

ELWOOD AND DORIS HURST

WORLD WIDE NEW TESTAMENT BAPTIST MISSIONS

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Hello dear friends and co-laborers,

God has blessed this old missionary with some of the most precious of his children to labor and love with. I thank Him for that privilege. It has been a blessed time. He has also introduced me to many of His people in many places in the last 46 years. I am honored and so very thankful for the many blessings. I thank Him also for the church families with whom we have served for these many years. God has safely taken us on many miles in the United States and the Pacific Islands. All glory to God, and I thank Him for His abundant grace and the faithful years of relationship with the precious churches.

As you know, I have been reporting in person to most of our churches. There remains a few that I have not been to yet. I hope to still be able to do so sometime in the future. Before Doris passed, I was planning to return to Guam to assist with the work we left behind when Doris became ill. Since she passed, I have planned and prepared to follow that plan. There is a place for me to live at the church in Santa Rita, and a pastor who has welcomed me to help at the church. I have set goal dates, and it seems that they were my dates, but the Lord has other plans. The funds had been promised to pay the airfare to get there.

At the age of 89, this old body has begun to wear out. I am thankful for the time God has given me and the strength He has sustained. My first obstacle was a knee replacement. It eliminated my first goal for December. There have been other issues that took more time, and getting to see doctors anymore is time-consuming. Next comes a big dose of neuropathy. It started with a little sting in my feet, which I took care of with some vitamin products, but it has increased to the point that I am prone to losing balance and other typical issues that go with that problem. My first visit with the neurologist did not bring any encouragement. I told him that I planned to go to Guam, and he responded, "In a wheelchair." Since that time, it has been an on/off experience, but overall, more and more of a challenge. Along with the physical issues comes vertigo.

The only thing that has not changed is my longing and desire to get to the field. My family and some of my friends have discussed it with me. We have considered trying some short trips, but the fruit would be so small compared to the cost. Also, with my issues, I am not sure how useful I would be.

We have prayed much and still have the burden for the work and the souls, but it seems to us that it is not the right thing to do at this time. I sought counsel with my mission, and it has been recommended that I change my status to a lighter expectation. I will still do whatever I am able to do to not quit. If God would somehow relieve me of this physical condition, I would still be available to go back to Guam. I want God's will.

I sincerely regret that some have kindly supported me for these months, and I have not been to the field. I sincerely apologize for the disappointment. If there is anything that I can do to be of help, please allow me to be of service. Dr. Sightler used to say, "Retire!, Retire!, Refire! OH, HOW I WOULD LIKE TO DO THAT. It seems I am a bit late in that course.

Again, I am sincerely sorry to disappoint you all. Your continued prayers for me would be greatly appreciated. I will continue in prayer for you all.

God bless and your labor for our Lord Jesus Christ.

Because of Christ,
Elwood Hurst