

# The DAKU FAMILY

PROCLAIMING THE GOSPEL TO THE UNREACHED PACIFIC



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

June – August 2024

Oswald Smith once wrote, ***“There is joy in serving Jesus, Joy amid the darkest night. For I’ve learned the wondrous secret, And I’m walking in the light. There is joy, joy, joy in serving Jesus...”*** While the last many months have been an unusual season of life and could even be perceived as an interruption to serving Christ; He is teaching us that there is joy in serving Him even amid trials and that the joy of the Lord is our strength.

We are rejoicing and praising the Lord for all He has accomplished this summer here at The Passage Northwest. 35 young people trusted the Lord as their Saviour and many made decision to dedicate their lives to following Him. God is still at work! Not only did the Lord work in the lives of the campers, but also in our camp staff. These young people we had the privilege to work with have a desire to serve the Lord and to reach a lost world for Him. What a great opportunity was afforded to all of us this summer, and through it our eyes were opened anew to the generation of American youth, who need the Lord. The harvest truly is plenteous. May we be laborers in His harvest field.



The Bible says in III John 4 ***“I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in the truth.”*** This summer our oldest son, Daniel, returned to the Pacific Islands to serve during his summer break from Bible College. Our hearts were filled with



joy. While the Pacific Islands are his birthplace, have been his home most of his life, and the place he first began serving beside serving alongside of us, this summer He was able to experience ministry in the islands from a different perspective. This time God was using him to preach His Word and reach soul for Christ. The Lord gave him many opportunities from preaching at the church where He first heard the Gospel to preaching at a Muslim Funeral, from serving God in numerous churches in Fiji to traveling to Tarawa Baptist Church in Kiribati and distributing Bibles from our Kiribati Bible Project. Of course, this brought such great joy to see him serving among the people that hold such a large part of our hearts. Please pray that God would continue to direct his steps as he trains for the ministry God has called him too.

So often over the past 22 months, we are reminded of I Peter 4:12, ***“Beloved, think it not strange concerning the fiery trial which is to try you, as though some strange thing happened unto you. But rejoice...”*** Bennett continues to face a fiery trial

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as we have yet to find relief for the pain he is in. God has directed our steps and has given such joy amidst the trial. On September 4<sup>th</sup> Bennett will be evaluated at Cincinnati Children's Hospital by a special team that deals with unusual pain syndromes that have not responded to traditional treatment. Please join us in praying for a breakthrough and for the Lord to grant healing. We are so grateful for your faithful prayers over the past many months. God has been so good to strengthen Bennett's heart and give him joy even in pain.

**Church planting is at the heart of all we do!** Daniel and Lindsey Grover who worked alongside of us for a time, will be planting a church in Libby, Montana. Over the past several weeks we have been able to assist him in outreach as they prepare for their opening service. We are excited to be a small part of what God is beginning in this needy town. Please pray for the Grovers as they plant Blessed Hope Baptist Church and for souls to be saved in Libby, Montana.



The work of Tarawa Baptist Church is continuing forward for the Lord. Pastor Abwai is faithfully leading the work and is being used of the Lord. Please pray as I assist him from afar. We ran into logistical issues starting our Bible Institute back up this month and it had to be postponed until January. Several in our church have already signed up and are eager to begin. Please pray that I will be able to work out shipping textbooks and getting them the things they need to begin in the New Year. Also, please pray for God to provide a means of transportation for our church family. Our church vehicle broke down and is beyond repair. Public transportation is sparse on Sundays, and we are praying for wisdom and provision for a new vehicle. Thank you for praying with us.

Our hearts echo the words of Paul in Phil. 4:10 which states, ***"But I rejoice in the Lord greatly, that now at the last your care of me hath flourished again..."*** Over the past almost 16 years of ministry, your care for us has continued to flourish as you have so faithfully supported the ministry God has called us too, as you have prayed with us in the difficult trials and seasons, and as you have rejoiced with us in the victories God has given. What a day of rejoicing when we will praise the Lord together for His wonderful works.

Serving Christ Together,

*Joel, Brooke, Daniel, Adelynn and Bennett*

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