

August 2013

Dear Praying Friends,

If you have not been receiving our emails lately, please check and make sure that renterline@gdmmissions.org is in your address list. We are sending this letter to our former address (shimobe@aol.com). It seems there are a number of people who aren't getting our letters. Perhaps it is because renterline@gdmmissions.org is going to your spam folder.

Please bear with us as we explain some things in general about our prayer letters.

1. We do not want to send duplicate copies and become a nuisance to anyone. If you are receiving more than one of our letters, let us know which is the correct address to use, and we will remove the other one.

2. GDMissions missionaries use Constant Contact to enable us to send beautiful graphic designed email prayer letters. However, printing them out doesn't work very well. Becky called the company, and they can't improve that aspect because their service is mainly designed for email.

3. We would like to send text-only copies to those who have mail services that don't receive photos or to people with older computers.

4. If our email to you needs to be changed in some particular way so you are able to receive it, we would like to accommodate you. Just tell us what we need to you, and if it can be done, we will try to do it. **You are important to us, and we want to be sure you get our letters if you want them.** A few people have said that they haven't received them lately, so we are concerned. Some of our prayer partners still get snail

mail copies when we know they don't get email.

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Next , we would like you to rejoice with us about the good news we hear from Japan. Recently three were baptized at Satogaoka Baptist Church. We were thrilled to see a picture of the church family with one of the boys holding a baptism certificate. He, his little brother, and their mother have moved back to Iwaki after living away from the area since the nuclear accident in Fukushima.

One church where we ministered had their largest camp ever — 60 people! Also, some new people have dropped in on Sundays to attend worship services.

Another prayer request was answered, and we were glad to hear news of it. A landlord of some missionaries who was a brother to a church member finally trusted the Lord right before passing away. It was a relief to hear that, since many church family members are prayed for year after year.

A dear friend, 93 year old Miss Doris Youmans, retired missionary to Japan, is considering moving to an assisted living facility since she had some heart problems. We think you will want to praise the Lord for her missionary service and join us in praying that the Lord will continue to guide her.

Thank you for your prayers for us and those we love as we spread the Word of God. "For for this cause was the gospel preached also to them that are dead, that they might be judged according to men in the flesh, but live according to God in the spirit. But the end of all things is at hand: be ye therefore sober, and watch unto prayer." [1 Peter 4:6-7](#)

From the July 13th letter (in case you didn't receive it):

Dear Prayer Partners,

[Rick wrote from Chuuk, Micronesia:] I thought I might try to give a bit of a report on the trip this past week to the outer island of Nama. It seemed like the devil was working hard to keep us from going. We had planned to leave by 6 am, but we were having trouble securing a third boat. So, departure was delayed initially until 9:30. Ultimately, we didn't get off until closer to 12:30 pm.

Here's what happened. Pastor Abbe and some others were standing on the street wondering what to do when a man approached, asking what was wrong. He happened to be the Deputy Mayor of Nama, who had just come in his own boat from Nama. He offered to let us use his boat and pilot it back to Nama!

Just as we were finishing loading all the supplies, a lady with a concerned look approached me in the lobby of the hotel. She said she was unaware of our medical mission trip and wanted to see our licenses and government permission papers. I called Bryan (our executive director) over, and with a great deal of difficulty he allayed her concerns, even though he couldn't produce any of the requested documents. The Immigration Officer at the airport had taken them!

So we went in three open boats, two 19' and one 21', each with one motor. I think 18 of us rode out. We finally got off more than 6 hrs. late. We encountered some rough seas, maybe 2'-5' waves. It felt like I was riding a bucking Brahma bull in a rodeo for 5 hours.

At one point I tried to use a life vest as a cushion. Just as I raised my body to position the vest, we hit a wave, and I almost went overboard. I decided the best thing to do was lay on my back in the bottom of the boat and try to prevent myself from becoming airborne, so I wouldn't become like a 180# sack of rice being thrown into the hold every time we hit a wave. That worked most of the time, but once Joseph, a husky fellow from another outer island (Kuttu — try finding that on a map!) got knocked off balance and landed partially on me.

We finally arrived about an hour before sunset. A boat ride that usually takes no more than three hours took five. We pitched tents/mosquito nets and set up our air mattresses and sleeping bags on the concrete floor next to the sweet-smelling latrine in an open-air community

building. No air conditioning this time, as on Yap and Falalop last year. In fact, there was no electricity, running water or flush toilets either.

