



Let them give glory unto the LORD, and declare his praise in the islands. Isaiah 42:12

Summer 2017

Dear Praying Friends,

Warm summer greetings to you, our faithful friends who pray for and support our ministry to Pacific Islanders. I just finished a study time with my Marshallese assistant, Ruwe, as we prepare sermons in Marshallese language. I am thankful I am able to learn another language in order to more effectively minister to his island group. I have also been blessed to share Christ with many Pohnpeians in their language (that I know well) both at Sunday services here and visits to other Hawaiian islands. We are thankful for the good number of them who have recently prayed to accept the Savior.

The family is well, and blessed to serve together and be a blessing to not only our own ministry, but to many others as well. The kids have been busy for much of the summer participating in or running or helping in 5 weeks of summer camp and 2 VBS programs. We'll be sad to send Nathan back to college soon, but happy he is faithfully preparing for the Lord's work, hopefully out here in the islands. Ruth is coming back tomorrow from a short visit with her parents in Nova Scotia where she takes turns with her siblings in caring for her aging parents. (Of course she got to see our grandkids in SC and AR the way back.)

In this letter besides mentioning the current blessings and prayer requests, I would like to briefly share some of the joys and blessings we have experienced in many years of missionary service: We have been able to see hundreds of islanders come to Christ, and see young folks grow up in the Lord to raise families of their own. Just yesterday, I picked up a Pohnpeian man coming through the islands on his way back home to Pohnpei. As we drove around he shared how much our ministry had effected the islands. Later when I dropped him back to the airport and told him how proud I was of him and his family, he turned to me with tears and said, "You are the reason we are all saved. Thank you!" Thank you, friends, for the 25 years or your prayers and support that made this and the many such testimonies possible!

Jesus said in Mark 10:29-30, that no one leaves his home and family for the Gospel's sake, but that he will get many new ones. Sometimes we can get a bit discouraged that we are not able to be with our own family, or have little of this world's goods, but we are constantly reminded of the truth of Jesus' words. Is it truly a blessing to have access to homes all across the islands where we are welcomed as family, and to have "parents, brothers and sisters, and children" by the hundreds because of the Gospel!

For 25 years we have been partnering with scores of good churches across America and have had the privilege to assist them to carry the gospel to far-flung areas of the world. Our lives have been enriched as we have fellowshiped with you, shared your hospitality and seen the results of your prayers and support. Thank you!

Another aspect of our ministry has been to assist other families in heading to the mission field. We remember those who helped to direct us along our mission path, and it has been a blessing to know many families that we have helped and encouraged to serve God on the mission field—mostly in the South Pacific. Some we have later helped in their place of service when they needed to be gone. Lord-willing we will be covering for one such family who have ministered for years on the largest Pacific island of New Zealand as they head home for 5 weeks for the birth of their grandchild next month. Please pray for them and for us as we serve the Lord in this way. For our ministries here, our national assistant will be able to preach each Sunday and practice what I have been teaching him for some time. Our oldest son, Mike Jr., will "hold down the fort" and fill in in our other ministries, while he also continues with his Christian high school teaching responsibilities. (Another blessing— kids that grew up serving the Lord and others, and sons that desire to follow God and continue on in their family's island missionary work!)

Thank you for your continued prayer and support. We trust that 2017 continues to be a blessed one for all of us as we partner together. Please continue to pray that God would provide for a 15 passenger van for our "bus routes." We can sometimes find them on Craig's list for around \$5k to \$9K-sometimes even less. Please remember that gifts should be addressed to CMC in Houston, and correspondence should be sent to our street address: 84-1006 Hana St. Waianae, HI 96792. God bless!

Reaching out to our expanse of the world,

Mike, Ruth & Family

Dr. & Mrs. Mike Schell and Family

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