

# The Jim Civale Family – Your Missionaries to Samoa

*The harvest truly is great, but the labourers are few: pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he would send forth labourers into his harvest. Luke 10:2*

## Prayer Letter - September 16, 2010

Dear Praying Friends,

Where I grew up, autumn is coming. The leaves are changing colors and the harvest is coming in. Here in Samoa, it is as green and hot and humid as ever. But what a harvest we're reaping! We hit three digits this month. Who would have thought that in seven months we'd have over one hundred in a village church in the most remote part of Samoa!

Since we last wrote, three more have been saved, baptized and added; two others walked the aisle to receive Christ as Savior; two young children joined the Sunday School program, and many visitors have attended Asau Baptist Church. Praise the Lord of the harvest!

As exciting as all these salvation and baptism decisions are, church planting entails much more than evangelizing the lost. It also involves encouraging, edifying, exhorting, equipping, and educating believers. As such, we find ourselves working "24-7" in this great work. Praise God for blessing the labors, though. Remember Isaako, that man with one arm to whom our son Joey witnessed a few months ago. Well, he surrendered to preach at last night's Bible study and asked for our help to train him. He said to Emi and me, "Maybe I can only serve God with one hand, but I can serve him with my whole heart." Praise the Lord of the Harvest!



*Malia and her husband, Siaupiu, were baptized and added to Asau Baptist Church earlier this month.*

Another man named Tala stepped up to serve, too. Tala joined ten of us who went to the island of Upolu from September 6<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> for a Bible Conference with four other Baptist churches. The theme of the conference was "What Is a Church?" I had the privilege of preaching twice, including the closing message, "What Is a Baptist Church?" We all returned to Asau with exciting testimonies. One even praised the Lord for having his first chance ever to go to McDonald's! Tala came back wanting to serve the Lord however he could in his local church. I had exactly the job for him – lead the Wednesday services. You should have seen his wife beaming as she held their baby son and watched him lead the songs, deliver welcoming remarks, take up prayer requests, and call me up to preach. Friends, he did a great job. Thank God for those willing to labor.

Earlier this month, we also had the privilege of helping four couples in the church who were not properly married to make things right before God and man. Sadly, many couples here just join together and start a family without marrying in order to avoid the costly cultural demands of a Samoan wedding (i.e. presenting fine mats, pigs, cows, cases of canned fish, corned beef, and large amounts of money). In response to a challenging message about fearing one's culture more than one's Creator, these couples came to the altar, asking how to make their relationships right. What an honor it has been to help them. They are all now properly and legally married.

Thank you, friends, for praying for us and providing for us as we labor in Samoa.

Please continue to pray...

1. for souls to be saved, baptized, and added
2. for strong discipleship and steady growth of our believers
3. for the Lord of the harvest to send forth more laborers
4. for the Lord's provision for our building project (more details on this in the next prayer letter)

Thank you.

Sincerely and gratefully,  
*Jim & Emi Civale*

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