

Civale Family Prayer Letter ~ August 17, 2010

TO GOD ONLY WISE, BE GLORY THROUGH JESUS CHRIST FOR EVER. AMEN. RO 16:27

Dear Praying Friends,

August 8th was a doubly special day for us at Asau Baptist Church. It was Father's Day in Samoa *and* it was the church's six-month anniversary. Dads, their families, and visitors filled both the morning and evening services. Twenty-four fathers were recognized (eighteen church members and six whose spouse or children are church members). One group of fathers sang a special song in the morning service and then gave testimonies. We enjoyed a feast after the morning service. More testimonies were given in the evening service which lasted until well after dark.

Since we wrote you last month, eight more people have been saved, baptized and added to Asau Baptist Church. We now have over ninety people regularly attending, nearly eighty of whom have been saved, baptized and added during these past six months. *To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.*

A great series of what-ifs has been welling in my heart lately...

What if we failed to discern or obey God's call to come to Asau?

What if the chiefs remained adamant and never allowed our church into the village?

What if those who first came to the church turned back as they faced intense opposition and persecution?

What if dear churches and saints of God like you did not pray for us and them?

What if churches and individuals like you stopped giving during these trying economic times?

What if all these new believers never heard that "there is none other name... whereby we must be saved?"

To God be the glory! He has done it all. He called us to come. He moved chiefs to relent. He emboldened the new believers to stay faithful. He prompted you to send us, support us, and pray for us. He wooed sinners to repent and receive Christ. *To God only wise, be glory through Jesus Christ for ever.*

Friends, we humbly ask you to continue praying for the Lord's provision for a building. This remains our most immediate need. So far, donations of \$4,930 has been given from churches and supporters overseas. The equivalent of \$US 5,652 has been given here through this infant local church. The current total of \$10,582 is about one fifth of what we need to build. We plan to build, Lord willing, in December and January and to dedicate the building on February 6, 2011, our one-year anniversary. If you would like more information about our building plans and budget, please email us. Furthermore, if you are a carpenter, plumber, or electrician, and wish to do a short-term missions trip sometime between November and February, please contact us. We need you! Thank you to those who have given so far. Your act of faith in financially difficult times shouts of your love of souls and the Savior.

As we close, I want to share something that delights my soul. Our infant church did something very special earlier this month. They gave their first missionary love offering of \$1,000 to a missionary in Upolu whose only vehicle is in dire need of replacement. I simply presented to the church a prayer request. When I heard one man in the church ask, "Isn't that the purpose of the missions money we have in our account, pastor?" It took everything in me to stay in my seat and not to jump for joy. They get it!

His and yours truly,

Jim & Emi Civale

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Fuamatala, Isaako, Piki, Faapaia, and Vaialii are among the eight who were saved, baptized, and added since we wrote last month.