

The Messer Message

August 24, 2008

Dear praying friends and family,

From Andy:

It is with sadness that we bring the news of the passing away of Laurent's wife, Rebecca. She died at our home today, Sunday, at about 10:00PM our time. Because autopsies are super rare and super expensive out here, the true cause of her death will go unknown. Most of the doctors believe she had Tuberculosis with severe malnutrition. She may have had stomach cancer. Who knows. But this one thing we know... "Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of his saints." Psalm 116:15. Amen. Absent from the body is to be present with the Lord. We know we will see our saved loved ones again but it still hurts knowing that our friend has departed. Now begins the grieving of the family. So, please pray for Laurent and his three little girls and baby son who will miss their mother sorely. In the next few days they will make the funeral arrangements. Below is a note from Becky so you can have her perspective as well.

From Becky:

Well, I have not given an update on Rebecca for a while—because I've been so busy trying to keep her alive. However, despite our best efforts, she is currently with the Lord. She needed so much more care than she could possibly get here and even then, I'm not sure if she would have survived. It was very frustrating and often depressing, but the Lord did give strength. The main prayer concern now is her family: husband, Laurent, and 4 children, Marina (11), Joelle (8), Grace (5) and Sincere (2). Three girls and the last one is a little boy.

Let me back up and fill you in. We took Rebecca home from the hospital (they discharged her—but she was far from well—I think they knew she was dying and wanted to get her out of there). She spent one night at home and the next day we took her to the TB clinic to be checked again. We wanted to find a hospital that would take her and really care for her, but they all say they only take those who will be there for just a few days. Finally we brought her to our house. Andy and I both had peace with this decision. It was a hard decision, but God gave us peace and grace to deal with it. She was with us for 3 days. She was so thin and weak and just got to where she could not keep anything down at all. We had a nurse come out to our house and tend to her once when her abdomen was full of fluid again, but she just kept slipping away. We were out of ideas and the Doctors just kept saying, keep her on the TB medicine. We did keep her on the TB medicine, but we never really got confirmation that she for sure had TB. They just don't test things as they should and they just don't have intensive care... When she needed a blood transfusion for the past few days—there was absolutely no blood to be had (not in San Pedro or any of the other blood banks that we were able to contact). It was hard to watch her dying and not be able to do anything about it. Her family is grieving and we are just trying to be comforting and supportive. Please pray for them. The morgue has taken her body and tomorrow they will decide about her funeral and burial... Thank you for upholding us in prayer during this time. In a way I'm so sad that she died, but in another way I'm glad she is no longer in pain. I did not want her to be in pain, but I wanted her to get well and be here with her family. The Lord knows all and I know He will take care of her family. It is just very hard.

Thanks for praying!

Love,

Andy and Becky

Serving with:

World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions

PO Box 725

Kings Mountain, NC 28086