

# 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



**Working at the Fundamental Broadcasting Network studio!**

## Spring Review 2023

Dear Family and Friends,

We hope and pray this update finds you well, enjoying the blessings of our Lord. In Psalm 27:14, we are told to "Wait on the LORD: be of good courage, and He shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the LORD." Since our unexpected return to the U.S., we have been involved in many furlough endeavors, (i.e. travelling, preaching, visiting doctors, etc.) but the most prominent aspect of our time seems to be... waiting. And for me, waiting is not easy. I like to have answers and clear direction. Yet, during the previous months, the lack of concrete information has proven extremely frustrating, taking me far outside my comfort zone. I have contemplated throwing in the towel several times, even considering other positions here in the U.S., but the council of our Pastor, other Godly men, and our Mission Board, has been to remain patient and wait upon the Lord, so that is what we are doing. We thank God for you and so appreciate your continued prayers, support and patience!

In May, a new president took office in the Federated States of Micronesia. One of the first orders of business was to introduce legislation to remove the prohibitive covid vaccine entry requirement. Unfortunately, the sitting congress voted it down, citing outdated guidance from international agencies. Our understanding is that congress will reconvene in September and take up the issue once again for consideration. We have decided, after much prayer, that if the congress continues to require the vaccine, that this will be our sign that God has shut the door to Micronesia. We do not know exactly what that will mean for us, but we trust that the Lord has a plan in it all and that He will reveal it in His good timing.

During our Spring travels, the Lord allowed us to visit several of our supporting churches, including some in the Midwest. What a joy and encouragement it was to reconnect with so many dear friends. Following one such missions conference, we made our way to Michigan to visit family and celebrate several birthdays, including Benjamin's sixteenth! (hard to believe our young man is now driving!) After a short but refreshing visit, we started back to North Carolina. Thirty minutes down the road, I received a frantic call from my Mother, telling me that Dad had just been in a motorcycle accident! We reached the hospital before the ambulance arrived, not knowing how severe Dad's injuries might be. We prayed for the best but prepared ourselves for the worst. It is amazing how life can change in the blink of an eye. Thankfully, when they opened the transport doors, not only was Dad still conscious, but he was quite cantankerous! (a sure sign of strong health in the Eiben family!) Upon further examination, it was found that one of his legs was inches shorter than the other due to a major break of the femur. He was stabilized and scheduled for surgery the next day. I'll never forget the doctor looking at my Dad and telling him that he was one lucky guy, to which my Dad replied, "no, I'm blessed." I am so thankful to all the doctors and nurses that tended to his emergent needs and for God's mercy as things could have been much worse. Unfortunately, after two weeks of rapid recovery, Dad managed to snap his new titanium rod in half! I always knew Dad was a tough guy, but I had no idea just how tough! Now, following his second surgery, he must keep all weight off that leg for two months. Your prayers for Dad's healing and for Mom as she ministers to his needs, are much appreciated.

Since our return to North Carolina, we have temporarily relocated to the headquarters of the Fundamental Broadcasting Network, in Newport. We are so thankful for their hospitality. There is a strong possibility that I may be assisting them with maintenance on the 500' radio tower. We welcome your prayers concerning this, and for what lies ahead.

Your Fellow Servants in Christ,

**Gabe, Susan, and Benjamin**

## PRAYER

- For God's will to be done concerning the covid vaccine requirements in Micronesia
- For Dad to fully recover from his accident, following surgery



**Answering a great question in Ohio!**

## PRAISE

- For God protecting Gabe's Dad during his motorcycle accident



**Benjamin with his Papa, shortly before the accident**

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