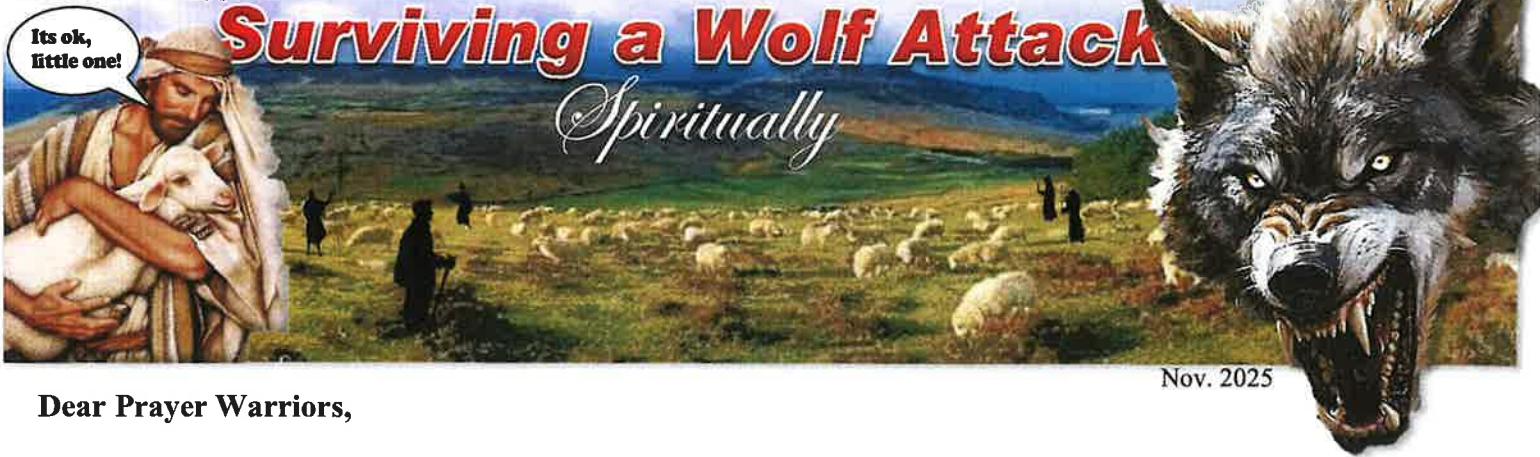


What it's like?



Dear Prayer Warriors,

Have you ever wondered what it looks like to survive a spiritual wolf attack in a church on the mission field? Let me give the setting and then the event. We have people from many different islands in Micronesia and the Lord has given us a wonderful work in Palau. As our folk are discipled and grow in their faith, sometimes they return to their home islands as mature Christians and preachers, but sometimes they leave before they are spiritually prepared for what comes next in their life. For this reason, I preach hard on **Bible Doctrine, Soul Winning and Discipleship**. This enables them to know how to live holy lives that God's Word says they should live while not being like the world. Then, Gloria and I try to visit the different islands they move to in order to encourage their continued growth and service.

It was 5 years ago when 5 men were prepared to preach for the next 6 weeks while Gloria and I went on such a trip for 6 weeks. Then Covid hit and shut the world down. Thankfully, all but one of the men had been saved and baptized under our leadership and had started their discipleship training up to the point they could read their Bibles and tell what they learned to others about it (preach). However, one was a visiting preacher and was *a wolf in disguise*.

I pray and plan my preaching and lessons far in advance as I've taught our men to do. So, when our island shut down it was no problem. But three and a half years being closed to the world was a lot longer than I'd planned. Even when using the internet for counseling our young and inexperienced preachers. Plus, we had our Bible institute classes for those who were faithful. So, what happened next was completely out of my control but God was protecting His sheep.

The *wolf started grooming minors* in his own home. Older Christians refused to join the new plans to shut down the old church and start a new one. Communications from all the sheep was cut off under threat of harm and all soulwinning outreaches stopped. Even the village elders asked why things were changing. A private school was started and the younglings willingly accepted all changes because they no longer had to go to public school. Soon their new teacher dropped out and older students were left monitoring the younger ones without any real knowledge of how to help. That's when the *flirting, love letter writing* and *physical contact* started. Those who spoke up were told to leave the church. In all, 14 members plus new comers were asked to leave and to take their children with them. Why? It was because they saw *unholy behavior going on among both the adults and the children and spoke out*. Several older men started flirting and having physical relations with the girls. The church's leader had been grooming several minors and then got caught *through his love letters by a policeman* in the church. In all, at least three men and their leader were caught. Three men repented and 2 stayed in church but their leader ran away sadly *without repenting* like John 1:12, 13.

We "Thank the Lord" many of our sheep were strong enough to stand up for Righteousness. Upon our return, all but one has come back to serve the Lord with us. **This was a time of real Thanksgiving!** We had several mature Christians leave to serve the Lord in other places: California, Canada, Mindanao, Luzon and Saipan. Why? They had not yet learned how to stand together against a *hireling*, so they fled away. Hearing of our return they've contacted us and asked for their membership to be moved to the Baptist churches where they're attending. Praise the Lord they're still faithful. Sadly, one died after being chased away. For now, my son Andrew and his family are leading and growing those that are left at Palau Baptist Church. We have between 47 and 62 in attendance. Our folk have to learn that they don't only have to fight against the devil, sin and their old cultures, but there are also those who are false prophets (missionaries/preachers) that they need to be aware of. They can now see the real dangers of those whose hearts aren't truly sold out to God. Even "*would be men of God*" can be hirelings and they need to be on guard against them. Please pray for their strength to stand strong in the truth while maintaining a loving and trusting heart! Thank the Lord the Good Shepherd, **Jesus never leaves us and even comes looking for those who've gone astray**, Matthew 18:11-14. **Prayer Request:** We have a need for a folding machine. Nothing here meets our need. Pray the Lord supplies. Please also pray for our health. We've had food poison 3 times in the last 2 months.

Your Missionaries,
Terry & Gloria McClure
Micronesia (Palau & Saipan)



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