

Pray For The Claypools

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*"For precept must be upon precept, precept upon precept, line upon line, line upon line,
here a little there a little" - Isaiah 28:9-10*

Dear Praying Friends and Family,

January 2024

Greetings from the tropics! As friends and family are undergoing sub-zero temperatures, we are enduring some chilling evenings as well. During our short dry spell throughout January we have had temperatures down into the high 60s while the humidity continues to range from between 80-100%. Seeing the pictures that we have received showing snow and ice, underscores how subjective the word "cold" can be. Our brutal, quilt-at-night temperatures for many is nothing more than beautiful picnic weather.

We started the year with a wonderful watch-night service at one of our members, Dias' house. There were 22 in attendance with a few that have never been to our church services before. Most of the time was spent with food, fellowship and some Bible videos, however, we brought the new year in with hymns and prayer time.

About 2 days prior to the service, the whole event was overshadowed by a rather blatant spiritual attack on Dias himself. While "witchdoctoring" and what is commonly called "voodoo" is known as an outside phenomenon in most developing countries, throughout Africa and many island countries it is very real and has a strong impact on daily life. That being said, persons from the community enacted ceremonies with the end goal of "capturing" Dias' spirit and thereby gaining control of him.

Without a doubt it was a tense time, yet it turned into a wonderful opportunity for testimony and a learning experience for Dias himself. Doug was able to meet with Dias and together they prayed over the property and searched through God's Word resting on the very real promise in 1 Corinthians 6:20-*"For ye are bought with a price: therefore glorify God in your body, and in your spirit, which are God's."* Dias had already been telling folks that those actions no longer applied to him, still with years of tradition and influence from friends coming to bear, it was wonderful to see the comfort and security that the Word brings into the life of His children.

We want to thank each of you who have been praying for our church's development as we try to meet the needs of our people. We have not been able to get a mid-week gathering started, however, we were able to get a Sunday School time started. We have a good group of children who come and we noticed that they would often get up and wander around or leave during the Bible study. Recognizing their needs, and wanting to reach out to them as well, we began a special time for them before service where we have a Bible/Missionary story specifically geared towards their age group. As time progresses we fully expect the children's time to develop as well.

Once again we are so grateful for God's leadership and clear direction. Our ideas may be logical to us, but God's plan is always perfectly synchronized with the growth and development of His church and people. On that point we also wish to thank those who continue to pray with us concerning a church property. We continue looking and have seen a couple of sights around the community, however, the Lord has not opened a clear door to any of them. As the church develops and future ministries come into view, our folks are realizing more and more the importance of a stable, neutral and independent location.

Once again we end with a heartfelt thanks to each of you for all of your prayers and support. The Lord is clearly working in both obvious and not so obvious ways, and this is happening through our partnerships with you. May God richly bless during this new year and may it be a bountiful one with God working both in our lives and in our churches.

Your Servants for His Service,

Doug & Amanda Claypool

The Claypools

Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn & Sean