

# *the* EIBEN FAMILY

## *Missionaries to Pohnpei, Micronesia*

*Gabriel • Sutsan • Benjamin*

*Broadcasting the Good News in the regions beyond*



**Our late summer family reunion before Ben's Pacific deployment!**

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

### **Summer Update 2026:**

Dear Family and Friends,

As we approach the final days of a historic summer, we give thanks to our Father in Heaven for the hard-fought freedoms we have as a nation. We especially give thanks for all the brave men and women of the United States armed forces who have served and sacrificed to preserve that freedom. One of the most significant liberties we have is our right to worship God freely, which serves as an example far beyond our shores. Thank God for 250 years of religious liberty, enshrined in America's founding documents, and its foundational basis for religious freedom for countries around the world, including the Federated States of Micronesia.

Late spring was busy with loads of demolition work at the Baptist Radio. After a weather delay caused by Super Typhoon Sinlaku, my friend, Pastor Jim Davidson arrived on Pohnpei, ready to work. Though his visit was cut short due to the storm, we were able to accomplish a great deal in the limited time available. We rolled up our sleeves and, with some help from my local friend, Kodan Lebehn, we were able to completely rip down the rotten, termite infested ceiling in the main living area. With the removal of each dilapidated panel, dust, termite droppings, rat excrement, splinters, and Styrofoam popcorn would rain down on our heads! By the end of the day, we were so filthy that we each needed multiple showers, one for the body and another for peace of mind! After Pastor Davidson flew out, I began the painstaking task of replacing all the termite damaged framework. Fast forward to today and a new, termite-proof, rot-proof ceiling is in place, with a brand-new drop ceiling below it. The walls have been disinfected and painted with mold killing paint and the kitchen cabinets have been re-finished inside and out. In all, approximately 1000 sqft of living space has been completely gutted and renovated at the Baptist Radio! Though the station renovations are far from finished, we praise the Lord that the living quarters are now livable! Thank you to all those who have given so generously to make these renovations possible as this will allow the radio ministry of the Calvary Baptist Church of Pohnpei to continue for years to come.

Memorial Day brought with it the honor of working with the Pohnpei Veterans Association. I was humbled to travel around the island with these incredible veterans of the United States Armed Forces, as they proudly waved the flags of their respective branches of service. One by one, we visited the families and graves of our fallen heroes. There, at the graveside, I was asked to give a word of appreciation for the immeasurable sacrifice each one had made and to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and remembrance. We are truly blessed with the freedoms we possess, but I am reminded that America is indeed the land of the free **because of the brave**, and some of those brave men and women come all the way from these tiny islands out here in the Pacific. My deepest respect goes to each one who answers the call to serve, which brings me to the June Army enlistment ceremony, where 17 young Micronesian men and women swore an oath to serve and protect our nation. During the ceremony, which took place at the US Embassy, I had the distinct honor of delivering the invocation and benediction. What a privilege it was to ask the Lord's blessings and protection on these brave new soldiers as they seek to serve and defend the shared values of our two nations.

At the end of June, national Pastor William Joel travelled to Guam for the summer to receive medical treatment. This left me tasked with preaching the Sunday English services and speaking at various school functions including the 2026 graduates' address. Early in July, as Americans around the world gathered to celebrate 250 years of freedom, I found myself wrestling to break free from the ravages of Covid. While many on island battled the sickness for weeks, thankfully, I was only side-lined for several days. Following my recovery, I had the privilege of closing out the Baptist Summer Youth Camp on Pohnpei. Every summer our Baptist churches labor together to create a camp atmosphere that attempts to shut out the din of the world so the teens can hear from the Lord. This year was special in that a youth group of nearly 20 teens from Guam joined our camp. It was apparent that the Lord had been working all through the week with many decisions being made for Christ, but nothing could have prepared me for the final service. As the congregation of over 80 teens opened their bibles, I preached on the uncompromising compassion of Christ. When it came time for the invitation, several teens came to the altar to pray. As they rose, another wave of teens came forward, then another, then another. The invitation went on for several minutes as dozens of young people and adults came to pray. Afterwards, a young lady asked me about salvation. I was able to take the Word of God and show her how to place her faith in Christ. After praying, 17-year-old Miss Nay ran to share her new-found faith in Christ with her youth leaders, praise the Lord!

With the arrival of August, I was able to finish up the kitchen renovations while preparing to return to the US. Late in the month, I arrived in San Diego to meet our son for a short visit before we boarded a plane together to return to North Carolina for a reunion with Susan. You'll recall that she stayed behind in the U.S. to be with her sister Deborah who was battling terminal liver cancer.

**OVER>>>**

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### **Visiting Ben aboard the USS Roosevelt!**

Sadly, on Mother's day, Deborah Carroll took her final breath with Susan and family at her side. We thank each of you for praying for Susan and her family during this very difficult time and so appreciate the kind words of encouragement sent. We especially thank those who came to the wake and funeral to offer their warmest condolences to our family. Your kindness has meant so much.

Ben is now back aboard ship, the USS Theodore Roosevelt, preparing for an extended deployment in the Pacific. Please keep him and his shipmates in prayer; that they would serve proudly and return safely. With the living quarters on Pohnpei now livable, Susan and I are finalizing preparations to return to Pohnpei later this month. We so appreciate your prayers, support, and patience in what has been an incredibly challenging period in our lives. May God richly bless you for your love for Him and your kindness to us.

**Your Fellow Servants in Christ,**

**The Eiben Family**



**Delivering the invocation at the US Embassy during the US Army enlistment ceremony.**



**The Memorial Day flotilla assembling in the lagoon for a wreath laying ceremony.**



**Putting the finishing touches on the renovated kitchen, dining, and living areas!**



**Greeting his Excellency, Micronesian President Wesley Simina, at the enlistment ceremony.**

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