

Jim Civale Family Prayer Letter - February 15, 2010



Opening of Asau Baptist Church in Savaii, Samoa
Six were baptized and added to the church as charter members.
Four others were saved during the invitation. (Feb 7)



Prayer of blessing over Jim, Emi, Joe, & Salvatore
Pastor John Leatherman (Duncansville, PA) and independent Baptist
pastors from neighboring islands pray over the Civale family. (Feb 7)

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for your effectual fervent prayers. They have availed much and prevailed mightily against intense opposition! For months, the village pastors have been preaching against us to their congregations, even naming and shaming the chiefs in their congregation who did not stand against us. These men of the cloth also made repeated appeals to the village chiefs and mayor to stop us. One declared from his pulpit that anyone who attends our church is like a person who has undergone an operation to have his brain removed. Another declared publicly that we have sold the blood of Jesus and that the village chiefs have bought it. We also faced fierce opposition from one chief in our own extended family who cursed at Emi publicly at a family funeral and moved to strike her (before Jim stepped in); he later filed two pieces of litigation to stop the church. Through it all, we remained silent and allowed God to fight for us. What a great contest between faith and force. It has us singing, "Faith is the victory! Faith is the victory! O glorious victory that overcomes the world." Thank you for prevailing in prayer on behalf of the people of Samoa! Highlights from the last six weeks follow...

- Jan 4 After five intense hours, the council of chiefs granted us full and final authorization to plant a fundamental, independent Baptist church. Just an hour or two after the meeting, Jim led one of the chiefs and his wife to Christ (they are now charter members of Asau Baptist Church).
- Jan 19 Emi's extended family held a special meeting. The eight-hour meeting ended with the extended family supporting the starting of the church and censuring our opponent who acted badly the week before at a family funeral.
- Feb 5 Jim and Emi were presented and accepted by the village chiefs in a ceremony called a Momoli.
- Feb 7 Asau Baptist Church held its chartering service. Six were baptized and added as founding members. Four who came forward at the invitation received Christ as Savior.
- Feb 14 Asau Baptist Church held its first Sunday of full services (Sunday School, AM, and PM Services). Thirty-seven attended. Eight were baptized. Three more were saved during the invitation and surrendered to be baptized the following Sunday.



Our dear pastor was given the honor of conducting the first baptism of Asau Baptist Church, baptizing Emi's mother. (Feb 7)



Jim baptizing Sopo Tanielu, the talking chief who was saved after the January 4th village council meeting. (Feb 7)

Joyfully and gratefully,
Jim and Emi Civale

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PLEASE PRAY FOR...

- Continued courage of new church members who still face opposition for joining Asau Baptist Church
- Jim's fluency in Samoan
- Funds for a much-needed church van or bus