



# the BOYLSTONS

MISSIONARIES TO THE ISLAND OF POHNPEI

It always is amazing to see the change the Lord can make in a person's life. Romans 1:16 says that the gospel "is the power of God unto salvation to every one that believeth". What a difference the Lord brings when He comes into one's heart! It is such a blessing to see that even after salvation people's desires continue to change as they become more conformed to the image of Christ and begin to desire an outreach to share the gospel that has done so much for them with others. The Lord worked in the hearts of one of our Bible Institute students and some of the teens of our church to pass out hundreds of tracts and small gifts to their fellow schoolmates. Also as a church we were able to pass out tracts and gifts at the jail and hospital and have services with the inmates and patients. During this Christmas season Kaleb set a goal for our family to pass out 500 cookies and tracts. Various people and churches sent Christmas-themed gospel tracts and we greatly appreciate that help. We were also thankful that the Lord answered our specific prayers that there would be no shortages of eggs or butter or electricity. "Operation Christmas Cookie" was a success and we were able to exceed our goal of 500! When we first stopped people and offered them cookies they asked, "How much do they cost?" We were happy to inform them that it was a free gift and even happier to give them a free tract explaining about God's free gift. It was fun to receive so many smiles, hugs, and thank yous, but we are praying for the everlasting reward of souls rescued for eternity. It was exciting to see people eating their cookies and reading the tracts as we left. A missionary at one of the other Baptist churches encouraged that congregation in a "1K for Christmas" challenge. That church met and surpassed their goal, so altogether, thousands of gospel tracts were passed out over the Christmas season. We ask that you pray the Lord would bless and use the seeds of the gospel to draw men and women unto Him.



Often we don't understand God's plans, but we can trust Him completely. One night at the end of November we found out that, contrary to what we had been told earlier by the shipping company, the ship to Nukuoro was leaving the very next day. That night we prayed that the ship would be delayed, as it often is, so that we would be able to get the supplies needed for the missionaries, but the next morning the crew told us that the ship would be leaving that day. We decided that it would be best for Christa and the boys to accompany the partial shipment of supplies that we had and to explain the situation and see if they could help in any way. The Lord worked it out that after some negotiation they were able to take two slings of supplies and some deck cargo, a fraction of what was requested, but much more than we expected to be allowed with such short notice. The cargo hold was already closed so the permission was given on the condition that the boxes of supplies be taken down the manhole ladder one by one and the slings assembled below deck before the manhole was closed and locked. The Lord truly did a miracle and we were able to complete that just in time. An added blessing was that we were allowed to

bypass the normal requirement of getting and paying for a bill of lading, warehouse and dock fees, wharfage, taxes, and stamps from the shipping companies and the port authority. We only had to pay for passage and a \$20 flat fee per sling! The voyage went fairly smoothly and they were able to surprise the Peelers and Ezekias'. Mrs. Peeler said that their two families had been nightly discussing how they wished Christa could come to visit and showed Christa a letter that she had written earlier asking Christa to ask me if she could please come to Nukuoro. The letter had not been sent, the request never asked, and no human plans made. Christa absolutely would not have gone to Nukuoro this time if everything had worked "according to plan", but she did go specifically because everything seemed to be going wrong. God knew. God's plans were not our plans. In retrospect there were so many tiny details that the Lord worked out - contacts, conversations, last minute purchases and decisions. Christa thoroughly enjoyed seeing the ministry in Nukuoro and spending time with our friends there. What amazing things the Lord has done there over this past year! We do pray that next time we will be able to send a complete shipment accompanied with less chaos and drama, but we are fully persuaded that no matter what the future holds God is always in control and has a plan and a purpose even when to our human eyes, things seem to be going wrong.

We thank you for your faithfulness, prayers, and support this last year and pray God would bless you and use you greatly this next year till He comes.

## Praise and Prayer

- \* Praise the Lord for a good missions revival in November.
- \* Praise the Lord for a safe trip to Nukuoro. Christa was especially happy to not have fallen into the ocean during transfers between the ship and the small boat.
- \* Praise the Lord for a good semester of BBIP. All the students passed. We enjoyed a fun end-of-semester Christmas party. Please pray as the spring semester begins.
- \* Pray for our health.
- \* Thank you for the cards, messages, and gifts sent for Kaleb, Kody, and Christa's birthdays.
- \* Thank you for the Christmas cards and gifts.
- \* Praise the Lord for the opportunity to pass out hundreds of Christmas tracts. Thank you especially to all of you that responded so quickly and generously to our request for Christmas tracts.
- \* Praise the Lord that Kyle was able to finish his first semester of Bible college with good grades and all his payments made. Even though we missed him, we are thankful that he was able to spend time with family and friends over Christmas break.
- \* Praise the Lord for His help and blessing on the hard work of those that participated in the Christmas cantata. Kaleb was thankful for the Lord's help in portraying the somberness of his character, as that does not come naturally to him. Some specific people that were invited, came and heard the gospel. Pray for the salvation of Sweeter, Derik, and Donnie, as well as others who attended.



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