

# ELWOOD AND DORIS HURST

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Dear friends and co-laborers in God's vineyard,

Once again it is a blessing to be able to report to you what the Lord has done here on the beautiful island of Guam, where the white fields and the opportunities abound. The summer months of this year have been a real blessing with opportunities and some challenges. Summer months can be a challenge with the Island folks taking vacations, while their children are on school break. Since a trip to the mainland costs a great deal, they often extend the length of their vacation. We praise the Lord for providing some willing laborers to fill in the vacant slots in the work.

We were blessed to have about 30 children for the Vacation Bible School in June. I am so thankful for our folks who were willing to step into places that were unfamiliar to them, and they did a great work. I am also thankful for the van that the Lord provided last year. We had as many as 16 children on board. There were some new families that were served through this ministry. We are still trying to reach some other families through this contact with the children.

Guam just celebrated the 66th Liberation Day on July 21, with a parade and festivities. It was 66 years ago that America came back to recover Guam from Japan. This year's celebration was especially good. A dear brother who served in the Navy years ago in Guam sent us boxes of John/Romans booklets. Fourteen of our folks participated in giving them out at the parade route. We gave away approximately 1,500 booklets to local folks, visitors, and military. There were canopies along the parade route where folks sat to observe the parade. We gave booklets to them and also to folks who walked along the route. I went into one canopy where there were a good number of JRRUTC students. I gave each of them a John/Romans, including the gentleman in charge. This gentleman told one of the young men to read and told the others to sit and listen. U. S. military personnel here from Japan also received booklets. Before noon, all of the booklets were gone, and we could have given more. How we thank God for the liberty to freely give literature and to witness for our Lord. We realize that this liberty came at a great cost to families and to our nation. It is our prayer that the Seed of God's Word will grow in hearts and bring forth fruit for His glory. We found only one booklet on the ground.

Three of our young people will be leaving the island for college in a few weeks. Please pray for them, as their convictions will be challenged, that they will remain strong in the Word of God and in the old-time faith. We also have one young lady who will be attending Harvest Baptist Bible Institute. It is a real blessing to see this young lady grow in the Lord. We have seen her grow up in the church, and have the blessing of seeing her serve in the church. This summer she took a teaching position. Our hearts are really blessed by the way that she seems to have mastered the art of teaching, straight out of high school. Please pray for her that she will continue to grow and to be a mighty servant of the Lord.

We are now making plans to start a children's Bible ministry in a government housing area in Agat. One of the couples who visits our church has offered their carport for the class time, and one of our families have expressed interest in taking on this ministry. Please pray that the Lord will guide and give us wisdom in this new ministry. Many of the children there are from the island of Chuuk, and the wife of the couple that plans to work there is also from Chuuk. This should help with some of the language barrier. We are already bringing in some folks from that area on the van.

The Lord has blessed us with another family who has joined Lighthouse Baptist Church. This makes two new families in recent months. Both of these families have already taken on responsibilities in the work. We also have had some of our Navy and Coast Guard neighbors visit recently. We desire to be a blessing to them, and to see some of them join in the ministry of the church.

We give God all the glory. We are very thankful for what He has done and for you folks who make it all possible. We will be praying for you, and trust that you will also keep us and this work before the Throne of Grace. Please pray also for the Quinlan family as they near the time to come work with us. We look forward with excitement to their arrival and the opportunity to labor with them. They still need 17% more support to reach their goal.

Thank you once again for the blessing of serving with you.

Because of Christ,

*Elwood and Doris Hurst*