

ELWOOD AND DORIS HURST

WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

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Dear friends, family and co-laborers,

We trust that you are all enjoying the very best of our Lord's blessings. This letter is much later than I'd like and due to circumstances that I do not like either. We have had trials for the last two months that have truly tried our strength and grace. We thank God for His grace that sustains us. We thank you for helping us with your prayers and your faithful support.

If I were to go into all the details, this prayer letter would read like a medical report. As you all know, Doris is a victim of the awful disease of Alzheimer's. Directly and indirectly, this has led to some real challenges in our work as missionaries. There have been some incidents of falling which, thankfully, did not cause any major injury, though they have required some trips to radiology and doctors' offices. Doris' mobility has also suffered since our last report. This has hindered our travel. In April, Doris developed pneumonia and was admitted in the hospital. This stay was for a week. Her return home left her in a bed-ridden state for another week and added the extra treatment of constant oxygen. This, for all practical purposes, sealed my duty for another week. Before this, Doris could at least sit in a wheelchair, and we could make it to the car if need be to travel. Thankfully, the door opened for her to go to rehab treatment. She has now been in that process for four days, and God is blessing beyond the treatments. Since her arrival at the place of therapy, before she even saw a therapist, she has not needed the oxygen. Of course, that is a great blessing from our Lord. Praise His holy name! Her treatments have begun, and she is doing well so far. We are so very thankful for any improvement in Doris' health. We are hoping and praying that her mobility will improve so that we can get back to doing what we are sent to do.

All of the above leads me to say that I am troubled that we have not been able to do what you sent us to do. I am convinced that I am doing what God would have me to do at this time. It is our first responsibility to provide for and care for our family. We are thankful to God for 60 years of marriage and have been either on the mission field or trying to get there since 1978. Many of you have stood with us about all that time. Still others of you have been faithful and patient supporters in prayer and finances for many years. We are deeply grateful to you all and to our God for the honor of serving with you. The reality that we are not able to be more active in our calling at this time troubles this old missionary greatly. We are humbled and sincerely thankful for your patience and faithful standing with us through this time of trial.

It is our prayer that this time of therapy for Doris will bring enough mobility that she will once again be able to travel, one of her favorite activities. At age 83 we will not "be setting the woods on fire," but we want to do what we can as long as God gives us breath and strength. Your fervent prayers, patience, and faithful support will be much appreciated.

One activity that we have continued is prayer. Every morning, before we partake of our Lord's provisions we pray, and the saints of God that He used to provide that and the churches that we are privileged to serve with are brought before the Throne of Grace. Any special services or ministries that we are aware of are also called in prayer.

The works in Guam are going well, and we thank God for the Kings and the Hendersons who are laboring for our Lord and that He is blessing their ministries, how we thank God for those works and the workers that He is using.

Again, from the depth of our hearts, thank you for your patience, your provisions, and your prayers. We love and appreciate you and hope to be more of an asset to your ministry.

Because of Christ,

Elwood and Doris Hurst