

the EIBEN FAMILY

Missionaries to Pohnpei, Micronesia

Gabriel • Susan • Benjamin

Broadcasting the Good News in the Regions Beyond

"Hear the word of the LORD, O ye nations, and declare it in the isles afar off..." - Jeremiah 31:10

4th Quarter 2017

Dear Family and Friends,

We thank the Lord for the many blessings He heaps upon us through the faithful prayers and generosity of folks like you. Our quarter began by saying good-bye to one of our most faithful prayer warriors, Mrs. Marlene Liles of Kinston, NC. When Susan's mother passed away, she stepped in and adopted us, treating us like we were her own children and daily prayed for us. Over the years we have seen God work in amazing ways in direct answer to her prayers. Her notes, calls, and care packages have been a constant encouragement, especially on the field. On October 6th, 2017, she went home to be with the Lord, ending her battle with cancer. We miss her terribly, but are comforted in knowing that she is rejoicing in Heaven with our Savior. She truly exemplified James 5:16, "The effectual fervent prayer of a righteous man (or woman) availeth much."

On the morning of November 10th, a Baptist flotilla consisting of two 20' skiffs and eleven men set out for the remote atoll of Pakin. As we departed, a storm was brewing to the North making conditions less than ideal. Our boat from Kolonia rendezvoused with the boat from Uh at the edge of the barrier reef in a place called Palikir Pass. As the boats pulled alongside one another, we cut off the engines, discussed our contingency plans, and then bowed our heads asking the King of Heaven to bless our effort to proclaim His name in the regions beyond. An hour and a half later, with 27 miles of open ocean behind us, we crossed the shallow reef along a narrow run flanked by jagged coral heads and safely arrived on the island of Nikilap. The Chief (the "Somas") greeted us at the beach while an elderly lady placed fresh coconut oil on our forearms to welcome our group. After we were given a short tour of the island, we set up for an activity with the young people. When school dismissed, just over a dozen kids joined us for games directed by Pastor Solomon David, followed by singing led by Pastor Rickson Kehling, and a Bible lesson given by Brother Melvin Afgas. Later that afternoon, we met at the island gathering house to prepare for the evening service. Soon, nearly everyone on the island had come out to hear from their visitors. Our men sang several songs and gave testimonies of God's grace. Pastor Rickson Kehling interpreted the message as I preached from John 3:16 about the need for every individual to put their faith in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. The islanders listened intently, and during the invitation four precious souls prayed to be saved. Among those were both the Somas (Chief) and his wife. She would later share with one of our men that **this was the first time in her life that she had ever heard a clear presentation of the Gospel**. Praise the Lord!

The next day we had one more service with the kids, then packed up to make the trip back to Pohnpei. Many of the islanders gathered to say goodbye giving me the opportunity to distribute several solar powered radios pre-tuned to the Baptist Radio. As we boarded our boats, the Somas thanked us for coming to bring the Good News to his people and invited us to come back again for a longer stay. Please pray for these new believers to grow in the Lord and for God to raise up a national who could move to the island and minister the truth of God's Word to these dear people. Also pray for us as we work to plan another outreach trip to this very needy place.

Continued on back...



Gospel Outreach on Pakin



Susan & Benjamin with Mrs. Marlene

PRAISES

- Finances for transmitter repair – 100% Amen!
- Finances for the back porch repairs – Approx 75%
- A wonderful Christmas for our Thursday night kids.



Giving a solar radio to the only school teacher on the remote Atoll of Pakin

Our Address: 743 Skinner Rd., Shelby, NC 28152 **Phone:** (704) 434-7131 **Cell:** (980)295-6194 **Email:** eibens2pohnpei@juno.com

Sending Church: Maranatha Baptist Church, 413 Polkville Rd., Shelby, NC 28150 (704) 284-0158

Mission Agency: WWNTBM, P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 (704) 730-1440

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Continued...

Our Christmas tract outreach got off to a slow start as the tracts we ordered were misplaced in the warehouse in the US. Our Wednesday night English group gathered together and assembled hundreds of tract packets for distribution. Many were also able to join us at our "Baptist Radio" booth at the Calvary Christian Academy Tree Lighting event. That night we were able to distribute hundreds of tracts and hundreds more through the month of December. Please pray that folks would read them and take to heart God's offer of salvation in Christ.



The highlight of our Christmas season was the surprise Christmas party we held for our Thursday night Nukuoroen group. The kids had no idea what we were planning and were quite inquisitive as we put up some Christmas lights and decorations at the family naahs. We sang several Christmas hymns, shared the Christmas story from God's Word, and then distributed some very modest items for the kids. As they opened their gift bags with Bible coloring books, crayons, and colored pencils, they were bubbling over with excitement!

I later found out that many of them had never received any kind of Christmas present before. Most of these kids come from single parent homes with little or no income and very little emphasis on the things of God. We want to thank all those who contributed items for these precious kids. Your generosity made this a Christmas they will not soon forget. Please pray that as we continue to share with them the love of God that they would all accept His gift of salvation.

PRAYER UPDATE: Thank you all for your continued prayers and for the Christmas packages and financial gifts that were sent. At the time of this writing, all of the funds needed for the transmitter repairs have come in. Praise the Lord! Also, we have received approximately 75% of the funds needed for the station porch renovation project. With that, we will begin demolition work in February with a team tentatively scheduled to come out in March to help with the repairs. God is truly amazing. We are constantly overwhelmed by His goodness and provision. To God be the Glory.

Your fellow servants in Christ,

The Eiben Family



Setting out for Pakin Atoll



Our International English group making Christmas tract packets

PRAYER REQUESTS

- Growth and follow-up for those saved on Pakin Atoll
- Safety during renovations
- Upcoming March Missions month at Calvary Baptist

Reaching max capacity at Christmas fellowship



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