

JIM AND EMI CIVALE — YOUR MISSIONARIES TO SAMOA

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

PRAYER LETTER ~ OCTOBER 1, 2016

Dear Friends,

As usual, we have our hands full with the multi-faceted work of the ministry here in Samoa. With preparations for Children's Sunday on October 9th, the start-up of our fourth quarter of the school year on September 12th, and the continued work with the Bible college, we have been keeping busy. We have a new enrollee in the Bible college, Uiki Tanielu, and we are very happy with his decision. You can barely see him in the picture to the right. He is in the back row on the far right, over the shoulder of the girl in the purple top. Please pray for him in this new endeavor and direction in his life.



In the church, we have seen our piano player return to full-time service after taking some time off. She has jumped right back in and has not missed a beat. Her understudy is also continuing to play and I thank God for both of them. I very much appreciate the help of our missionary team member who filled in (Miss Jenn did a great job!) but at the same time, I am delighted to see our local church members serving the Lord and filling the needs in the ministry. We indigenous-church-planting missionaries are always working ourselves out of a job! The two young ladies I am speaking of are in the front row, the second and fourth from the left.

Our men who filled the pulpit while I was away last month reportedly did a fine job and I was glad to return to the church with no problems or concerns to speak of. It gives me more confidence as we prepare for our furlough in a few months.

We have had an exodus of a few families over the last three months. One moved to another island in our chain and unfortunately, they are not near a Baptist church. We have such a need for laborers! Another family – the one that just joined our church a few months ago – has decided to go back to their old church since their old pastor has left and a new one has come. I did not realize that they were really just coming to our church until the previous pastor left. I do pray that they were genuinely saved and that their baptism was not just for the sake of expediency. I understand that the chiefs from their former church went and wooed them back. At least the head of the family came and told us and left amicably; that often is not the case. The three older children of another family all moved to New Zealand to seek educational opportunities. We have another family that left because they were banished from the village. The wife was saved, baptized, and added to the church about a year ago, but her husband, even though he attended services on and off, would not accept Christ as Savior because he did not want to give up the bottle. He ended up getting drunk one evening and got involved in some ugly, immoral behavior. Because this was repeated conduct and he had been warned before by the village council of chiefs, there was no recourse when they declared that he and his family were to be banished. Despite the loss of church members, the core of the church has remained very strong and faithful. I am especially impressed with our men in the Bible College who are loving their study of Revelation.

2017 FURLOUGH

(REVISED DATES)

Our next furlough will be from **January to October 2017.**

Please let us know if you would like to have us in for a missions conference or meeting.

We would love to see you!

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The school is in full swing and Emi continues to amaze me with how much she and her teachers accomplish with so few resources. With only eight weeks left in the school year, the staff will be very busy teaching as much as they can in the time remaining, as well as preparing for the kindergarten graduation and school-wide awards assembly.

Thank you so much for your prayers for our family and the ministries. Please keep it up!

Your grateful friends,

Jim & Emi Civale

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