

# JOEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

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**May—June 2015**

**Dear Praying Friends,**

**Greetings or "Kaselehliā"** from the "garden isle" of Micronesia, now the "garbage isle", thanks to Tropical Storm "Dolphin". After several decades of peaceful and tranquil weather, this playful storm "Dolphin" decided to give us a taste of what he and his kinfolks had been dishing out to Guam and the Philippines for as long as we can remember. The entire island is a mess or looks like the aftermath of a hurricane in the USA. Our newest mission church, which was constructed mostly out of local material, was smashed to the ground as were all the other houses that were built with similar material.

Our church building was flooded when the creek nearby overflowed its bank, causing two huge trees to fall. One fell on the roof of the church and the other fell on the neighbor's house. To make matters worse, the manhole on our church yard started spewing out raw sewage and mud unto the yard and into the auditorium. Our people worked all day Saturday, cutting down trees and clearing the church of mud and pollution. Our Sunday School rooms had three feet of dirty water that had to be emptied by a bucket brigade. Many of our activities such as Mother-Daughter banquet for our ladies from our seven churches; Kindergarten graduation, and the high school baccalaureate service were cancelled or postponed.

As a result of the most recent storm, I noticed several cracks on the cement floor of the church. Originally, our church lot was a taro patch or swamp, given to us by the founding pastor's dad. The problem of transforming the swamp to solid ground was solved when the Lord provided the right person to fill up the swamp with boulders and rocks, transported from a riverbank many miles away. The pastor's uncle then, was the director of Pohnpei Transportation Authority. For over forty years the church sits there and the rate of sinking seemed unnoticeable, but cracks on the floor began to tell the sad story that the church is not on a solid foundation.

I have talked to some of the deacons and they agreed to discuss the prospect of moving our church location. We have discussed purchasing a metal building like the existing church building, but our building fund is not sufficient in and of itself; however, we have **two options** toward a building project. One is to try matching the present amount in our building budget, which is \$37,000.00. The other option is to dismantle our present metal church building and use the frame, which is intact and without rust. The new location we have in mind is our large school campus. I called the Land Commission office about constructing a multi-purpose building that can be utilized as an auditorium for chapel, graduation, as well as, gymnasium, and they told me that as long as the building is school-related, we have all the rights to build on the school property. Whichever option we use, building a church always demands a lot of money. Please PRAY with us for this great undertaking. **We know that with God, nothing shall be impossible.**

**Halleluia and Praise the Lord !** we are just now reaping the result of our recent church and school revival. Almost half of the fourth grade students went to ask the vice principal to show them how to be saved. There were smaller groups of high school students from different grades who also prayed the sinner's prayer. Please pray for their spiritual growth as we disciple them.