Brother Truly (first name) brought a generator to use so Dr. Jack's compressor for his dental drill would work, and so the instrument sterilizer could be used. Truly's wife Lency and a lady named Maki, from Grace International Baptist Church on Weno, were responsible for preparing meals.

Rhonda Green, an RN serving with BMM on Guam arrived Sunday evening with two other young women, the dental chair, other supplies, and tracts in Chuukese. One of the girls, Nellie Mae, is a 3rd year nursing student at Pensacola Christian College; the other girl, Rolinda, is a Chuukese student at Harvest Baptist Bible College in Guam.

I learned there are two churches on Nama. This time there was no Catholicism, but there was a Pentecostal church on the other side of the island. As far as I know there was no contact with anyone from there. The other was a Protestant church which was right next to the community building where we slept and ate. I understand that the denomination was strongly influenced by German Lutheranism since Germany once controlled this area prior to WWII.

Soon I met the 70 year old man who had pastored there for 30 years. Of all things, his first name was Tomoichi! During WWII in 1943, a plane flying from Papua New Guinea ran out of fuel and crash-landed on Nama. The pilot's name was Tomoichi, a Japanese name. The Pastor's father liked him, apparently, so he named his son after him! I asked if he knew which Japanese characters his name was written with, but he had no idea. I told him it could be the characters which would mean "first (or best) friend." What a great name for a pastor whose first or best Friend is Jesus! I asked him to tell me about how he met Jesus. Sadly he did not have a clear testimony. I never really got to talk much with him again, but I was glad to notice Bryan, our executive director, talking earnestly with him later.

After setting up the sleeping bag, I took a "shower" of sorts and rinsed the salt water out of all my clothes, which were thoroughly soaked. Three young boys about 13 years old helped — JR, who spoke excellent English since he had lived on Guam and Hawaii, Julior, who was quieter and not very fluent, and Isun, who smiled and tried to teach me some

Chuukese. I think "*Ita foun?*" is "What's your name?"

There was a 9 o'clock curfew. Someone blew what sounded like a shofar, but it was most likely a seashell, I think. I don't know what time we went to bed, but it was probably close to 10 or so. The chickens started crowing about 3 am, it was light by about 4 or 4:30 maybe, and someone rang a loud clanging bell like an old school bell at about 6 am. I believe the Protestant church next door had an early morning service. Apparently they had meetings about four or five days a week.

After breakfast at 7 and then devotions, we moved the equipment in the trunks to the open-air pavilion we used as the clinic and set up.

It wasn't long before a group of kids gathered around me, so I began to share the Gospel with the EvangeCube. I was starting to get fried in the sun when JR wisely suggested we move the table under the covered roof of the building next to the clinic pavilion. I was MOST grateful he said that!

Eventually, I started using "The Story of Hope". It soon became apparent that few of the kids understood English, so as I showed the pictures to them, I began to act out the stories as best I could. The kids all seemed to love that. Later, after lunch, I asked for someone to serve as a translator, and Telwin, an HBBC student, who is from Nama, did a great job. It seemed like there were no girls from then on, but I later noticed that Maki was using the EvangeCube and Wordless Book tract with lots of kids around her.

In the afternoon, I began using the large Good Soil Evangelism pictures. With Telwin's excellent help I was able to go into as much detail as I thought necessary. I almost completed the Old Testament. I had a group of young boys, young men, adult men and old men numbering from maybe 20 to 30. They sort of came and went as their turn at the clinic came up.

That night we showed the Gospel of Luke video in Chuukese. Several times there was laughter at inappropriate places. I learned later it was an older translation that sounded funny to them. But also, apparently they recognized the actor's voices too, and that made them laugh as well. It was like hearing a good, kind Christian friend portraying the voice of Satan tempting Jesus.

From July 16th:

[Rick wrote from Chuuk, Micronesia:] It was a busy hot day. I completed both the OT & NT evangelism materials with Brother Matto as translator. This time I also got to speak personally with several young men and women. They all seemed open to hearing the Gospel, but there was confusion about trusting Christ and eternal security.

Pray especially for a 20 year old young man, named Action, who just couldn't seem to grasp how to be saved.

The children sang some Chuukese Christian songs joyfully and LOUDLY. My ears are still ringing!

