CRick & Renee Athins Harvest Baptist Church PO Box # 23189 Barrigada, Guam 96921





Missionaries to Guam working with Micronisian Students

February 12, 2003

Dear Pastor & Co-laborers in Christ:

Greetings in the name of our Lord and Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, in whom we have life eternal. Psalm 78:26 "He caused an east wind to blow in the heaven: and by his power he brought in the south wind." We truly saw the power of Our Almighty God and praise Him for His goodness to us.

First and foremost we do apologize for not getting a letter out to you folks earlier than this. No good reasons, just some flimsy excuses that aren't worth writing down.

For the short time we have been on Guam we have gone through two typhoons and they get worse each time. We sure don't look forward to the next one if it is worse than this last one. The general opinion is that there were also several twisters running around in the storm. We did see evidences of that, by items that were moved from one area to another without any damage. For instance Pastor Jared's TV was about 200 yards from his house on the other side of two chain link fences with no damage and the tube was not even broken. Right next to the TV was his tool box with the tools still in the box. We had two windows blow out and spent most of the night (until about 4:00 AM) bailing water out of the apartment. The smallest cracks around the doors left the water pour in from the force of the winds. We sort of felt like we were trying to empty the Pacific Ocean with towels, dust pan and a bucket. The Lord did give us the strength to keep up with it and our home was dry the next morning. We are so thankful that we have tile floors and not carpet. There was extensive damage to the Hotels and a lot of houses were just blown away or the roofs were torn off. Concrete electric poles were blown over or broken in two (700 poles reported). There is very little green left as most of the trees were blown down or the leaves stripped from the high winds. We only heard of one death island wide. Through it all we realize how fortunate we are compared to others on the island. Our Heavenly Father did watch over us and protect us through the storm. Although it was scary at times, the Power of God we saw was absolutely magnificent and made us realize a new, Who is in Control.

Everything is starting to get back to normal, but there is a lot of building that has to be done here on the property. The Chapel Building (Sports Office, HBBI Office, Drama Office plus storage and four classrooms) Bookstore, Sports Locker Room, Maintenance Building and Pre-school buildings were destroyed and a small portion of the cafeteria room was torn off. The church building itself only had a small amount of water damage. However there was a crew of people at the church doors with Wet Vacs staying ahead of the water. The church does have a generator so they did have electricity, which was a blessing. We were only without water for several days but we did not have island electricity from 12/9 to 1/12. During that time we did have generator power which let us run a light, fan and the refrigerator. The electricity island wide is now about 82% restored.

The work with the student at HBBI are going well. Believe it or not we are preparing for a Senior trip and also Graduation in May. It hardly seems possible that we have been here almost a year. The Lord has taught us many more lessons about the island people. The islands are in real need of the Gospel of Christ. Our prayer is that we will see some of the HBBI Students return to their island and labor there for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Thank you so much for your faithful prayer and financial support. Our ministry is your ministry and we could not do it without your help. May our Heavenly Father continue to guide and bless each of you.

In His Care

Chick & Renee



The Family



Was their house



Now their house