

JIM AND EMI CIVALE—MISSIONARIES TO SAMOA

Testifying... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. ACTS 20:21

PRAYER LETTER — JUNE 1, 2015

CONTACT INFORMATION

Maui Jim & Emi Civale / Asau, Post Office, Savaii / (Western) SAMOA
civalejim@yahoo.com / 011-685-758-7232



Dear Friends,

In May, we experienced two extremes in the ministry. During the first week in the month, I preached a funeral in the village for a middle-aged man who committed suicide. His battle with the bottle was fierce and ultimately led to his destruction. Our head deacon and preacher-in-training, Brother Sopo, worked with the deceased man and witnessed to him on numerous occasions. He also gave him a Bible, invited him to church, and even invited him to sit in on one of our Bible College classes. Although the man had told Sopo several times he was coming, he never followed through. As you can imagine, preaching such a funeral was not easy. Nonetheless, I praise God for the opportunity to give the gospel and to minister to the grieving family. Please pray for seeds sown to take root. Sadly, both the suicide and alcoholism rates in Samoa are among the highest in the world.



The other extreme we experienced was the joyful celebration of Mother's Day. In Samoa, Mother's Day is one of the biggest holidays (along with Children's Day in October and Father's Day in August). With the high value placed on one's extended family or *aiga* (pronounced eye-ING-uh), these family-oriented holidays are major events.



Every year we have many visitors in attendance but we also have many church members not in attendance because they travel to be with their mothers or grandmothers in other villages. This year, we had an excellent turnout for the morning and evening services. The fathers did all of the decorations and prepared dessert fellowships for immediately after the morning and evening services. I preached short messages in both services, leaving time for each mother to give a testimony or do a special item. The older mothers went in the morning and the younger ones in the evening. As usual, there was a good mix of spiritual testimonies, sweet songs, and some light-hearted silliness. My favorite mother in the church, the mother of my children, is pictured above. To the left and below are some other dear mothers sharing testimonies and songs. I especially enjoyed Mrs. Eseta (pictured below) who sang a children's song and had her husband, Iosua, come up on the spot to do the actions. He was a good sport about it. Incidentally, the beautiful, hand-carved plant stands you see on both sides of the pulpit were done by Iosua as a gift to the church for Mother's Day.



Thank you again for your prayers and support for us and the people of Samoa.

Jim & Emi Civale

SENDING CHURCH

Dry Run Independent Baptist Church
P.O. Box 242, / Duncansville, PA 16635
(814) 695-2203 / Pastor John Leatherman

SUPPORT ADDRESS & MISSION BOARD

Jim Civale (#1325) / Baptist International Missions, Inc.
P.O. Box 9215 / Chattanooga, TN

