



# FOR UNTO US A CHILD IS BORN. UNTO US A SON IS GIVEN.

2772 Port Rd.  
Harrisonburg, VA 22801  
December 15, 2003

Dear Friends and Co-Laborers,

Well, we are back – and this time to stay – we think! I've been rereading our letters to you from the last two years to see what we have written and when. It has been a bit of a surprise to even me to see how many times we have said something in one letter only to see the schedule altered in the next. It reminds me that someone once said, "Never say 'never'". Good advice, for we only see the near at hand, but He holds tomorrow.

When we went back to Majuro, we expected to be back in the States by September, 2002. We ordained Helmer Lang to the ministry and the Majuro Independent Baptist Church called him as national pastor. As we wrote in March, 2002, Nathan McElheny accepted the oversight of V7AA-FM. Now Pastor Lang has accepted the responsibility for the school. Telbwe Alik has completed her work at Fairhaven Baptist College and returned to Majuro to become office manager for the school. She will have her hands full with all that needs to be done. Please pray for her and for the work there in Majuro.

It was with very mixed emotions that we have returned to the U. S. We are glad to be back to labor with the churches and to encourage and challenge others to "look on the fields; for they are white already to harvest." However we realize that some of those we have come to love we shall likely not see until we stand before the Throne – and many we shall likely never see again unless they come to Christ in this life. These "13 plus" years in the Marshall Islands have been busy and hard, but they are years for which we thank the Lord – years which shall always remain warm in our hearts and memories. We are amazed that He should count us worthy of such trust. Oh, that we might have done more for His glory, for He is worthy.

Last week we met with our mission board at their board meeting in Kings Mountain; and now we begin our next phase of ministry. We are setting up meetings to report on the work in the Islands, to encourage churches in their mission programs, and to help those on deputation to get to the field of their calling. We now have about 15 meetings booked beginning in January and are looking to fill our schedule. There is much to be done and the time is short.

At this blessed season of the year we look forward to gathering with family and friends for shared times of fellowship. How totally different it was in Heaven when the eternal Son left the Father to come to earth in the greatest missionary journey the world has ever seen. He came knowing He would be despised and rejected; knowing He would be born to die; knowing that His Person, mission, and purpose would be explained away and misinterpreted by religious leaders who claimed to act in His Name. And yet He came. What condescension! What fathomless love! What matchless grace! May we like the shepherds and wise men bow our hearts and knees before Him. Scriptures do not record any words they said in His presence, but what they did when they left another way makes clear they were changed from that day forward. May it be so with us as well.

Again we thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your part in the ministry of the Word of God.

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In the service of the King,

*Stanley and Maxine Cline*