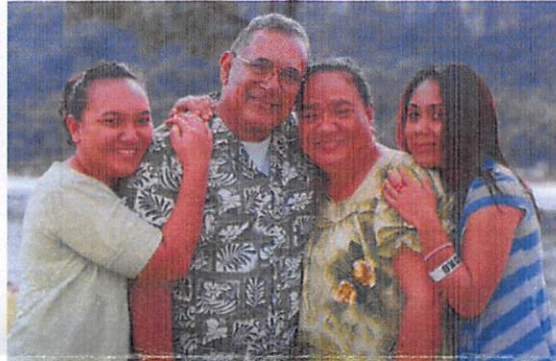


JOEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

World wide new Testament Baptist missions

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Dear Friends,

GREETINGS AGAIN from the Joel Family on Pohnpei, Federated States of Micronesia. I trust this letter finds you in good health, physically and spiritually. One of our fellow missionaries, whose wife had previously begun a health diet program, was invited to our Christian school Staff Development day to introduce and promote her program at our school. Many of our staff signed up and are presently practicing the daily regimen of diet and exercise. Currently, **Pohnpei has the highest rate worldwide in "Non-communicable" diseases**, such as **Diabetes**(from bad diet), **Mouth and throat cancer**(from betelnut and chewing tobacco), and **Heart, Kidney, and Lung diseases** (from local Sakau or Kava root narcotic—a common cultural drink, now readily available to all ages).

Last Saturday, my wife and I were invited to attend the birthday celebration of **His Excellency, the new President of FSM**. They asked me to pray for the birthday feast. There were two locally-cooked pigs at the head of the long banquet table. The guest speaker mentioned that when the president was a junior congressman, during the first session that he had ever participated in, he questioned a **well-worn resolution** regarding the deaths of congressmen: "we mourn the **untimely passing** of honorable so and so". Mr. Christian raised his hand and stated that the word "untimely" is a misnomer and should be deleted because God has predestined the day of death for every human being, so it is not an untimely event, but a timely one. The phrase was changed then. Pray for the salvation of the president, who happens to be Pastor Welles and my wife's cousin.

To God be the glory! Our high school's annual **Jr. and Sr. Leadership Camp**—on an island resort, yielded much fruit this year. Five students got saved during the camp and many students made important decisions about their walk with God. My daughter who was one of the counselors said that every night, they stayed up past midnight counseling the students. One of the pastors from Harvest Baptist Church on Guam, Brother Joe Baldwin, was our keynote speaker. After the camp, more students were convicted of their lost condition and sought out the teachers for counsel. My office became a delivery room during that week, so last Sunday after the main service, the entire church drove down to the beach and baptized ten born-again believers (some of them were students from our school). Halfway through the service, my associate pastor came to the rescue and helped me with the immersing process.

PLEASE PRAY for our church building **first phase**, which is the planning phase. We found out that the former pastor did not get his dad to deed the church lot officially at the land court. The church board immediately went to the courthouse and filled out a form, had the former pastor signed it, and the lawyer affixed his power of attorney on it, and filed the original document at the Land Tenure. The next order of business is to dismantle the old church building roof and walls, and then begin building. **We would like to express our heartfelt appreciation to those of you who have given sacrificially toward our building fund.** We covet your prayers for our school project. We have been awarded an amount of money from Aid to Non-Public Schools Org. to help replace the roof of our school building so this summer we hope to get a mission team from Illinois, USA to help us with this school project...**THANK YOU AGAIN FOR YOUR FAITHFUL PRAYER AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT...**