it is not going to change their lives. You can pray for understanding for those who hear the Gospel.

THREE: Ok, this one is very trivial. Just wanted to say that our roads are getting SUPER bumpy out here! The rain messed them up and now the sun has baked them all hilly and holey. Just thought you'd like to know. Ok, I did not think you'd like to know—I wanted to complain. J At least we have a car—most people walk in the sun. J

Thanks so much for praying for us. Please remember to pray for Rebecca.

Love,
Andy and Becky Messer