



Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

Greetings once again from the South Pacific. Many years ago, when we were praying for confirmation about God's will for our lives regarding missions, God gave us Isaiah 55 as a chapter of confirmation. This chapter has been so real in our lives throughout our entire ministry. In verses 8-9 it says, ***"For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are my ways your ways, saith the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts."*** So many times, this is hard to understand in our finite minds, but God's Word exhorts us to recall to our mind His faithfulness. I am thankful that brings assurance of a certain future that is in His hand. As we step back and look the last 16 years of ministry, we see that God's ways were always higher than ours, His timing always right, and His plan perfect.

As I return to Kiribati to strengthen and encourage the work God began. I know His timing and His plan is perfect. While at times we did not understand why God did not allow us to return for so long, I am now returning to ordain Abwai to the work of the ministry, I see that God's hand was in each detail as He strengthened and prepared Abwai to Pastor Tarawa Baptist Church. We have prayed for some time that I would be there when our Bibles arrived. We could not understand why we could not find someone to ship our Bibles for so long. Now, we see God was granting that prayer. His ways are so far above our own. Please pray that God's perfect will is accomplished during my time here, and that He would be glorified through the continued working of the Gospel here in Kiribati.

Will you please continue to pray for our son Bennett. He and Brooke and are currently in Tennessee receiving some specialized treatment which we are hopeful will help take away this headache and treat underlying issues that could be the cause. We are trusting God for complete healing, and we know that although this was not in our plans for Bennett, that God's has a purpose for bringing him through this trial. Thank you for praying with us and encouraging us through this long difficult journey. God continues to be so faithful.

We appreciate your faithfulness to pray for our family. Currently, our family is in three different locations. Brooke, Daniel, and Bennett are in Tennessee, Adelynn is in Montana, and I in the islands. We are unsure God's purpose in all these things, but again trust that His ways are higher than ours. Would you please pray for our family over the next several weeks that God would protect and give grace for each day.

Thank you for the many Christmas gifts you sent to our family. They were a tremendous blessing as we have had to travel to get treatments for Bennett. Thank you for your love and care. We are grateful for your faithfulness to pray for and support the ministry God has called us to. We look forward to sharing all God is going to do in the weeks ahead.

Serving Christ Together,

Joel, Brooke, Daniel, Adelynn, and Bennett

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