

# The Schell Family



## Reaching Micronesian Islanders for Christ

Fall 2009

Dear Pastor and Supporting Friends,

Warm Autumn greetings from your missionary family to Micronesian Islanders. The ministry here continues to flourish, and it has been a great blessing to see so many folks attending the services. We have enjoyed record numbers over 100 on Sundays (up from 30's and 40's before we came), and 65 at the last youth meeting. There have been many more who have trusted Christ at the church, and in our services with the young men at the neighboring Fisheries and Marine Institute, including several young men from Pohnpei. We count this short time on Yap to have been the most rewarding in our family's ministry to date. It has truly been a great blessing for our family to minister for this past year here, and to present the returning missionaries with an expanded and newly-remodeled home, and a greatly-enlarged and vibrant church ministry. Thank you for your faithful and generous support that made it a reality!

Our prayer request for some time has been for God's direction in our ministry when the Paul Zimmer family returned from their furlough in August. Their originally expressed plan for us was to assist the national pastor at Mark Zimmer's church in town, while his family went on their furlough, and then afterwards start a church on one of the other three main Yap islands. Their plans changed, and they told us we were no longer necessary on Yap, so we were looking at the opportunity to in some way minister to the many far-flung outer islands and atolls sprinkled across the Pacific between Yap and Pohnpei. We planned to take the government ship, which is the only means of transportation to most of the islands, and begin taking advantage of our many contacts with outer islanders here on Yap, and at the institute. They told us they felt we had a "connection" with them, and they seemed to have a "connection" to our family. We received many invitations, including honors reserved only for the paramount chiefs. Obviously the Lord had other plans at this time, because the ship's budget was exhausted, and would not be taking another trip until much later during the stormy winter season—quite the unpleasant scenario for a family trip of 1700 miles across the Pacific!! Then came the "swine flu" scare, which is still prohibiting transiting passengers from visiting on the outer islands, for fear of spreading the epidemic which has already claimed some lives here in Micronesia.

As we pondered what the Lord had for us, we discovered that many more spots had appeared on my face, which are of the same nature of the one that could have proved fatal to me in 1997 had it not been discovered and removed then. I consulted with the American doctor here, and he recommended that with my history of melanoma, I should go back to the States to have them examined. We certainly would have chosen to remain here and continue the wonderful ministry the Lord had open to us, but since we were in a transition anyway, and after consulting with our pastor and mission, felt this was the time to return. There are many opportunities in Micronesia, and we have plans to continue our work here in some way, perhaps by assisting the national pastors with whom we have a close working relationship. While we're at our home church in New Bern, NC for the time being, we expect to begin ministering to the hundreds of Burmese families who have moved there. We've met these folks over the years and look forward to seeing the Lord open doors there to minister to them. Life is not boring, and we wish to be in the center of God's will doing what will reach the most people for Christ. Please continue to pray in earnest for our family, as we endeavor to best follow God's will. We hope to see you all soon and present what the Lord doing and what He will open for us in the near future. I'll be sending an update with telephone number and address soon after we arrive in NC.

Thank you for praying for our kids in SC. Michael's foot seems to have healed well after being hit by a car, and he's on the soccer team and enjoying college life as he pursues a degree in Missions. Julia is working for a semester, and Monica is finishing up her last year of Nursing. Please pray that God would help Julia find a good car, or get her Taurus engine problem fixed soon, as her dad's not there to help out. Please continue to pray for our new ministries, and the one we leave behind. We had prayed that God would grant us favor with the people here, and he certainly has! We have had great inroads with church folks as well as folks in the villages, and we ask you to pray that our fruit here will remain and prosper as Paul and his family resume the leadership.

Thank you again for your prayer and faithful support. We are greatly appreciative of both! May God bless your faithfulness!

Serving together,

Mike Schell and Family

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