



**JIM AND EMI CIVALE**  
**YOUR MISSIONARIES TO SAMOA**  
*Testifying... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ACTS 20:21*

**PRAYER LETTER**  
**MARCH 1, 2016**

Dear Friends,

Just about any preacher will tell you that some messages just drop from heaven, while others come only after much intense prayer and effort. Most, of course, fall somewhere in between. February 14<sup>th</sup> was one of those days when I felt like I had wrestled all week long and still wasn't "there" yet.

It wasn't that I doubted that God wanted me to preach on the passage I had studied all week. He clearly directed me to I Chronicles 13. In fact, I had tried several times to change the text and topic, even as late as Saturday evening, but each time I felt clearly impressed to deliver the message on Uzzah's death in the full force the text demanded. However, I was hesitant because a certain high-ranking chief and his family had visited for two weeks in a row and they said they were coming again. The week before I had preached on King David and Mephibosheth and the beautiful picture of the gospel of grace that passage presents. I really did not want to follow that with a tough message on God's absolute holiness and requirement that we approach Him exactly as He dictates. I confess. I was resisting the Spirit all week long because I did not want to scare off our new visitors.

It was only by God's grace that I yielded to His leading and thundered forth for nearly forty minutes about lessons learned at Perezuzza. When the invitation started, nobody moved for about thirty seconds. I confess again. Thoughts like "I knew it" and "I told you so" flashed in the back of my mind. Then it happened! The visiting chief and his wife moved from their pews in the back right section of the church. At the same time, their daughter and son-in-law moved from their seats on the other side of the church. Another woman who was visiting also walked the aisle. Emi, our deacons, and our deacons' wives knew what to do. Joining the visitors at the altar, they first led them to the back room of the church and then to the Lord Jesus Christ. What a God we serve!

The next day, I spoke to the chief's daughter at the post office. She told me with tears in her eyes that she and the family were talking after the service and they all experienced the same thing during the preaching. The Holy Spirit got a hold of every one of their hearts and would not let go. As the invitation started, they could not resist Him for long and just had to go forward.

The next Sunday four of the five were baptized and added to the church. Please pray for our newest church members — Talking Chief Masivao and his wife Lina (pictured above), their daughter Malia (below left), and To'aga Moananu (below right). Please also pray for Tusitala to follow the Lord in believer's baptism. Finally, please pray for us as we continue to rely on the Spirit's leading and power to preach Christ.



Your grateful friends,  
*Jim & Emi Civale*

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