

CANNON PRAYER LETTER

DECEMBER 2004

Dear Praying Friends, Family, and Supporters:

Isaiah 9:6 says: "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given, -- His name shall be called Wonderful, Counselor, The Mighty God, The Prince of Peace." It is very hard to believe that we have been on Yap for twelve years. Each year has seen many blessings, challenges, and a few disappointments. 2004 has been no exception. First we were blessed to learn that Mark and Diane Zimmer had been called, by our Lord, to serve on Yap. Later in the year, we were challenged by Typhoon Sudal and all of the damage it caused. Thanks again to those of you who prayed for us and helped us and our people in any way. Praise the Lord, all of the work on the main building has been completed and the work on our main classroom is going well.

In early September, Joe's hives got worse and we went to St. Luke's hospital in Manila. There we found out that Joe has a disease called Urethical Vasculites. This means that his blood vessels leak. After many tests it was determined that this is an extreme allergic reaction. He was disappointed, when Joe found out that he is allergic to mold, dust, dust mites, and three types of grasses. The medicine (a steroid) that is available on the island to combat this allergic reaction is very dangerous if taken over a long period of time. Joe has been taking this drug off and on for about ten years each time he would have an attack of the hives. Both of Joe's doctors in Manila agreed that the only long term solution to the problem was to leave Yap and the tropical climate. Even the doctor on Yap said, "That's where you live!" when he heard what Joe is allergic too. It is with both a heavy and a happy heart that we are preparing to leave Yap. Heavy because we are leaving many precious people here whom we have learned to love, and Happy because God has placed three other missionary families to serve Him here on Yap. Also Rolance Lug, an outer island young man, is ministering here at the Yap Baptist Church with our youth.

This seems to be Our Lord's perfect timing for us to leave. Our current plans are to leave Yap on December 17th. We will be staying at our mission board through the holidays so that we can be near Joe's mother. Our regular furlough was due next year. Lord willing, we will be able to start our furlough by the first of March. We can not move back into our house in New Bern until the first part of February. In January Joe will be getting some medical follow-up done.

While we do not know where our Lord would have us minister in the future, we have no plans to retire! Our prayer is that our Lord Jesus will refire our spirits, restore our health to the level He chooses, and reassign us to the place He wants us to go!

Should you need to contact us, please call us at either WWNTBM, 704-730-1440, between the 18th and the 31st of December, or at Calvary Baptist Church in New Bern, 252-633-5410, after the first of the year. You may also contact us by E-mail using our Yahoo account, cannonyap@yahoo.com

May all of you our faithful supporters, family, and friends have a most blessed Christmas and a Fruitful New Year in our Lord Jesus Christ. Please pray with us about our next place of service.

Serving Jesus Christ in Micronesia since 1989,

Joe and Carolyn Cannon