

The Schell Family

In Yap, Micronesia



Summer 2009

Dear Pastor and Friends at First Baptist,

Warm summer greetings from your missionary family in Yap, Micronesia. The Lord has been doing great things in the church here, and we are thankful to all of you who make our being here a reality. We appreciate all your prayers and faithful support, and trust God is blessing your ministries as He is ours.

We have seen many visitors attending the services, and many have accepted Christ. On our Friday youth nights—"youth" means around 12 to upper 20's—we've seen several saved each night. We've invited kids from our village and they have begun coming, and most of them have trusted Christ and keep attending. Remember, the youth are the hope of Micronesia, as they are more likely to stand for Christ as teens and then later as adults become the leaders in the church. Among the saved church folks, there has been much growth also. I rejoice often when I hear testimonies about folks who are changing into faithful Christians. Many share how they've seen their family member's changes toward Christ likeness. We've seen the attendance nearly double, and the church building is packed on Sundays. We even had the blessing of having a visit by Dr. Bob Jones and his wife, and had a great time. It has been a special blessing to hear folks talking about the messages and how much they understand. The Lord has done great things and we are glad.

Our second and third children, Julia and Michael, left for the States at the end of April, after spending some time in Pohnpei where they grew up. They participated in the ministries there and enjoyed seeing their old friends. Michael got to speak in the church he helped to build, and his sister said he sounded like his father there at the pulpit as he spoke flawless Pohnpei language. They enjoyed spending time with their "big brothers" and their families who are now the indigenous national leaders there. Please pray for them as they work for the summer in SC to prepare for college this fall. They also are in need of a car, so please pray that God would lead them in that choice. Michael is entering a Mission's major, and Julia plans to take additional classes in ministry. We are thankful Michael was not more seriously injured when he was hit by a car when he attended his HS graduating class program in Kansas City. Someone accidentally pulled forward instead of backing up and ran him into a house. He's quite athletic and jumped up on the hood of the car, and only his left foot was broken. It was pretty stressful to be calling the emergency room in KC from out here and not know many details, but God took care of him and so did our friends there. Please pray for our oldest daughter as she began her married life in May. They are living in SC and she plans to finish her last year of the nursing program this coming year.

Some of the original plans have changed here recently, and we will not be assisting the national pastor in town for our second year as we had anticipated. Mark Zimmer and his family went on furlough in May, and Rolence will serve as the pastor of that church until their return next year. We have been replacing Paul Zimmer and staying in his house for this past year while they are on furlough, and they returned August 4th. At the present we'll be staying in the Whitmore's home for a while to help out in the work here and investigate our future ministry. There are opportunities on this island, and on other Micronesian islands as well as and on the many outlying outer islands which have no true Biblical witness at all. We expect the Lord to open up every door as we continue to minister, and depend upon Him to lead us to the places that He would have us serve. We had planned to be back in the States next summer for our next daughter's beginning Bible College in the fall, but God knows what He will have us to do—and we'll trust Him fully. Please pray for His direction.

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