# 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

## 2019 First Quarter

Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings in the name of our resurrected Lord Jesus Christ. Having just celebrated Easter Sunday, we rejoice with all of our brothers and sisters at the blessed hope that we have because of our risen Savior. The tomb is empty! What a blessing to know that one day we will be with Him. No more sickness, no more sorrow, and no more sin. Praise the Lord!

The first quarter of 2019 has been very busy with all sorts of planned and unplanned activity. During January, preparations were made to replace the aging tin roof at Calvary Baptist Church. Though Pohnpei is one of the wettest places on Earth, God gave us two relatively dry days in early February to get it done. The men from Calvary and many of our sister churches joined together to remove the old rusted tin and replace it with brand new roofing. We thank God for keeping us all safe, especially while removing the old roof. The new roof looks great, and, Lord willing, it should last the church for many fruitful years to come.

Sunday, February 17th was a very special day for us. Not only was it our four-year anniversary of arriving on Pohnpei, but it also marked the beginning of Sunday services with our Sokehs (so-case) group. We have been conducting a children's Bible study on Thursday nights since the summer of 2017. After much prayer and godly counsel, we believe the Lord would have us to expand this outreach. As exciting as this is, our efforts have been met with some resistance. Progress is slow as the community we are working with is hesitant to trust outsiders. Please pray that God would stop the mouths of opposition and establish a lasting work for His glory.

An hour after our first Sunday service in Sokehs, we took Susan to the airport for her flight home to North Carolina. Days before, we received the news that her brother was in the hospital in critical condition. His heart had stopped twice, and the doctors were convinced that he didn't have much time left to live. As we sat down to discuss the situation, we realized that this would likely be our last chance to share the gospel with him, so the decision was made to send Susan home. We thank God for the safety in travel He gave her and are especially grateful for the opportunities she had to share the plan of salvation with her brother and others. We are also thankful for the friends and family members who helped Susan on such short notice. Please pray for Marshall to receive Jesus Christ as his personal Savior and for his health. The doctors have done all they can do with his heart operating at only about 15 to 20% capacity.

March was the month of sickness for our family! First, Susan got food poisoning in North Carolina and had to go to the emergency room. Then, Benjamin contracted hand, foot, and mouth disease which laid him up with a fever for nearly two weeks. Not wanting to be left out, I developed the flu followed by bronchitis that has had me coughing for a month. Thankfully we are all doing much better and are hoping to avoid any future plagues for a good long while!

Folks have been asking about our eventual furlough. We are currently planning to have the Norman family come and relieve us as soon as they raise their support. They are new to World Wide and have just begun the initial phase of deputation. Please pray that God would grant them the meetings and support needed. Thank you all for your continued prayers and generosity. It is our honor to partner with you as you reach the world for the cause of Christ.

The Eiben Family

### **PRAYER**

- Expansion of our Sokehs community outreach
- · Souls to be saved
- · Salvation for Family
- Norman family to raise support for furlough relief



New roof on the Calvary Baptist Church

#### **PRAISE**

- For allowing us to begin holding Sunday services in the Sokehs community
- For keeping Susan safe on her trip to the USA
- Thank God for helping us recover from our various illnesses
- Minimal damage from tropical storm Wutip