

Testifying...  
repentance toward God  
and faith toward our  
Lord Jesus Christ.

**Acts 20:21**

# The Jim Civale Family Prayer Letter – June 4, 2011

## *Your Missionaries to Samoa*

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Dear Praying Friends,

*Precious in the sight of Lord is the death of his saints Psalm 116:15...* Last month, I had the unexpected opportunity to preach this verse to my extended family and friends in New Jersey and Pennsylvania.

It all started when my daughter called to tell me my grandfather was ill and had little hope of recovery. Upon hearing the news, I traveled back east to say good-bye and to witness one last time to my beloved "Pop". I spent time with Pop right from my first day there, praising God for the opportunity to thank Pop for his influence in my life, especially when I lived with him from 1983 to 1989.

A few days later, one of my supporting pastors visited Pop in the hospital at my request. After explaining the gospel to Pop, Pastor Walker prayed for Pop and left. Although Pop did not pray to receive Christ at that time, he did so later that evening with me. Never was it so sweet to reap where another had sown!

Less than two weeks later, Pop drew his last breath on earth and his first in heaven. Pop had attended Catholic mass faithfully for all of his ninety-four years here on earth and lived the kind of life anyone would call good, even godly. However, he could not recall a time in his life when he turned to God in repentance and Christ in faith. Praise God that he did so in the 59<sup>th</sup> minute of his 11<sup>th</sup> hour.

Knowing Pop had traveled the Roman's Road and called on Christ, I assumed that my work was done. My mom and her sisters had the final services all arranged with the Catholic church and I just told the Lord that I would remain open to witness to individual family members as opportunities arose. The Lord had other plans, however. When the priest told my mom and aunts that a script for the eulogy had to be submitted in advance and was limited to three minutes, they decided instead to ask me to do a family service in the chapel at the funeral home.

What a great God we serve! He allowed me to share the gospel with my whole family and many life-long friends at a time when they were especially tender to eternal matters.



Please pray for comfort for my mom (in black, to Pop's right) and my three aunts. They are pictured above in a photo taken on April 2, 2011, when they celebrated Pop's 94<sup>th</sup> birthday.

As I close, allow me to praise God for my dear wife and two sons who coordinated things in the ministry back here in Asau during my three-and-a-half weeks away. Two of our deacons, a pastor friend from the island of Upolu and some of his "preacher boys" did a great job preaching in my absence. I returned to Samoa just in time for my son Salvatore's 16<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 3<sup>rd</sup>. We celebrated both his and my other son Joey's birthdays together (Joey turned 18 on May 17<sup>th</sup> while I was away).

Thank you for all of your prayers and support. May the Father or mercies and God of all comfort be as real to you as He has been to us.

Your grateful friends,  
*Jim & Emi Civale*