

WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

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JOEL FAMILY JOURNAL

Dear Praying Friends,

I trust the new year is going well for you. We had a very busy new year celebration. Even though it is a week of fun, games, eating, and Christian fellowship for our folks, it is not so for the hogs. As many as twenty hogs were slaughtered and divided among the church people. All year long, they were fed and fattened for the new year celebration. When the big day finally arrived, all the farm goods were displayed around the church or school where the folks have gathered to see who will get the prizes. While the adults weighed and measured their produces, the kids are playing all sorts of games like tug o' war, sack race, foot race, etc... And the winners get things like candy, combs, hair pins, and toys.

We are just now getting back into the routine of things. Our school started a bit late due to a typhoon that never came. It missed the island of Pohnpei by 200 miles, instead of 60 miles as the weatherman predicted. All we got from the typhoon were lots of rain showers, 45 miles per hour winds, and high surf. We thanked the Lord for protecting us from the typhoon, which was later on upgraded to a super-typhoon when it passed our island.

We had the most unusual winter months ever. Three of our preacher boys got married (one in November and two in December). One of the young ladies is a teacher in our Christian school and the other two had just graduated from the Bible institute on Guam. Pray for these newly weds as they start out in their ministries. Another event that took place in November was the ordination of one of our preachers, who has been preaching for many years, but has never been ordained. Next month, another preacher will be ordained, which I was appointed to preside. Brother Kihleng was saved a while back and has been faithfully preaching until now. His oldest son went to Bible college and is now one of our missionaries.

Pray for our Bible Studies as we get ready to start where we left off last year. Now we have two additional Bible teachers, enabling us to divide into smaller classes. Pray for our tract ministry, as the enemy seemed to be working very hard in messing up our translated tracts. Twice, the publishing company informed us that their computer crashed, while downloading our translated tract. All the painstaking translation and proof-reading work gone down the drain. We kept forgetting to save the work on the hard drive. While I am on the subject, please send us some English tracts.

Our daughter Terisa is quite excited about her graduation this summer. For the first time in our school's history, we have gotten the parents support in launching the first year book. Terisa and her nine classmates were all dressed up in caps and gowns for picture. Lord willing, she will be coming to the states with me to enroll in Christian college, while I report to my supporting churches and friends. *We are still \$1,000. short in our airfare for my wife and our younger daughter.* **Thank You Again** for your part in the ministries here on Pohnpei. As Paul wrote to the believers in Philippi, so we write to each one of you that our desire is for more "*fruit that may abound to your account*", "*for we are laborers together with God.*"

Your Missionaries to Pohnpei, the Federated States of Micronesia.....

THE JOEL FAMILY