



Tooth Tales

A Newsletter of Jack & Jennifer Mitchell



July 2015

We are somewhere over the Pacific as we write this update, returning from the Chuuk Islands of Micronesia. It's a breathtakingly beautiful place but also one with huge needs. We were unable to bring a full medical and dental team with us on this trip but we were so glad that at least we (Jack and Jennifer) could go when we saw the terrible dental needs of the people. In March a Category 5 typhoon had done extensive damage in Chuuk and we found ourselves dodging two others typhoons of lesser strength trying to get there. God so skillfully inserted us safely into the area in between the two storms. The seas were so rough when we go there that even the big cargo ships could not make it into port until five days after we arrived. We rearranged our clinic schedule and worked first at Grace International Baptist Church on the main island of Weno (where we were staying) until the ocean calmed down a bit. When it was time to travel to the outer islands for ministry, travel was manageable and fun in the small boat that was loaned to us. Not many dentists get to travel to work this way!



Waiting patients in Chuuk hearing the gospel



Carrying dental supplies onto the island of Tonowas

Tonowas was our first outer island to work on and a new one for our ministry. The Japanese had their command center in its jungle during WWII and it is still a remote place today. We had to hike in a bit carrying our equipment and generator until we found a suitable place to work. The heat and humidity were daunting and the dental problems

were as well. These needs, however, were surpassed by the overwhelming spiritual ones. A small group of graduates from Harvest Baptist Bible College of Guam came to help us each day by translating, registering patients, sterilizing instruments and dispensing medications. Two young pastors shared the gospel personally and passed out tracts. Our ministry was gratefully received on an island that has no Bible believing church and we were encouraged by the people to return.

The next week we traveled to the island of Fefen each day. Here we were supporting the church ministry of Truly and Lency Erras. The Lord faithfully kept the seas calm enough each day to

travel out and back. Again the dental needs were overwhelming. Every patient needed multiple extractions and many of the children had bad infections. We nearly ran out of anesthesia!



Dental care on the island of Tonowas

We are tired as we make our way home but we feel that we did what we came to do. We treated as many patients as we could, we tried to support and encourage the fundamental pastors of Chuuk in their ministries, and we reached a new island with a gospel witness. Still, we know that there is a tremendous battle being waged in Micronesia, bigger than the one fought there in the 1940s. This one is for the hearts and minds of the Chuukese people. The cults are making vast inroads there and the world's biggest cult already dominates the population. Please pray for the fundamental pastors who are faithfully proclaiming God's Word against many obstacles.

In two weeks (8/9-8/23) Jack heads out again with a team of ten to Benin, W. Africa. Along with clinic being held in Boiffo (where the Benin Clinic is being constructed) there will be clinics held in other outlying villages. Here, as in Chuuk, physical need will compel many to come and listen to the gospel so their problem can be addressed. Please pray that the Word of God would penetrate the darkness and bring new life in a needy place.

Thanks so much for holding us up in prayer both on this trip and the upcoming one. We know that "without God we can do nothing."

Sincerely in Christ,

Jack and Jennifer

Jack and Jennifer Mitchell



Truly & Lency, church planting on Fefan