

THE JOEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

SEPT--NOV, 2022

WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS--PO BOX 725

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GREETINGS FROM THE TROPICAL RAINFOREST OF POHNPEI—MICRONESA. FIRST AND FOREMOST, I WANT TO THANK OUR HEAVENLY FATHER FOR HIS LOVE, COMFORT, AND SUSTAINING GRACE, AND SECONDLY, I WOULD LIKE TO THANK YOU ALL FOR YOUR OUTPOURING OF SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCE. YOUR LOVE AND PRAYERS KEPT OUR LITTLE FAMILY FROM SINKING IN DESPAIR AND SORROW.

THE WORDS OF I THESSALONIA 4:, KEPT US REJOICING IN OUR TIME OF BEREAVEMENT: "CONCERNING THEM WHICH ARE ASLEEP THAT YE SORROW NOT, EVEN AS OTHERS WHICH HAVE NO HOPE. FOR IF WE BELIEVE THAT JESUS DIED AND ROSE AGAIN, EVEN SO THEM ALSO WHICH SLEEP IN JESUS WILL GOD BRING WITH HIM" VERSES 13b, 14.

LIHNER SPENT TWO WHOLE WEEKS IN THE HOSPITAL. MY VERY PREGNANT DAUGHTER TERISA AND I, TOOK TURNS ALTERNATING DAILY AS HER CARE-GIVERS. BEING A DIABETIC, HER BEDSORES WOULD NOT HEAL BUT GOT WORSE DAILY AND HAD TO BE CLEANED EVERY OTHER DAY. SHE SUFFERED QUIETLY WITHOUT UTTERING A SOUND, THOUGH MOST OF THE PATIENTS AROUND WERE SCREAMING AND MOANING EVERY NIGHT.

FINALLY ON SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 AT 10:27 PM, SHE BREATHED HER LAST BREATH ON EARTH AND WOKE UP IN HEAVEN, WITH A BRAND NEW GLORIOUS BODY WITHOUT ANY IMPERFECTION. WHAT A GREAT REUNION SHE HAD WITH ALL THE REDEEMED WHO WERE WAITING FOR HER.

THE FUNERAL SERVICE STARTED WITH THE FIRST VIEWING IN THE CHURCH AUDITORIUM WHERE OUR DAUGHTER TERISA GAVE THE EULOGY AND PASTOR KIHLENG PREACHED. AFTER THAT, THE COFFIN WAS TAKEN TO OUR HOUSE, WHERE OUR YOUTH FROM THE SEVEN BAPTIST CHURCHES SANG AND EVERYONE STAYED UP UNTIL AFTER MIDNIGHT. SOME OF HER COUSINS AND AUNTS SPENT THE NIGHT BESIDES THE COFFIN IN THE LIVING ROOM.

ON WEDNESDAY,NIGHT, WE HAD OUR PRAYER MEETING AT THE HOUSE WITH PASTOR SOLOMON DAVID FROM GOODNEWS BAPTIST PREACHING. THE FOLKS STAYED AFTER THE SERVICE FOR FELLOWSHIP AND REFRESHMENT. THE NEXT DAY, WE HAD OUR SECOND VIEWING AND LAST PRE-BURIAL SERVICE WITH PASTOR RIC VERA CRUZ FROM TRUTH BAPTIST PREACHING. AT THREE O'CLOCK P.M., THE COFFIN WAS TRANSFERRED TO THE SIDE OF THE HOUSE, WHERE A NEW GRAVE WAS DUG AND PREPARED. PASTOR SONNY PADOCK FROM CAPITAL HILL BAPTIST CHURCH PREACHED THE LAST MESSAGE BEFORE THE COFFIN WAS LOWERED INTO THE GRAVE.

OUR EX-MAYOR HAD KINDLY GIVEN US TWO CUBIC YARDS OF SAND WITHOUT COST FOR THE BURIAL. LATER OUR FIVE-YEAR OLD GRANDSON ASKED," WHY IS GRANNY PUT IN THE SAND?" I TOLD HIM THAT SHE NEEDS TO GET TO HEAVEN IN THE CLEAN SAND AND NOT IN THE DIRTY MUD. OUR FUNERAL SERVICES USUALLY END WITH EVERYONE GIVEN A LARGE PORTION OF RAW PORK AND ONE POUND SACK OF RICE. SO THE CROWD AT THE BURIAL SERVICE EXCEEDED THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE AT ALL THE PREVIOUS SERVICES. IT WAS A GREAT COMFORT TO ME AND MY SMALL FAMILY TO SEE SO MANY WHO ATTENDED THE FUNERAL OR HOME-GOING SERVICE. THANKS TO THE INTERNET, MY YOUNGER DAUGHTER AND ALL OF LIHNER'S, NEPHEWS AND NEICES, INCLUDING MARLY, HER YOUNGEST SISTER IN THE US, WERE ALL WATCHING WHAT WAS GOING ON AT ALL THE SERVICES.

AGAIN, I WANT TO THANK THOSE OF YOU WHO TOOK THE TIME TO SEND CARDS OF CONDOLENSE AND SYMPATHY, AND EVEN MONETARY GIFTS. AND ALSO OUR GREAT APPRECIATION TO THOSE WHO PRAY FOR US. MAY THE LORD BLESS YOU ABUNDANTLY.

FROM PASTOR/MISSIONARY WILLIAM JOEL AND FAMILY