



SCOTT & MARILEE *Norman* SERVANTS HELPING IN THE MINISTRY



August 1, 2026

***"For my thoughts
are not your thoughts,
neither are your ways my ways,
saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than
the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my
thoughts than your thoughts." Isaiah 55:8-9***

***"A man's heart deviseth his way: but the Lord directeth his
steps." Proverbs 16:9***

Greetings From The Normans,

In our May/June prayer letter, we mentioned trying to navigate our future in relation to Joshua 1:5. I also mentioned that we have had to make some difficult decisions as God has directed us along the way. I closed that letter by asking you to pray for us and to be looking for a second letter. This is that letter. I do not mean to take Isaiah 55 out of context, but the truth is still riveting. Indeed, God's ways are not our ways, and His thoughts are not our thoughts. With this in mind, it is imperative that we be sensitive to God's will as we devise our way, and let Him direct our steps.

When we returned from Liberia, we committed this mission field to prayer and sought God's leading with regards to possibly returning next year. During this time, we sought counsel and earnestly asked God to give us peace about returning to Liberia. That peace never came, yet I did not know why. We were willing to go, and there was no one thing that would prevent us from going. I just did not have peace. On June 25, God showed us the reason.

On that day I received a phone call from Matthew Furan who is serving in Saipan, our former mission field. Matthew is presently doing the work that we did for twenty years. The conversation was shocking and somewhat disconcerting. Matthew is a former Marine and while serving in Iraq several years, ago he was exposed to Sarin gas. That exposure is now beginning to negatively affect his health and is life

threatening. This exposure is adversely affecting and potentially shutting down his body's systems. He has what is called "multiple toxic exposure." The doctors have told him that he cannot continue as a missionary and must come back to the States for treatment. To be frank, his days as a missionary have come to a close. During the conversation, we discussed how we could help. That led to us committing to prayer the possibility of going to Saipan and replacing him so that he could return to the States to begin the necessary treatment.

Since that conversation, we have been much in prayer about returning to Saipan. Marilee and I have discussed this over and over. We have sought counsel. We have committed this to the Lord. We have been seeking His favor and searching for His will in all of this. We even talked to the missionary in Liberia, and her counsel to us was to pursue Saipan. God has given us peace about what we should do, and that is the purpose of this letter.

On July 10, after spending time with our Pastor on July 9, we made the decision to return to Saipan to temporarily replace the Furans until such time a permanent replacement can be found. We have committed ourselves to fifteen months and realize that it might be longer.

We will say more in our next prayer letter, which may be a July/August letter, but we wanted you to know now so that you can commit this to prayer on our behalf. **WE CERTAINLY NEED YOUR PRAYERS!** We have already purchased our airline tickets, and are scheduled to depart on September 29. The Furans want to leave around October 1-5. We have much to do over the next several weeks and covet your prayers and your support. Thank you for taking the time to read this and for sharing in our adventure. Of a certainty, we did not see this coming; but God did, and He is directing our steps. He has given us perfect peace about this and we look forward to seeing how He will lead in the days ahead. God bless each of you, and we thank you for making all of this a matter of prayer.

Sincerely In Christ,
Scott and Marilee Norman

Contact :
309 Ridge Road NW • Wilson, NC 27896
Scott: 252-822-1063 • Marilee: 252-822-3555
scottleenorman@gmail.com

Sending Church:
Trinity Baptist Church
PO Box 1236
3624 Raleigh Road Parkway
Wilson, NC 27894

Send Support to / Mission Agency:
World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions
PO Box 725
Kings Mountain, NC 28086
Info@wwntbm.net



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