

ELWOOD AND DORIS HURST

WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

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Dear friends and faithful brothers and sisters,

It is our prayer that you and your church are enjoying the very best of our Lord's blessings.

Once again, I have to ask your forgiveness for my delinquency. It is not my desire or my plan to allow this time to slip past and not give you a report on our status. Your faithful stand with us in prayer and support to us is greatly appreciated. We daily thank our Lord for you and your kindness toward this family.

We want to thank the Lord for all He has done for us as we go through this phase of our lives. He has been not only our Savior, but a dear friend that is closer than any brother could be. This experience has been a real learning and testing experience. You may recall that Doris was diagnosed with Alzheimer's in 2015. God had allowed us to serve as His laborers in the islands of Marshalls and Guam since 1980, with the exception of our time off for family and for the furlough. Our hearts are still there, and we still communicate regularly with some of our dear friends. It really stirs this old heart to see that the works are still going on and we are still dear friends. We returned to the mainland in 2016 and have since been here dealing with the issues of Alzheimer's disease. It has been a challenging and learning experience. One of the biggest challenges is the constraining of the needs of Doris' care. However, it has been a great blessing to have the amazing grace of our loving Savior to give that grace and strength that is necessary. It has also, by virtue of the care, made Doris and I appreciate it more than ever. As I have stated before, God moved our mission field to 109 Mary St. We do have occasion to witness to the medical personnel as they serve here. It is a blessing to have the opportunity to witness and pray with some of the personnel. We are praying and trying to witness to one of the ladies that has admitted that she is not saved.

Doris' status has not changed much since our last report. Of course, as time lapses, the needs and attention have increased. That factor takes more and more of Elwood's time. I am thankful that so far, the Lord has provided the strength and grace to be the caretaker. The vital signs of Doris are staying fairly stable, but her mental and physical status is clearly going the way of Alzheimer's. Her classification status at present is 7C. The final rating is 7E. She is still "Mrs. Smiles." Her eating is beginning to fade somewhat, and her weight is showing that. Since she has been on hospice, she has lost 45 pounds. As we reported in the past, she is totally immobile. We are very thankful for the van that our church provided that helps us with transportation. I can roll the wheelchair up into the van instead of lifting her in and out of the Corolla.

Again, we thank God for all of you who stand with us in prayer and materially. We thank God for our family and our church, all of whom have stood by us so faithfully. Of course, we thank our Lord and Savior for His unfailing love and grace. We pray daily for all of you who demonstrate your love and concern for this old unworthy missionary.

Because of Christ,

Elwood and Doris Hurst