



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

Christmas 2018

Dear Praying Friends,

Greetings from your missionary family to Micronesian Islanders. Thank you for your continued prayer and support. Please forgive the tardiness of this update. We marvel how quickly summer has turned to winter even though winter has not yet arrived. We know many of you have snow and ice and cold temperatures already. I experienced some of that when I needed to accompany my wife for a quick trip to take her parents back to Canada. Her mother had come for a visit and within a week suffered a heart attack. After some time of recovery in the hospital here she was permitted to fly back to the East Coast. Thankfully she is now back in Canada with Ruth's dad and brother where she can get her medical care for free.

We are thankful to have 4 of our 8 kids home for Christmas where they are enjoying the break from school. Nate has just one semester left of his ministry training, and has not been home since last Christmas because he spent the summer in camp work in Wisconsin. Pray for his school needs and God's direction for future companion and mission ministry. Mike Jr is very busy with his students and youth group. Sarah is nannying for several families and helps with our family and the ministry. Jason loves the piano and plays often in church and other places. Ruth has had to spend quite a bit of time caring for her parents, and we are grateful she can help them, but glad when she doesn't have to be away.

Please pray for some islanders with health needs. Lydia is in the hospital here after suffering a botched breast cancer surgery in Pohnpei. Pray for her treatment and recovery. She and her husband attend a Baptist church in Pohnpei. Several Pohnpei government officers and church leaders have been here for medical care, and we have had the blessing to visit with them and share Christ. While visiting with Pohnpeians we often meet other islanders from Micronesia and the Marshall Islands and minister to them.

Please pray for our churches and national pastors in Pohnpei. The property we leased nearly 25 years ago for the church we planted is now in jeopardy as June marks the end of our lease—which was to be extended. The deceased landowner's grown children have refused to honor the promise to renew the lease and are choosing instead to put their own Assembly of God church there. Our national pastor and church have been making preparations, but even those have been hindered by opposition. Please pray for a miraculous working of God to enable us to retain that mission compound. Also on the island there has been doctrinal variance which has caused divisions. Please pray for unity and opportunity to see reconciliation and growth.

We are blessed to see new folks attending our Marshall Island ministry. It is always good to meet folks who are dissatisfied with the teaching they have been hearing elsewhere, and desire to know the truth of God's Word. Please pray for my abilities in this new language for me. I know a lot of words and usually make the outline and bulletin in the language, but still have difficulty conversing or preaching in it. We broadcast our services live on Facebook, and are thankful for the many who watch. Some services have hundreds of views and we are grateful for this tool to reach out to the Marshallese community and others across the Pacific and US. I also minister regularly to Pohnpeians throughout Hawaii and other places by assisting them as their interpreter in the legal and medical systems. I recently led one man to Christ in the hallway outside of the courtroom in Kauai where he had just received "grace and mercy" not "justice". His situation was a perfect prelude to explaining the tenants of salvation!

Thank you again for all your prayer and support! Please remember that tax-deductible gifts should be addressed to CMC in Houston, and correspondence should be sent to our street address: **84-1006 Hana St. Waianae, HI 96792.**

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas season,

Mike, Ruth & Family

Dr. & Mrs. Mike Schell and Family

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