



Glorifying God

Raising Our Voice To God With One Accord



We are blessed to be working this month with Boata and other faithful men who are glorifying God



Teaching God's Word to help our Christian sister (& her daughter) to find strength & comfort following the loss of the husband

Glorifying God During Difficult Times:

A sister in Christ recently lost her husband. Another sister's baby died. A brother's home was recently destroyed by fire. Christians are not strangers to hardships...none of us. Through our daily in-depth studies of God's Word (Job and Acts), we're seeing and helping others to learn how God's people suffered persecution, problems, hardships, trials of every kind....and yet remained faithful to Him. What a blessing it is to continue in the work of God in the face of great trials and tribulations! We're helping new Christians to be grounded in the faith through teaching solid Bible reasons for their faith in Christ ("Why I am a member of the church of Christ"). Thank you for entrusting this great work of God to us. We look forward to sharing with you more about this important time of teaching and training as we progress over the next few weeks here in the Republic of Kiribati.



Ashes and charred trees were all that was left after a wild fire destroyed our Christian brother's home



Christmas Island, Republic of Kiribati

Greetings to each of you, our dear co-workers in the proclamation of the Gospel of Jesus Christ! It is with great joy that we write to you today from this outpost in the Pacific Islands. While time may have forgotten these remote villages, God's people have surely remembered them in the furtherance of His Gospel!

As we landed at Cassidy Airfield this past Wednesday, within minutes we were met by local Christians, the joy of which continued throughout the first day and even into the night at various homes throughout this island. After meeting with leadership from each of the two congregations of the Lord's church, it was determined that our teaching efforts would begin with a 3 hour combined assembly each night for two weeks. This would allow us to use daytime hours for personal studies and visitations. We are excited to share with you that our Bible classes are now well underway, with attendance and participation increasing steadily. It's very encouraging to labor with Christians and friends who have a genuine interest in learning and obeying the scriptures.



Bible studies at Tabwakea Village



Teaching to strengthen the 22 new Christians. Some are being persecuted for their new faith.



PACIFIC BROADCAST

reaching remote homes with the Gospel

THE ENGLISH FAMILY

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Day By Day In God's Work

Our three man team remains healthy and blessed in doing the work of God. We share a room that is provided with two meals each day (...lots of fish). While we do use a transport truck during the day, at night we are sending the truck with the local brethren to pick up people for classes. We then walk each night through the village to meet up with others at the church's large maneaba. The wind is continually blowing here - often strong. This helps to cool things down some. At the edge of this village there is a wharf that has a shipping container that's been converted into a place where email can be sent/received....we indeed count this as a "luxury". There are many things for which we are thankful for here.....one in particular has touched our hearts and strengthened us: While working in London Village a few days ago, we had stopped adjacent to a "sick bay" overflow area for patients. It's difficult to describe this area in a way to help one appreciate the need here, but basically this compound is much like a large shed without walls, which houses people who are sick and either waiting to get into the hospital or are recovering. It has running water outside, as well as an outhouse. *Sterile it is not.....but, its here and functioning to serve.* As we were about to leave a discussion with a new contact, a woman came walking directly toward us. As she got closer I recognized her as a member of the church.....Tennau was among the group of ten people that first obeyed the Gospel here at Christmas Island!



Our 3 man team's room at Tabwakea

Further grounding new Christians in the faith through daily Bible teaching and training



Jacob and Tennau

However, a few years ago she and her husband had moved to an extremely remote outer island, and eventually the church had lost all ability to have contact with them. Now they had just returned by ship but were both very sick, and thus immediately had made their way to the "sick bay" compound. Our hearts were full of great joy over having met up with this wonderful Christian couple whom we had often wondered if we would ever meet again. We visited with Tennau, and in fact returned back the next day and visited her and her husband, Jacob. Although we had told them about the Bible classes, knowing that they were sick we understandably did not expect that they could join the assembly. To our surprise and joy, later that night, they both showed up at the Bible class! You should have seen the expressions of joy that was shown as the two of them walked into the church's maneaba! Now they were among brethren who love them! Now they were among those who can help care for them! Now.... *they are home.*

As we have been doing personal work each day, we're noticing a lot of *vacant homes*, which is very unusual. We've learned that the price paid for copra has doubled in the past 12 months! Families, including some members of the church, are temporarily moving to the bush to harvest this plentiful cash crop.



...the dried coconut (copra) is then bagged, ready to be shipped to other nations for processing

(above) Drying the "meat" of the coconut is required. The moisture content is closely monitored before bagging



This new settlement area is one of several we found empty as residents are moving to the bush to harvest coconuts (left)

Who Will You Meet Today?

