

Sam & Mary Beth
Snyder

MISSIONS TO KIRIBATI

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We are once again so very thankful to have your prayers on our behalf. It means more to us than you will ever know. These last two months have been a time the Lord has been teaching us so much even though it has not been easy. Sam went to North Tarawa by boat to talk with the landowner a few times. He also went to clear some of the land, cutting down trees and brush. While there, he realized something was just not right with the land. The Lord began to lead us into thinking maybe this is not the right time or the right place for this mission. We spent a week praying very intensely, asking the Lord to show us if this is the right thing to do. We asked the Lord that if this is not right then please let something happen so the court case would not go through. Well, the answer was not what we expected. The island was rationing fuel and we did not have enough to make the trip. We started out that morning, but the sea was too rough and would have taken too much fuel. The court case was thrown out, and we would have to start back at the beginning. We had already missed the last court case because Sam was sick. We spent some more time in prayer, making sure this was not just our idea. We made our decision that it is just not the right time to go to the North. When we started telling people here, we found there were more problems with the land than what we knew about. We were disappointed in some ways, but are glad God showed us before we invested a lot of time and money into setting up. We have complete confidence about what was done in the past. The lessons learned in trying to move to this remote location have been invaluable. The people we met and tried to share the gospel with in the North while visiting were worth the effort. One lesson that keeps coming up is depending completely on the Lord for guidance. The victory in the Christian life comes by recognizing our helplessness and relying on His grace. So the big question we had was what we should do next. The only thing we could do is help out where we could with the church in the South and continue practicing language. We are going in August on a survey trip to some other islands to see what the Lord has for us in this next step of faith.

Please pray for a man that I met named Teirake (which means "stand up"). I met him because the back tire of my motorbike blew out and I was a long distance from home. He stopped with a truck he was driving and asked if I needed a ride. We loaded the motorbike in the back and he drove me home. He was a very nice man who seems to be searching for Biblical truth. Please pray that seed of the gospel that was planted will grow in his heart and we will be able to meet him again. We are praying he will come to church. He is still very confused and trusts, as do so many here, that as long as he goes to church and believes there is a God he is okay.

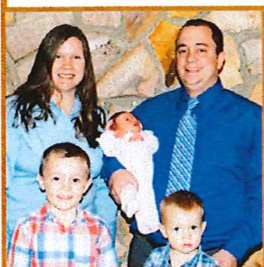
We rejoice that Bethany has been growing without any health problems. Leland is enjoying being a two-year-old. Thomas is really enjoying his home school.

We are thanking the Lord that we received some nice rains after a long drought. This has also given a little relief from the equatorial sun.

Please pray for us as we seek God's will for the next step and that He would deepen our dependence upon Him to meet this need in our lives that only He can meet. Pray that as we go on this survey trip it would be clear to us where God would have us go. We were disappointed in the change of plans, but we are excited to see what the Lord has for us in the future.

Because of God's grace,

Sam, Mary Beth, Tommy, Leland, and Bethany



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