

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

Easter Update 2026:

Dear Family and Friends

With the Easter holiday rapidly approaching, we give thanks for the resurrection of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. No doubt, His first disciples must have been awestruck at what they saw as the promised Messiah communed with them following His victory over the grave. How stunning it must have been for them to hear His last admonition before returning to Heaven, that they would be witnesses of Him "in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the **uttermost** part of the Earth." Some two thousand years later, the commission to take the Good News to the furthest reaches of the globe is still just as relevant as it was that first Easter season. We thank the Lord for the opportunity to be part of His commission, serving as your ambassadors to the island people of the Federated States of Micronesia.

The year began with Susan and I taking our son Benjamin to Raleigh-Durham International Airport. After graduating at the top of his A-school class, Ben came home on leave to North Carolina for Christmas and New Years, before reporting to his first ship, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, an aircraft carrier based in San Diego, California. I was able to wrap up my work on island and, after several delays, made it home just in time for Christmas. With the current uncertainties in our world, we praise the Lord for giving our family this wonderful opportunity to be together for the holidays. Taking our only son to the airport, sharply dressed in his Navy-blue uniform, and saying goodbye was indeed bitter-sweet. We are incredibly proud of Benjamin's achievements as he fulfills his desire to serve God and country in the United States Navy. However, with the ever-escalating conflicts around the globe, a parent can't help but be concerned about their service members' well-being. Please pray for Benjamin's safety and for all the young men and women who faithfully serve in the U.S. Armed Forces. God bless our troops!

After tending to a few pressing matters back home and soaking in some much-needed quality time with family, I left North Carolina at the end of January and arrived back on Pohnpei in early February. I want to say a special thank you to our friends at the Ohana Baptist Church of Honolulu, Hawaii and especially to the Sanbeck family, who hosted me on a moment's notice following unforeseen flight delays. You guys are the best, and your hospitality is so appreciated! Upon returning, I jumped back into renovations only to be met with the complete failure of our main station computer. Due to the irregularities of our antiquated electrical grid with its frequent outages and brown-outs, electronic components take a real beating. Thankfully, we already had a newer computer on standby which I was able to immediately put into service.

Early in March, I was informed that the state ship would be heading out on a southern run to the remote atoll of Nukuoro, some 300 miles south-west of Pohnpei, a voyage which only takes place a few times a year. It had been nearly seven years since I last preached there for an old friend, national Pastor Ray Ezekias. Though I had tried many times to plan a follow-up visit, I had always run into obstacles preventing my return. This time was different as the schedule seemed to open up, allowing me to gather precious resources while preparing for the weeklong journey. On the evening of March 14th, the cargo ship **Micronesian Navigator** set out from the Kolonia harbor with ideal conditions. Unfortunately, the light tropical breeze and beautiful pastel sunset **would not** foreshadow what was to come! Once out to sea, we were forced to return to Pohnpei to load missed passengers and cargo. This would require camping out overnight onboard ship while drifting outside the reef. The following day, we entered the channel at high tide, docked and unloaded the remainder of the passengers and goods. Later that evening, again at high tide, we finally departed. The passengers were in a festive spirit as the music played loudly all night long, making sleep almost impossible. The following day, the weather made a drastic change as dark storm clouds gathered on the southern horizon. Soon the ship was being tossed about with no relief in sight. Late that night we arrived at Nukuoro, but it was too dark and stormy to off-load, so we drifted in the tempest until morning as the crew battled to keep the bow of the ship pointed into the oncoming waves. Needless to say, no amount of Dramamine could fend off the violent sickness that ensued. Finally, the storm began to subside while the rain continued to pour. Jumping from a ladder off the side of the ship in heavy seas with your belongings in tow, down onto the waiting skiff seemed unnecessarily dangerous, but that's how the islanders have been doing it for as far back as anyone can remember. The skiff made its way through the channel and into the lagoon where the normally calm waters slapped the small vessel with white caps. Finally, the little boat pulled up onto the sand and all able-bodied passengers hopped into the surf and began offloading goods and belongings. There on the beach, I was greeted by my old friend, Pastor Ray Ezekias followed by his dear wife Mercyda. Now in his mid 70's and barely able to hear, this man of small stature gave me a great big bear hug, warmly welcoming me to his home! We took my belongings back to his thatch roof shelter, sat down with a cup of instant coffee and began to catch up on the years past. The rain continued all day and on into the next. Marauding swarms of mosquitos treated me like an all-you-can-eat buffet. With my hammock hung in a boathouse facing the lagoon, I was easy prey for the winged syringes. On the third day the weather finally cleared, allowing me the opportunity to go to the island's schoolhouse and preach to the children there. With only 84 people living on the atoll, preaching to more than a quarter of the population was a tremendous blessing! The boys and girls listened with rapt attention as I shared the love of Jesus with them. After the service, each child was given a special Gospel tract, which they took eagerly.