Who Will You Meet Today.....Priest or Prisoner? In the Pacific Islands, day to day life really is a lot different than in most other cultures. Languages and foods are not the only things that can cause some visitors to pause, take a couple of steps backwards, and perhaps even raise an eyebrow. Even so, I believe its how islanders entreat and relate to people that causes folks to draw closer and exchange the warm smiles that are so often presented by these precious people. For example, islanders can be very trusting, yea willing to accept/assume the best in people. Yesterday we were out working for the day and had stopped by the wharf to inquire about sending this update report via email. While I was encountering a delay (very, very slow internet) in communicating with co-workers on the other side of the earth in regard to Pacific Broadcast's daily transmission of Bible programming via one of its FM stations, my two co-workers for this mission journey (Jim and Buzz) were doing what they normally would have been doing....talking, visiting, teaching, and encouraging others in the Word of God. One man that they met shared with them that he knew of us, that is, the church of Christ and its work of teaching the Word of God. In fact, he said that he had even attended some Bible studies that were provided by the church. Much to Jim and Buzz's surprise, this man also humbly revealed that he was

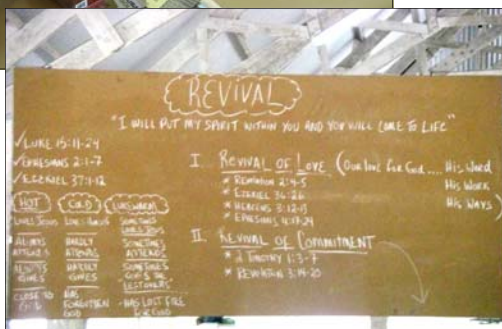


laboring for Christ at
TabWakea



Teaching the Truth to those who know not the Gospel

reviving love and commitment among brethren



currently a "priest in prison", having been sentenced to jail time, but had been let out for a few minutes to come to this place and send an email communications to his family members regarding his circumstances. Sure enough, just a few yards away sat a guard who had accompanied him to this makeshift "internet cafe"! Not to be detracted by the circumstances, Jim and Buzz proceeded as normal and continued talking with this kind man about the Bible and received his request for Bible study materials. As I completed my work, I walked over and introduced myself to him, learning at that time that we had previously met a few years ago in Bible study. We were each amazed at the circumstances, but of course very glad to have met this man at this particular time and place, especially since our meeting him was enabled through a delayed circumstance, which can often be the case when working in the islands. As Christians we must learn to keep doing the Lord's work through every circumstance and with every person we meet. As we do, we'll find that matters will work out for the furtherance of the Gospel.....whether you meet a priest, or a prisoner....or yes, even a "priest in prison"!

Unchanging Gospel in a Changing World

One of the greatest assurances that Christians have is an unchanging Gospel message in an ever changing world. Just knowing that we live and teach a message that transcends culture, age, gender, and all things, reassures us that "come what may", there is opportunity to glorify God in all things. As we arrived at Tabwakea Village a few days ago, it didn't take long to learn that there were some hardships among the saints here. Still, the saints were eager to study God's Word. As we studied Acts and the church at Jerusalem and the problems they encountered, Christians at Christmas Island saw how these problems can be handled in a right way according to God's Word, even 2000 years later!

Following Up on 22 New Christians: At the very beginning of our work at Tabwakea Village, we worked to assemble and teach those who had obeyed the Gospel over the past year. In the past year, the church has grown by another 22 Christians. 9 of these were teenagers, most of who's parents are not members of the church! We began working right away to provide classes to further establish these young men and young women in the faith. We continue to be amazed their dedication and diligence in the faith. Thank you for continuing to pray for these who have began a new life in Christ!

Brother Angy is a faithful member of the Lord's church at Christmas Island. Angy diligently serves in many different ways, and more recently has helped in establishing the new congregation at Banana Village. In recent months he had to take a job on a freighter ship to earn money and support his family. While away from the island, his home burned down completely...with nothing left. We are going to help this good soldier to rebuild his humble home. If you would like to help with this, please write to us.....we know that Angy and his family would be grateful.



teaching, baptizing, & strengthening Kiribati



**Update
From
The
Field**



Sonlight In The Pacific

**Monthly
Supporting
Congregations
& Organizations**



**The
English Family**

All funding is received and overseen by the elders at
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P.O. Box 1405
Forest Park, GA 30298
404-366-3820

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