

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



Summer - 2021

Dear Family and Friends,

We thank you all so much for your continued prayers and support. The last couple of months have been a whirlwind of travel and activity as we have sought to get the needed medical attention for Susan. Please know that your prayers have been essential for our safe travel.

Before leaving Pohnpei, we were able to see a group of new believers baptized. Two of these boys (Jerone pictured bottom left & Alex bottom right) trusted Christ last year in the Sokeh's outreach ministry just before Covid regulations shut things down. What a privilege it was to assist Pastor William Joel as these young believers made their decision to trust Christ public through the waters of baptism. If you are interested in seeing it, the baptismal service can be viewed on youtube: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YXjO-3tKO_I

Our departure from Pohnpei was bittersweet. After 6 years on the field, we hurriedly packed our essential belongings, put things in the capable hands of Brother Koden Lebehn, and said goodbye to some of the dearest folks on earth. We are so thankful for the kind words, commitments to pray, and warm wishes from our Calvary Baptist Church family of Kolonia. Late on the evening of May 15th, with heavy hearts, we made our way down the long dark causeway that leads to the airport. We were encouraged to see the youth group of Calvary waiting for us at the entrance. Through tears of joy mingled with sadness, we said our final goodbyes and boarded the plane. Armed with hand sanitizer and face masks, we launched out into the world of Covid. Little did we know what an adjustment it would be. Some 18 hours later we arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii greeted by body temperature scans, forced social distancing, and stringent quarantine regulations. While it was a blessing to be back on US soil after so many years, things were certainly different, to say the least.

For nearly a month, we shuttled back and forth from doctor's office to doctor's office in Honolulu. Susan underwent a barrage of testing and many thorough evaluations. We praise the Lord that there was no sign of a heart attack nor were any blockages identified. We are, however, still concerned as the doctors were unable to determine what caused her symptoms and whether or not they will return. We hope to follow up with doctor's here in the Charlotte area of North Carolina.

While in Hawaii, God poured out His love and care upon us through some amazing people. We are so thankful for the generosity of folks like Pastor Surface and the Ohana Baptist Church and all the ways they assisted us during our stay. You folks truly demonstrated the love of Christ to us in our time of need, and we are forever thankful. We also want to thank the Sanbecks who loaned us their vehicle so we could get to our doctor's visits, and the Haggith family who lodged us in their home, all the while treating us like family. May God richly bless each of you for your kind generosity toward us.

In June, we arrived back in North Carolina and were greeted by our Pastor, Jim Davidson, and his family. We are so thankful for the warm reception we received from the dear folks of the Maranatha Baptist Church and the sacrifices they made to ensure our needs were met as we planted our feet back on the mainland. Thank you all for being a channel of God's blessings.

Shortly after arriving we made our way to eastern North Carolina where I was able to conduct a memorial service for Susan's brother Marshall, who passed away while we were in Hawaii. We then made our way to Michigan to visit my family whom I have not seen in over 6 1/2 years. We thank God for this time of refreshing. Please continue to pray for Susan as we seek more follow up on her condition. Also, please pray for our housing situation. We currently have lodging through the end of September. Pray that God would clearly show us where He would have us to live for the rest of 2021.

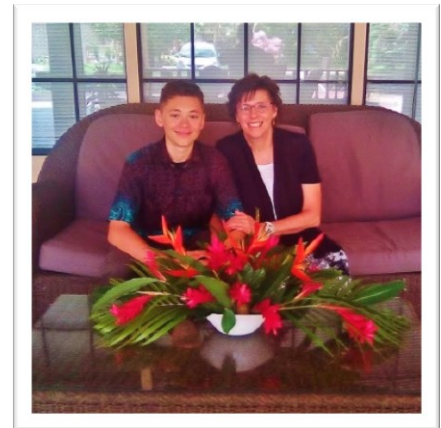
Your Fellow Servants in Christ,

Gabe, Susan, and Benjamin

***Baptizing new believers
before leaving Pohnpei!***

PRAYER

- Pray for the new believers recently baptized back on the island of Pohnpei.
- For Susan's follow up Dr. visits back on the mainland.
- For Brother Koden Lebehn and his new bride as they run the Calvary Baptist Radio during our furlough.
- That God would open up housing for us through the end of the year.



***Susan and Benjamin prior
to our medical furlough***

PRAISE

- Praise the Lord for no signs of heart attack or blockages in Susan's cardiac tests.
- For all the amazing folks who helped us during our medical stay in Hawaii.
- Preaching opportunities while staying in Hawaii.
- For continued spiritual fruit back in Pohnpei, Micronesia.

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