OVER >>>

Ben flying out to meet his ship after a wonderful Christmas reunion!

Address: Baptist Radio, P.O. Box H, Pohnpei, FM 96941 **U.S. Phone:** 808-333-7337 **Email:** eibens2pohnpei@wwntbm.com
Sending Church: Maranatha Baptist Church, 900 Mark Drive, Shelby, NC 28152 **Phone:** 704-284-0158
Mission Agency: WWNTBM, P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 **Phone:** 704-730-1440

the EIBEN FAMILY

Missionaries to Pohnpei, Micronesia

Gabriel • Susan • Benjamin

Broadcasting the Good News in the regions beyond



Pastor Ray & Mercyda Ezekias

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

CONTINUED >>>

I can't begin to tell you what a thrill it was to preach God's Word in one of the most remote places I have ever been. Surely, the atoll of Nukuoro qualifies as one of the "uttermost part[s] of the Earth," and your faithful support and fervent prayer has helped to bring the Gospel to this far off place. Please pray that these seeds of Scripture would find fertile soil in the hearts of the Nukuorean people.

Having just returned to Pohnpei last week, my sea legs are finally gone, and I am now preparing for a visit from our sending Pastor, Jim Davidson. He is scheduled to arrive in mid-April and plans to assist me with the kitchen renovations. Please pray for his safety while traveling and for good health for us both so that we might accomplish much during his visit. **Please continue to pray for Susan's sister, Deborah Carroll, as she battles inoperable stage 3 liver cancer. Thank you so much for your persistent prayer and generous support.**

Your Fellow Servants in Christ,

The Eiben Family



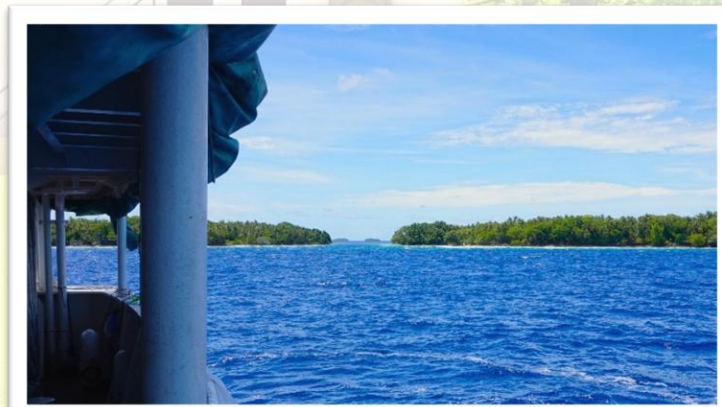
Island Accommodations: Outhouse on the left side & my hammock in the boathouse on the right



The children of the Nukuoro Island School eagerly receiving Gospel tracts!



Imagine traveling on an open-air ship, sleeping in a hammock the way most Islanders do!



Thankfully the channel into the lagoon was much calmer on our departure day.

Address: Baptist Radio, P.O. Box H, Pohnpei, FM 96941 **U.S. Phone:** 808-333-7337 **Email:** eibens2pohnpei@wwntbm.com
Sending Church: Maranatha Baptist Church, 900 Mark Drive, Shelby, NC 28152 **Phone:** 704-284-0158
Mission Agency: WWNTBM, P.O. Box 725, Kings Mountain, NC 28086 **Phone:** 704-730-1440