

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,

July 2026

Gravana [Grah-vah-nuh], our dry season, is upon us and the cold has set in. The quilts have been added to the bed and jackets have come out of storage. 68 degrees may sound normal in the West, but here in the tropics it is regarded as tantamount to freezing. Add to that the fact that our humidity didn't drop to the normal 65% of the dry season and the end result is a cold dampness that seems to permeate everything.

On the positive side, however, the extra showers that we have been experiencing have helped in our fresh attempt at gardening. We brought some seeds with us on our return from furlough and have been experimenting with what will grow here and what will not. For those who receive our email prayer letter I will try to include more information and pictures on this later in the year as our attempts give fruit - pun intended.

Thank you all for your prayers for Fernandes and Belu and their family. Belu passed away in April after several days of being in pain and so weak that she couldn't even really talk. Amanda and I kept visiting and the Friday before she passed the Lord gave us the opportunity to give a clear presentation to her and Fernandes of their need to trust Christ for salvation. She was nodding her head during the conversation, but was unable to talk with us. We cannot say for sure what her final state was, but are hopeful that with understanding she recognized her need and trusted in our Saviour for the next step of the journey. Please continue praying for Fernandes. We continue visiting with him and his family, but he has a more vague sense of religiosity. We are asking the Lord to open his eyes and heart to see the difference between thinking religiously and having a true relationship with the Lord.

Our church folks really stepped up to the plate through it all, even helping us to learn some more aspects of the culture that we hadn't realized before. The church as a whole went up to visit Belu and Fernandes before her passing and the ladies went up during the time of mourning to be an encouragement to Fernandes and the rest of the family as well. Amanda and I continue visiting to keep the contact alive. Zita, their daughter, still says she is coming to see what the services are like and we keep talking with her. Please pray with us that the Lord will turn those words into reality. That first step is often the hardest.

As another matter of prayer we would like to start up a children's club on Wednesday afternoons. We have been praying about it since our return, and we believe that now is the time. One instance that the Lord used to guide us, happened on a Friday while Amanda and I were doing our regular visits. One of the neighbor boys that pops in every now and then while I am at the church studying, caught up with us while we were walking by the church and out of the blue asked us if we had a story to tell him. It took us totally by surprise, but I told him that I would bring one the next day if he still wanted to hear one. To this day I have no idea what prompted the request as it had no context behind it and was not a normal thing to talk about.

Unfortunately he has not returned since then, but I still walk around with the story of Esther in my backpack, just in case. There has been a lot going on here on our island, what with school ending, end of the year exams and then presidential elections taking place, and now that things have calmed down, we are planning to set a specific time on Wednesday afternoons, letting the boys know about it, and seeing what the Lord will do.

The plan is a much broader one, however, and the choice of Wednesday was not by happenstance. Our larger purpose is not only for starting a children's club but, in time, to also use the time frame as a reference point for getting a mid-week Bible Study going.

The enemy has not been idle and the challenges have been strong, both for us and for our people. Many things have cropped up designed to both impede and also distract. While the road has had its difficulties, we also believe that those concerted efforts tell of great potential he is trying to subvert, that is in the offing, as long as we keep moving forward. Please pray with us and for us as we work to do exactly that.

In closing we want to, once again, thank each of you for your faithful prayers and support as we continue to labor here in our little portion of the harvest field.

Your Servants For His Service,

Doug + Amanda Claypool

The Claypools

Doug, Amanda, Morgan, Kaitlyn, Sean