

The Jim Civale Family

Missionaries to Samoa

February 1, 2012

For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts. Isaiah 55:9



Chief Lotu Elisaia will be ordained as a deacon this month. He is seen here delivering a powerful message last month. It thrills my soul to see Samoan men preaching to Samoan people.

Dear Praying Friends,

“Should I take the car with me or leave it behind?”

This is what I asked myself as I prepared to take the ferry from our island over to next to go to the capital. “The cost of taking the car would probably even out with the cost of taxis and it would be a lot more convenient,” I reasoned. Nevertheless, I felt impressed to leave it behind. An hour and a half later, when I disembarked on the other side, the usual crowd of taxi drivers shoving and shouting to get their fares greeted the throng of passengers. In the midst of that chaos, a young man I never met before caught my attention. “Pastor, do you need a cab?” He asked. With that I handed him my suitcase and followed him to his car. The ID hanging from his mirror told me his name was Jason; the rosary told me he was Roman Catholic. “Lord, guide this conversation,” I silently prayed... We weren’t even out of the parking lot when Jason asked if he could ask me some questions. He was Catholic but was questioning his church, he told me. He was not living the way he should, he confessed, and wanted to know how to make a real change. His wife and mother-in-law were Jehovah’s Witnesses and were trying to persuade him to convert, but he knew that wasn’t right, either. “Do you have any advice for me, pastor?” Praise God, it was not long before we were simultaneously traveling down the road to town and the Roman’s Road. When we arrived at my destination, I paid Jason and motioned to leave. “Pastor,” he said, “Please don’t go. I want to say that prayer that you told me about on the road. Can you teach me how.” Hallelujah! There in his Hyundai in the small village of Vaoala, on the island of Upolu, Jason placed his faith in Jesus Christ as Savior.

Praise God for Jason’s salvation! At the same time, pray to God for more laborers, asking God if you might be one of those laborers He is calling to Samoa. You see, Jason’s village is the better part of a day’s travel by land and sea from us and there is no gospel-preaching church anywhere near him. Jason told me that his village has a Mormon, JW, and Catholic church -- but no church that tells people how to get saved. He said he wished someone would start a Bible study in his village because he has so many more questions and his family needs to hear the truth.

Let me also thank you for your prayers last month regarding the situation with our head deacon’s wife. I am pleased to report that she came to seek forgiveness from Emi and me on January 22, and that she apologized to the church and was restored back into fellowship on January 29. It was a long two months, but God used the event to teach our fledgling church how to deal with divisions, to exercise church discipline, and to forgive as Christ forgave us. Thank you for praying us through this situation and for all you do for us and the people of Samoa.

Sincerely and gratefully,
Jim & Emi Civale

A few other highlights and prayer requests...

1. ABC Academy started its second school year, expanding from preschool to elementary with the addition of 1st grade. Emi and her teachers are off to a great start. Please pray for a great 2nd year.
2. One of our church members, Stella, gave birth to twins last month. She and her husband named them after our twins, Michael and Carol!
3. Twenty of our first thirty-nine boxes arrived last week. The other nineteen are supposed to arrive any day. Our completed Samoan New Testaments, Bible tracts, and remaining cargo are in North Carolina due to some shipping delays. Please pray for the logistics and provisions needed to see them shipped soon.
4. Please pray for two visitors to the church who appear to be under conviction to make decisions soon.
5. In February we will ordain two new deacons and celebrate our second anniversary as a church.

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