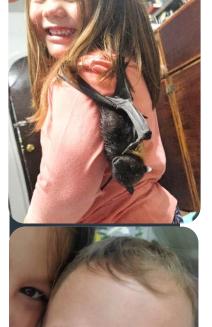
## thii from Palau

## **Fun with Pets**



Andrea and Abi with Fruity





## Dear Prayer Partners,

It's been over a year since we got back to the field and I believe we have fully adjusted back home. While we were on furlough, I promised my children that they could have their own pets once we got back to the mission field. We have since adopted 2 very energetic puppies, whom my kids named Muffin and Cupcake. To our surprise, we were also gifted a fruit bat which my children named Fruity. A fruit bat is considered a local delicacy here, but rest assured, we are keeping Fruity as a pet! Our youngest, Elijah, also insists on keeping all the lizards he finds, but they just don't seem to stick around long. While pets add fun to our household, I believe there are a lot of lessons on responsibility that a child can learn in taking care of their own animal.

It is not just through the acquisition of pets that proves we have indeed adapted back into the culture! We also have experienced unwanted "pests" such as rats, rodents, termites, and lice and the malady they bring. I'm constantly amazed with the amount and variety of bugs we have here in the Islands. Since we don't have the winter season to kill them all off, they just keep on flourishing. Try as we may to get rid of them, we just have to learn to live with them!

Unfortunately, another "bug" we've experienced since we've been back was stomach bugs. For months, I've been having constant intestinal issues; cramping, loose bowels and fatigue. I tried to ignore it, self-medicate, and change my diet. It became a concern when the symptoms persisted for 3 months without any improvement and since I have a history of several digestive issues it had prompted me to schedule a medical trip. We went to the Philippines for a couple of weeks where they have the equipment and doctors to get everything checked out. We also used this time for general medical and dental checkups for the whole family. Thank the Lord, after a series of testing, results came back positive for several bacteria and Salmonella. I was given proper medication and I am doing so much better now. Please pray for our continued health because as you know a loving family shares everything and sometimes it can be weeks before we are all up and about again.

Please also pray as we are starting up our Bible institute to train the next leaders of the church. Several individuals in our church expressed their desire to join. I pray that they stay committed as there are many distractions in life.

Our current church building is deteriorating beyond repair. We have been mending it to make it usable, but it is becoming obvious that we need to build a new building soon. The dilemma is that the current chief is slow at giving us permission to start building. Pray that he will honor the dying wishes of the previous chief to give us the land free and clear to do with as the Lord sees fit.



Andrew, Vanj, Jonathan, Andrea, Abigail, Elijah Mc Clure