I learned how to make a pig go to sleep. The kids showed me how they do it by rubbing the pig's belly with a stick.

A fourth grade boy named PJ came with me on a walk. We went to his school, met his parents, and shared the Gospel with some young men in that area whom I hadn't seen at the clinic. I don't know how well they understood, but I used the Chronological Bridge evangelistic flash cards with them and several others.

Tomorrow is the last day for the clinic, and they are running low on dental anesthesia, antibiotics and vitamins. Pray that God will make them last like the oil in the cruse of the Bible. [The Lord did answer that prayer, and there was just barely enough.]

Friday, July 26, 2013:

Dear Prayer Warriors,

Thank you for praying! After about 38 hours of traveling, Rick arrived safely back in Tampa/St. Petersburg, FL (our present home area) on Saturday, July 20. He is struggling a bit with jet lag and hasn't slept well for the past three nights. BUT he is healthy and happy! He is so glad to be able to sleep in his own bed again even if he is not sleeping well just yet; it is definitely an improvement over the wooden bench in the airport in Honolulu.

Ministry Highlights

The founder of GDMissions, Dr. Jack Mitchell, preached at the English service at Grace International Baptist Church on the island of Weno, Chuuk State, FSM on Sunday, July 7. His message about the disciples' fear during a storm at sea was timely since the next day we traveled in a 19' open boat with one outboard motor about 60 miles out into the open sea of the Pacific Ocean to the island of Nama. He later said he prayed the first two hours for us to turn back and the next three hours for us to not drown. He also mentioned the two Chuukese brethren in the boat with us were scared. Sure glad we didn't know that during the trip!

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Brother Matto Erra is from Fefan Island, one of the large islands in Chuuk (Truk) Lagoon. It is partly due to his burden to reach his own people with the Gospel that the door opened for us to return to Fefan this trip. He is letting Brother Truly, his nephew, and Truly's wife Lency use his home while they are starting Pieies [pronounced "pea-ace"] Baptist Church. Brother Matto was a great help to Rick by translating for him while he was teaching and preaching the Bible during the medical and dental clinics on Fefan. His son Joseph Erra, the youth pastor intern helping Pastor Abbe at Grace on Weno, also helped us MUCH with translating, both during the clinics at all three island locations and while Rick preached and taught the Bible. Such godly assistants made it possible for us to do the work the Lord sent us there to accomplish. The presence of our GDMissions team provides the local Christian workers with greater credibility in the eyes of the folks they are trying to reach.

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One of Rick's primary responsibilities involved training the leaders on the three islands of Weno, Nama and Fefan in how to best use the evangelism and discipleship materials he brought along.

Rick was delighted to get to start doing this almost immediately after they arrived. Pastor Mike Abbe and Brother Joseph Erra (intern at the church) were very pleased and enthused to learn how to use these valuable tools which emphasize God's character and illustrate the continuity of the Bible. Rick also explained the materials to two brethren on Nama Island the following week. It was a special joy to see how the Bible story illustrations really helped the people get an understanding of the overall theme of the Bible (both Old and New Testaments) — God's promise and plan to send a Redeemer to save sinful mankind.

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What a privilege and blessing it was for Rick to be able to teach and preach the Bible all day long! Several times his voice started to give out when speaking to large groups. This was not a bad thing though, because while he rested his voice, he sought out individuals to whom to speak about the Lord.

It was a challenge to communicate because English was harder for the Chuukese than expected. Gestures, play-acting and the Bible illustrations helped tremendously. The children especially enjoyed getting to act out some Bible stories. Everyone was grateful for the help of the interpreter when he arrived!

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Thank you for your prayers! It would not have been possible for us to help our Chuukese brethren evangelize their own people without your loving gifts. Be assured that as you lay up your treasures in Heaven, you will ultimately be generously rewarded by our precious Lord Jesus one day. What a day that will be when our Jesus we shall see! We pray for fruit that will last for all eternity!

We would like to ask prayer for Rick's preparation for upcoming travels and presentations in Missions Conferences. Also, our home church pastor led a Vietnamese college student to the Lord last week. Please pray that her discipling will go well and that her family members will be amiable and one day trust Christ as Savior too.

Christ's unworthy servants,
Rick & Becky
Rick & Becky Enterline
Grace Dental & Medical Missions, Inc.