

Jim and Patty Bailey
Missionaries to Guam, Micronesia



“Let us come before His presence with Thanksgiving...” Psalm 95:2a

Thank you so much for your prayers, and for your support of the ministry here on the island of Guam. As we constantly witness God's hand at work all around us, we are so excited to report that God is blessing this ministry in tremendous ways.

The Lord has been dealing with me recently as He reveals the blessing of ministering to a people that have been under the bondage of Catholicism for about 400 years. It is so ingrained in the culture here that it's hard for young believers to break fully and clearly from its tentacles.

As we approach Halloween, it seems the people here are obsessed with spiders, spider webs, witches, skeletons, and scary masks and costumes. Some of our neighbors even redecorated their front lawns to look like a cemetery. It is not unlike many young people today, who mark their bodies with tattoos of snakes, skulls, swords, and even barbed wire -- this is no less than bondage to evil, and a dwelling on thoughts that are controlled by Satan.

Spiritual bondage in a people reveals itself in a variety of ways. I've met people who don't know, or have any desire whatsoever, to know the teaching of the scriptures. They have been taught that the priest, or the church, will instruct them on things they need to know, so they don't think it necessary at all to read or understand the Bible. In fact, there were long periods of history during which the Catholic Church kept the Bible from its people, and said they didn't have the intelligence to understand it. Even worse, the Bible used by the church would be in a language not commonly known to the people. Yet, the scriptures themselves tell us to “Search the scriptures.....” (John 5:3). David wrote, “Thy Word have I hid in my heart that I might not sin against thee.....” (Psalm 119:11) This is why missionaries choose to come to a place like Guam -- to tell them about Jesus, and try to get people to understand and accept God's Word, and allow the “light” of God's Word to illuminate their minds, and eventually their hearts.

Recently, as I have visited different parts of the island, and come to understand the culture, I see so many in darkness and it's heartbreaking. But I am thrilled that the Lord has given Patty and I the opportunity to come and share God's Word with them. We are

enjoying the ministry here, and I truly delight in preaching and teaching God's precious Word.

While visiting different parts of the island, we have also had the pleasure of meeting a lot of people vacationing here from Japan, South Korea, the Philippines, China, and other places. Patty, especially, has a good ministry sharing the gospel with them as she goes about her daily activities. I think they enjoy practicing their English on us, and they're often willing to talk and receive the gospel tracts we offer. We've received many promises that they'll come to church or that they'll read the literature, but in reality, few actually do.

As far as the family goes, we are doing well. For the last couple of weeks, I fought a terrible cold and sore throat. I'm finally well, but shared it with Patty. One of the added blessings of being here on the island -- the warm weather has greatly helped my arthritis. I'm so thankful for that. Overall, Patty and I are both doing great.

We do miss the gorgeous turning of the leaves this year that we so enjoyed each fall in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley in Virginia. Here, we have consistent weather all year that remains in the upper eighties to mid nineties each day, with a few showers and clouds. Of course, the beautiful ocean and mountains are breathtakingly beautiful all the time, as well, so we cannot complain a bit!

May God richly bless you for making it possible for us to serve the Lord in this ministry. I am amazed by the goodness of God's people through their giving, loving, and praying. We are here in service to the Lord, He has placed us where we can best serve Him, and we are doing that to the best of our ability. With the holidays approaching, we want to wish you a wonderful, gratitude-filled Thanksgiving, and a Merry, Christ-centered Christmas.

In His Easy Yoke,
Jim & Patty Bailey



