

# MISSIONS TO KIRIBATI



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Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

March, 2019

We hold fast to the promise in Romans 8:28, "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, to them who are the called according to his purpose." February marked our sixth full year of serving the Lord in Kiribati. As we enter our seventh year, we can reflect on God's faithfulness and recall the many miracles He has performed. We are overwhelmed at what He has done in the lives of so many here in Kiribati. Yes, we are reminded that all things are for His glory! Sometimes we cannot see what lies ahead or comprehend the purpose of our trials, but God writes the end of the story. He is the author and the finisher of our faith. So, we hold to the promise that all things work together for our good and His glory!

In January, we faced yet another one of these trials when Bennett broke his leg severely while playing outside with his big brother. After a visit to our local hospital, we were told that he had a complete fracture of both his tibia and fibula and would require surgery. They told us that they would not be able to do this, and it would be best to take him to Fiji for the surgery. So we went home and made a splint to stabilize Bennett's leg (which also helped with the pain). That was on Thursday, January 17. The next flight was not until Monday—and it was full. God intervened and Brooke and Bennett got tickets for Monday. With God's help, Bennett endure the weekend, the flight, and the four hour journey from the airport to the capital. The best orthopedic surgeon in Fiji attended, and on Thursday, January 24, Bennett underwent surgery to correct the break and was put in a full leg cast. The doctor said he should stay in Fiji for the remainder of the healing process for regular checkups.

Last year our children's health problems required that our family be separated for much of the year. As we prayed about the prospect of another long separation, God answered our prayers. My parents, Paul and Martha Daku, generously offered to uproot their lives and swap places with us in life and ministry so that our family could be together. In March, they left their ministry in Fiji and flew to Kiribati while Daniel, Adelyn, and I flew to Fiji to join Brooke and Bennett and oversee my father's church in Fiji. We hosted Grace Bible Baptist Church's annual Missions Conference soon after arriving in Fiji. I will also be directing the annual Junior Camp that is attended by several Baptist churches in Fiji while we are here. Pray that God would use us to see young people saved. We will remain in Fiji until the beginning of May when I will return to Kiribati. Brooke and the children will fly to America for some doctor appointments (our children's six month checkup regarding their ongoing health issues). Pray with us for good reports and a quick return to Kiribati.

God is blessing our ministry in Kiribati. In the past year, our church family has grown in Christ and developed a greater burden to reach their people with the Gospel. It thrills our hearts to see them boldly proclaiming the Gospel and seeing people get saved. In February, we had seven people baptized and added to the church. One of these dear men was our church lawyer! We have prayed for his salvation for years. Praise the Lord, his entire family is now faithfully attending church, and he and his wife have joined our Bible Institute. My parents hosted our second annual Mission Conference the week of March 17. Praise the Lord! Last year Tarawa Baptist Church was able to give over \$5,000 to the work of reaching the world with the Gospel. Please pray as we begin to take mission trips as a church to the outer islands in the near future.

We are thankful for the sacrificial gifts many of you have given for the church land. We had hoped to start preparing the land, but we had another delay. The land laws are quite complex in the islands. Someone can rightfully own land, but if an ancestor had given permission to someone else to plant trees or crops on said property, they and their family have a legal right to it as well. We were to the final step which is when the magistrate holds a meeting on the property to set the boundaries. However, not all of the adjoining property owners were present, so we were delayed again. All of the adjoining land owners must be summoned to court to see if any outstanding claims have been made against the boundary lines. Pray that no one contests the boundaries and that we can begin improving the land. God knows we need a larger facility, and we patiently and prayerfully wait on Him.

Thank you for your kindness, loving support, and faithful prayers for our family. Truly, we are blessed and are daily grateful for the family of God. May God continue to bless and use us all until He returns.

Serving in the South Pacific:

*Joel, Brooke, Daniel, Adelynn, and Bennett Daku*



#### Sending Church

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#### Facebook

Group: missions to kiribati