

THE JOEL FAMILY NEWSLETTER

Worldwide New Testament Baptist Missions

P.O. Box 725

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January-February 2005

Greetings and a Happy New Year to all of you from the Joel Family on Pohnpei. We had a “double header” blessing in December of **Revival meetings and Christmas celebration**. During the revival meetings, all our four sister churches were present, except on Sunday morning and Wednesday night. The church auditorium was packed out all the seven days of services. Praise the Lord! We had people at the altar every night for salvation and rededication. During that exciting week, the same evangelist, Brother Wil Galkins, preached to our high school students for three days. A good number of students called upon the Lord for salvation. **Pray for their spiritual growth.**

This Christmas, we were especially blessed to have our daughter Terisa, who came all the way from South Carolina, USA to spend the two holiday weeks with us. On her last Sunday, we were able to invite all our extended families for a farewell luncheon at the new place we’re renting. The following day, we saw her off for one and half more years of college. The two girls (Our Terisa and friend Marjorie) were the only Micronesians at BJU and they took the opportunity to speak to our students and made quite an impression. Two of the seniors have decided to apply to the university.

The two days of New Year celebrations were well attended. It is much like the American “Dinner on the grounds” buffet, with a table 20 feet long, laden with all kinds of Island food plus American food. We always have a well-done pig at the head of the table and a turkey for our stateside missionaries. The baked wild “under” dog was always eaten “under the counter” so as not to offend some brethren. Besides being fattened, everyone was involved in games, won prizes, and finally was given pork meat to take home. About a dozen pigs were slaughtered for the occasion.

Praise the Lord; we can already see some visible results of the recent revival services in the lives of our people. Many have requested prayer for lost loved ones and our adult Monday night prayer meeting and Bible study have doubled in number. Our Public High School ministry has picked up after Christmas. Pray also for the Prison Ministry; several of the men got saved and have needed follow-up lessons.

Some of our high school students were caught with “betelnut chew” (a local narcotic or drug, which is “the number one” drug, sold in every store). Most chewers usually put liquor soaked tobacco in their betelnuts. I am presently counseling the students caught with the drugs. Many of our un-churched students come from homes where the whole family use the drug. Our school is the only school that prohibits and penalizes the possession and use of the drug, which was lobbied by our businessmen, (who are users themselves) and has become a “cultural necessity”.

Last, but not least, here are some urgent **prayer requests**: Our “New Church Building” fund, our young people who are taking a stand for God and a new Prison Bible Study that Ray, one of our pastors, and I have just started.

Thank you again for your prayers and support.

In His Care,

The Joel Family

P.S. **A special Thank You** to those of you who sent gifts of money, cards, and care packages during the holidays. May the Lord abundantly bless you for your generosity.