

Micronesia

For The

Master

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Micronesia for the Master's Last Newsletter

I almost can't believe I just wrote that headline, but this will be the last newsletter for Micronesia for the Master. Next month we will start a new newsletter covering our new work in Ireland. We sent out our first newsletter in August of 2004 when we were first raising funds for the work that we would begin a year later. It is hard to believe that it has been nearly thirteen years since that first newsletter. It has been a great blessing for us to be on this field and we could never have done it without people like you who have invested in this work. We hope and pray that each one of you will continue to invest in our work as we shift over to Ireland. But, before we get ahead of ourselves there is much work to tell you about in Pohnpei.

Two More Obey Christ

We bring you more good news this month in that two more souls have obeyed the Gospel! Senihter (Senny) and Delinda were both baptized on Sunday April 30th. I've been telling you about the studies we've been having at Andreas' house. He and his wife, Senelihter, were baptized in February and we have continued to have studies with their extended family. We usually meet on Saturday mornings, and can have anywhere from five to twenty people in attendance. Senny and Delinda have attended most of the studies and they've been coming to mid-week Bible class and worship. They are half sisters, the daughters of Senelihter. Delinda is also David's granddaughter. Senny is 19 and Delinda is 15. Senny is expecting a child in June, though she is not married. This caused her some concern and she thought that it meant she could not be baptized. I was able to study with her and explain that as long as she repented of her sins she could be baptized. I explained that her being pregnant is not a sin, it is the result of sin, but she could repent of that sin as well. She was very relieved and told me she would think about it some more. David was in the hospital for a few days and when

I visited him he told me that Delinda wanted to be baptized. I asked to speak with her privately and asked if this were true. She said that it was and I asked, "Is this your decision? Or are people telling you, you need to do it?" She answered that it was her decision, but she would think about it a little more. On the 30th Rebecca, Violet and I were in Kolonia and Wayne was in Mesihso. He told me that both young women responded to the invitation and he took them and baptized them. I would not have expected Wayne to wait for me, or ask my permission to baptize them or something, but I am very glad that he was willing to take the initiative and get it done. I am also glad that the brethren understood that I did not have to be there for it to happen.

We are so excited for the growth we've seen over the last few months and ask that you continue to pray for our brethren here. We also ask that you pray for Senny and Delinda as they start their new life in Christ.



Pictures: Left- Delinda; Right - Senny

"Kitail Pahn Nek Tuhpene"

There is not really a word in the Pohnpeian language that means, "goodbye" (if you want to get technical there is really not one that means hello either). But, a common thing to say when departing from someone is, "Kitail pahn nek tuhpe" which means, "we will finish and then meet again." The idea being that after you finish whatever it is that is causing you to depart you will meet again. Rebecca and I hope to see Pohnpei again one day, but mostly we hope that our friends and brethren will be faithful Christians so we can meet again when this life is over.

Pohnpeian might not have a word for goodbye, but that does not mean they don't know how to send someone off properly. The Saturday before we left our brethren had a feast for us. We were happy to see all of our brethren in a social setting one last time before we departed. The food that they provided was delicious and we had a nice time visiting with each one. The next day we had both congregations worship in one place for our final Sunday in Pohnpei. The service was well attended and we were able to say goodbye to some of the folks that would not make it to the airport on Wednesday. I preached a lesson on, "What we have to do to meet again." The lesson was well received and I am hoping and praying that each person in attendance, including myself, will do what God commands us to do in order to meet again in heaven one day.

We departed Pohnpei on Wednesday June 7th. Several of our brethren and a few of our non-Christian friends came to the airport to see us off. We were given maramars (the crown type things in the pictures) a few gifts, and several of our brethren shed tears. Ledisher and Tisa both burst into tears and sobbed when they hugged Rebecca. It was a very touching moment that we won't soon forget. We were also sad-

dened to have to leave our replacements, Wayne and Kristi Parker and their kids. But, we were happy to not have to leave our little dog, Tiki, behind as she made the trip with us. She is doing just fine by the way having survived the arduous journey. There were plenty of touching moments our last few days in Pohnpei, and we will cherish each memory for the rest of our lives.

While our time in Pohnpei is over, the work in Pohnpei is far from done. Rebecca and I would have loved to stay on the field until the Pohnpeian congregations were ready to stand on their own, but that was not able to happen. This will be the focus of the Parker's work and we ask that you keep them in your prayers. The Parker's are still in need of support and we ask that you consider adding them to your monthly budget. If you have any questions about supporting their work please contact them at wayneparker@gmail.com.

Thank you, thank you, thank you! For all that you have done for us over the last twelve years. Rebecca and I could not have done any of the work that we did without YOU! Please never forget that there is fruit that has been added to your account because of the work that YOU did in Micronesia (Phil 4:17). God bless you all and we hope to see each one as we report over these next six months.

