

DAVE & RUTH ANN ARTHURS
P.O. BOX H
POHNPEI, FM 96941
Arthurs@mail.fm

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Dear Friends,

Christmas gave us good opportunities to share the gospel throughout the island by radio. Many people were listening so they could hear Christmas music and we now have over a thousand songs in our Christmas library. In addition to this, we have 50 Christmas cantatas and Christmas plays which give a clear presentation of the gospel.

We still attract new listeners through the news every hour all day. I also put on local news, often stories that the government won't carry for fear of offending a politician or powerful person. As long as I have documentation I like to inform the people of what is going on. It is our prayer that these people will stay tuned to hear the gospel and get saved and start attending our church. In January, we had the inauguration of the new governor and I was asked to be on the inauguration committee representing the media. I broadcasted the ceremony live and was the narrator for the video that went on cable T.V. throughout the country and will go to the archives. I was also asked last week to head up a press conference with seven visiting U.S. congressmen and the director of the Department of Interior who is a member of President Bush's cabinet. When I aired this we got a number of favorable comments for the content and requests from the U.S. Embassy and the FSM President's office for copies. They also sent them to the other states to be aired on the government stations.

I have been having serious back problems since July. I started experiencing unbearable pain and the X-rays showed calcium buildup on my vertebrae which is pinching the nerves. I was given pain pills which gave little relief. In August I started getting physical therapy treatments at the local government hospital three times a week. This gave relief of the pain but didn't do anything for the source of the problem. The x-rays also showed 50% blockage of the arteries in my neck so the doctor checked my cholesterol and found it high. He put me on a fat free diet for three months and that brought my cholesterol down from 214 to 161 so I have not gone on medication for that but must not eat anything that tastes good.

In order to take care of my vertebrae problem, I'll be going to the St. Luke's Medical Center in Manila, Philippines January 24 for testing and treatment. The doctor says that he has sent several people there for the same problem, and they have all come back with success. He says that my problem is common among people my age. I think it is called a maturing process that comes as you reach retirement age.

Finding someone to take charge of the radio station is always our major concern when we are away. Because of the seriousness of the problem Ruth Ann is going with me. One of the Filipino men in our church who is an accountant and works with computers and works for us each Friday evening has agreed to live here at the station while we are away. He is being transferred to Saipan as soon as he gets clearance from Immigration. Please pray for him while we are away there won't be any problems he can't handle and that he won't have to leave before we get back. Pray also for two other people who will assume other work of the station by putting in extra hours and driving our workers daily. Please also pray for the doctors who will be attending to my need and most probably performing an operation. The doctor said to expect to be away for three to four weeks.

In Christ,
Dave & Ruth Ann Arthurs