

MISSIONS TO KIRIBATI



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March 8, 2018

As we entered the New Year of 2018, we were overjoyed and overwhelmed to look back at your faithful love and prayers for our family and for the ministry here in Kiribati. It has been six years since we first arrived in Kiribati to begin reaching the I-Kiribati people with the Gospel. Throughout that time you have prayed for us, supported us, and loved our family. We are grateful and thank the Lord for the amazing privilege to partner with you to reach this island nation for the Lord.

We are looking forward to what God has in store for Tarawa Baptist Church in the future. We started our second semester of Faith Bible Institute with 19 students who are eager to learn more about God's Word. Pray for two of these students specifically - Daniel and Abwai. Daniel and Abwai both believe God has called them into the ministry and not only are enrolled in the Bible Institute, but are training daily to gain practical experience. Abwai is married with two young children. Pray for the Lord to strengthen his family as they follow Christ together. Daniel is a young, single man. Pray that he will follow God's direction in every area of his life. Both of these men are at different stages in life, but both need your prayers as they have stepped out to follow Christ.

Tarawa Baptist Church is excited that God has opened another door for us this year regarding land. Tarawa Baptist Mission first began in our living room. We met there for two years hosting Bible studies and discipling new believers. Then, four years ago Tarawa Baptist Church was chartered. When we outgrew our home and needed a place to meet, a dear church member opened her home and mwaneaba (local meeting house) for us to meet. We love and appreciate what God has provided. However, as we have grown in number, the various ministries of the church have increased, creating a need to have a facility to meet throughout the week. It is time for Tarawa Baptist Church to find a permanent home. We began praying and many of you have prayed with us for quite some time. We thank you for your prayers and thank the Lord for answering. After much searching (to no avail) and much prayer God led us to a piece of land that is centrally located on our island. We are in the process of finalizing a ninety year lease on this piece of land.

Leasing and buying land is complicated here on this tiny island. Please join us in praying that this will be completed in a timely matter. Land issues are very common here as the legal system struggles to meet the demand of land cases. There is much caution because agreements have been done illegally in the past. We have been working on this since last May and are getting closer to seeing our prayers come to fruition. Pray that the magistrate will allow us to proceed and get the lease completed. One of our prayers is that this will increase the faith of Tarawa Baptist Church. Our members have been praying and patiently waiting for the Lord to answer. We have already seen God answer prayer, and I am confident He will continue to do so.

Brooke returned back to the States in January to assist her parents in the sale of their farm and find a more manageable place to live. The Lord expedited the process, and they are moved into a new home. Pray that Brooke will be able to finalize all aspects of the process before she returns home to Kiribati on the 17th of March. The kids and I are anxiously counting down the days until she is reunited with us.



We look back with thankful hearts and look forward with great anticipation to what God is going to do. May we all be found faithful until He returns.

On the Equator for Christ,
Joel, Brooke, Daniel, Adelynn, and Bennett

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Curwensville, PA
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Group: missions to kiribati