

JOEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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DEAR PRAYING FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS,

Oct-Nov '04

Much has transpired since our last letter. We have had our Leadership Camp with our Christian school Juniors and Seniors. PRAISE THE LORD, many of them made important commitments to the Lord and two of the seniors made specific decisions, one for salvation and the other for assurance of salvation. This camp may have been the most memorable one for me. In our rush to clean up the island and load up the boats with our camp gears, one of the students threw the bag with my camcorder, a digital camera and other equipment in a seawater landfill hole where the trash is disposed. Please Pray that the loss will be replaced somehow. Alas, this is a case of "one man's trash is the same man's misfortune" (my own quotation).

Last week, one of our church members died of a heart attack and left a wife and three sons behind. The funeral was attended by nearly a hundred people and the Baptists conducted all three customary funeral services. Pray for the lost family members on both sides. Another man (Mr Pedren Obed), who had served as our song leader since the founding of our church, has been bedridden ever since his stroke. He has not been able to ingest food or drink for several days now. It will only be a matter of days before he goes home to be with the Lord.

When we return from our missionary seminar in Guam in August, I brought back a chronic cough. Well, Praise the Lord, my voice is slowly coming back and I am ready to restart my Bible Study at the local high school. Another praise is that my daughter Terisa will be able to spend Christmas with us this year. We have just mailed her e-ticket to her yesterday. She and Marjorie John (both BJU students from Pohnpei), will be flying together out of Spartanburg, SC on December 20, into Houston, Tx, then on to Japan, to Guam and then home to Pohnpei. Please pray for a safe, uneventful flight.

Many of you have inquired about our house that was supposed to have been built by now. Well, unfortunately the Rural Housing Agency here may well be a prospect for the Guinness Book of World Record for "red tape" delay tactics. Since submitting our paperwork in 1997, we have had to resubmit building cost estimates, credit approvals, historic preservation and building permits, and a myriad of other papers three or four times and still the same words. "Your building contract approval is just waiting for the final signatures." Please pray that the Lord will move the hearts of the right people in the government to get their acts together and approve the building contracts of hundreds of prospective home owners who are lined up every morning at their doors.

Thank You again for being a part of The Joel Family ministry these many, many years. Words alone cannot express our heartfelt gratitude for your ceaseless prayers, faithful service, and love for the Lord and His servants. May the Love of God, the fellowship of the Son, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be your portion until next time.

"Declaring His praise in the islands" (Isaiah 42:12b).