

October 8, 2007

Dear Praying friends,

In our last letter we mentioned that we signed the lease for a church property. I had promised many that I would relay the details of the lease acquisition and the progress of our church building so here goes.

As I mentioned in our last letter, the Lord gave us the very land that we originally tried to get over a year ago. Since we had already surveyed the land and placed announcements in the local newspaper and on the government radio station, all that was needed were the signatures of the dissenting parties. The announcements are required by law in the event that any landowner has not heard of the proceedings and is in opposition to the lease. Since we last wrote, a front-end loader has cleared off the land, removing unwanted trees and leveling the property. The electric company has connected temporary power, and a backhoe dug a hole for a shallow well. We will begin bricking in the well and preparing a footer for the church building at the end of this week (September 28). The construction will primarily be an ³in house² job with volunteer labor so construction will progress as our schedule allows. I am not much of a bricklayer so we might end up with an avant-garde building design.

I personally look forward to this project with mixed emotions. On the one hand, we praise the Lord that we were finally able to acquire land and construct a building. Yet, we are still waiting and praying for male leadership in our church family. God in his sovereignty has given us so far a number of godly women, one man recently saved, and 17 teens. One thing is for sure; this building will add nothing to our legitimacy or spirituality as a body of believers. The building is just that- a building! It says nothing of who we really are. The church is not to be a specimen locked behind closed doors for occasional observation by outsiders. Rather, it is to be a virus unleashed into the community infecting and affecting it for Christ. Sadly, many here will breathe a sigh of relief and say, ³Whew! They¹re finally a church.² We have been a local church all along meeting together and living Christ in our community. Yes, a building will be ³nice² but we pray that our focus will continue to be what it has always been, living stones built into a spiritual house (1 Peter 2:5).

Pray for Joy. She lives at Newa¹s house. Barb continues to have a fruitful evangelistic Bible study with her. Pray that her continued exposure to the preaching of the Word and Bible study will awaken her heart to repentance and faith. Pray also for the evangelistic Bible study at Retina¹s house. Several unbelievers attend each week. I also ask your specific prayers for two men, Yojin and Frankie. I have had numerous opportunities with both of these men over the past few months. I am planning to approach them with the possibility of a more consistent bible study time.

Finally, Neijam would certainly appreciate your prayers for her rebellious son, Foliaki (Ful-ee-A-key). He is living in full blown, open sin. Because of his violence and disobedience, Neijam and her unsaved husband made him move out of the house (he is 19 years old by the way). He went to live with some local ne¹er do wells for a while, but now their support has vanished. Foliaki is still unrepentant and belligerent. He demands to be fed but refuses to work and to submit to Neijam and her husband. Sadly, her husband often caves to

Foliaki's wishes and ridicules Neijam's biblical stand on the issue. Last week she spent the night at our house because he threatened violence. It has been a real rollercoaster ride for Neijam and her two smaller children, Arjam and Peter. Pray for her spiritual strength and trust. Pray for the salvation of Foliaki and Arma, her husband.

Again, we praise the Lord for you all and your prayer involvement in the Lord's glorious work here in the Marshalls. We praise the Lord that we have the wonderful privilege of proclaiming His Name among the nations. We praise Him for the solid growth in spirituality and fruitfulness in the lives of our believers. We praise God for the daily adventure of walking by faith and experiencing His faithfulness, and for the indescribable prospect of eternity with Him! Until we meet again through this prayer letter, grow in grace and in the knowledge of our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

In His labor,
Eric, Barb, Cherith, Bethany, Jim, and Anna