

The Jim Civale Family Prayer Letter – April 1, 2011

“Hear ye! Hear ye! By edict of the village council. All must cast their votes by 9:00 a.m. tomorrow. Do not be late. All who travel before voting or who refuse to vote will face the council! All must vote for our designated candidate and him only. Any who vote contrary to this edict will face the consequences of the council. Hear ye! Hear ye!”

Sounds like something from some ancient annals, doesn't it? Maybe from a historical novel set in the Dark Ages... Actually, it's a translation of what Emi and I heard the village crier shouting on March 3, on the eve of Samoa's parliamentary elections... As I write you now, there stands a deserted house and land up the hill from us because the father of that household voted for the “wrong” candidate and was banished. Friends, please pray for that family. Please pray for the council of chiefs. Please pray for the village of Asau. Please pray for your homeland wherever you are reading this that your freedoms will be appreciated and protected.

When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice; but when the wicked beareth rule, the people mourn.

Proverbs 29:2

This incident reminds us of the long fight we faced with the same village council to get permission to start ***Asau Baptist Church***. It reminds us that there are places all over this sin-cursed earth where people are denied the rights to vote their conscience, to speak their mind, and to worship the true and living God... But it also reminds us that there is One coming for Whom no vote will be cast and from Whom no unrighteous edict will be issued. Amen! It reminds us that the government will indeed be upon His shoulders and that we who are His will rule and reign together with Him. Hallelujah! It reminds me to occupy til He comes. It reminds me to proclaim with the same intensity as that village crier earlier this month the glorious gospel of Jesus Christ. Friends, let us labor in love without ceasing that men and women everywhere may know what it is to be made free indeed.



Talking chief Masimalo was the first of six to be saved, baptized, and added to Asau Baptist Church in March.

Praise God that even as the village was consumed with the election and its aftermath, six more villagers freely placed their faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, were baptized, and added to Asau Baptist Church!

Your Grateful Missionaries to the Samoan Islands,

Jim & Emi Civale

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PRAYER REQUESTS

the printing and distribution of Samoan Bibles;
the translation of Bible tracts and hymns into Samoan;
the launching of our Christian radio station;
the altar-worker/soul-winner training program with the deacons and wives;
Emi's preschool;
finding a piano player and teacher for the church;
effective discipleship;
our son Joe's preparations to move to the US for college