

Dear Praying Friends,

Late in October, we sent our son and daughter-in-law (Joey and Love) to American Samoa for a couple months to stay with one of the families in our first church plant. The reason for the relocation was that Love had begun her third trimester and we wanted her to have access to the medical services there. We also wanted the baby to be born in a U.S. territory to make citizenship issues easier.

Three days after they arrived in American Samoa, they went in for their first prenatal check-up. Almost immediately, the doctor told them that Love needed to be admitted to hospital right away. The extent of Love's water retention and her extremely high blood pressure were dangerous for the baby. One nurse even told them to be prepared for the loss of the child. Joey called to let Emi and me know what was going on and to ask for prayers. Emi and I turned over all school and church responsibilities in a matter of hours so that we could leave our house at 3 AM to catch the first boat to the next island and the earliest possible flight over to American Samoa. When we arrived, Love was on extremely restricted visitation (only Joey could stay with her and Emi and I were only allowed five minutes one at a time). Love was kept in a private room that was to be kept dark. We were told that the baby would not be able to get the proper amount of oxygen and nourishment because of Love's condition but that the heartbeat was good and the size of the baby was adequate for a premature birth. The doctors then gave medicine to induce labor, but Love did not respond at all; later, a second dose and still no response; a third dose was given and still no reaction. The doctor told us that he would give four more hours and then break her water and prep her for an operation.

From the moment Joey called us, we implored God to protect mother and baby and employed others in that powerful practice. As the four hours dwindled down, we had concluded that we had prayed the best we knew how for God to allow Love to give birth naturally but that we wanted nothing more than His will. Although we were only about twenty-five feet from the delivery room, the hallway to those doors felt like they were twenty-five times twenty-five miles long. Then the text came from Joey that her water broke on its own... and then that she went into labor on her own... and then that Emiliana Faith Civale entered this world at 4:14 pm, weighing 5 pounds, 4 ounces.

No matter what had happened, we would declare the same, that God is good, but we are most grateful to be able to say those words in celebration rather than consolation.

Baby "Millie" was kept in the hospital for five days and Love for four, but both were released in good health. Emi and I made our way back to Asau over the next couple of days. On November 20th/21st, at 15 days old, Millie took her first airplane flight, a thirty-minute flight from American Samoa across the dateline to Samoa. Later that day, she took her first boat ride from Upolu island to her home island of Savaii. We are now all five home together, praise God.

May I just say that I LOVE being a grandfather. Pray for me that I'll keep up with the many demands of the ministry here, because at the moment I just want to hold Millie, sing silly songs to her, and forget that there is anything else in the world to do. And then when Mom and Dad must have her back, all I want to do is look at all the pictures of her. And, please pray that I don't use all of the support that is so sacrificially provided to buy things for baby that she doesn't even need, because I am smitten. While in American Samoa, Emi and I walked into a store for "one thing," a car seat. We left with a basinet, a pack-n-play, and the niftiest car seat/baby carrier they had. Well, it's good to be back on our own island where a long ride, a sea voyage, and a flight insulate us from going back to that store every other day!

Our space is up for this prayer letter. We'll tell you about the life-long, elderly Mormon woman who got saved and wants to be baptized when we write next month. And we'll tell you about the end of the school year, too. Thank you again and again for your faithful prayers and support and have a most Merry Christmas.

~ *Jim & Emi Civale*

JIM AND EMI CIVALE

MISSIONARIES TO SAMOA

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

PRAYER LETTER

DECEMBER 2015



Emiliana "Millie" Faith Civale

Born November 5th, 2015

4:14 pm, 5 lbs. 4 oz.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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

SENDING CHURCH

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

SUPPORT ADDRESS

Jim Civale (#1325)
Baptist International Missions, Inc.
P.O. Box 9215 / Chattanooga, TN 37412
Field Director Rev. Steven Maldoff
(423) 344-5050