

# The Civale Family Prayer Letter

December 1, 2013

*And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Matthew 1:21*

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Dear Praying Friends,

I hope you all enjoyed your Thanksgiving and have some great Christmas plans. Emi is en route to the U.S. as I write and everyone around me says the excitement is written all over my face. Emi and I have been apart for six months and we will not only be reunited, but also have our first Christmas together with all four children in five years, so there certainly is excitement in the air. Although it's been hard to be apart, Emi and I have seen God at work in both of our lives and locations. Among other things, He has worked wonderfully to advance the ministry projects we have been prioritizing.

## **Samoan Bible Project – BEAMS (hard-cover Bibles)**

As you know, our Samoan Bible is finished and at the printers. Well, something very exciting happened last month. It was a Saturday and shortly after I began a three-and-a-half hour trip from one church to another, a friend called me and asked if I was listening to FBN Radio. When I told him I wasn't, he told me to pull over and download the FBN Radio app on my iPhone (and if you're not sure what that techno-speak means, neither did I a few short months ago). As I began driving again and listening to FBN, I heard the announcer sharing details about our hard-cover Samoan Bible project which was undertaken by a ministry called BEAMS. He mentioned the need for \$40,000 to cover the cost of 5000 Bibles. You see, the radio station was conducting their share-a-thon to raise their operational funds and the Lord met their goal ten hours early. Then, Pastor Clyde Eborn, whom I had never met before, decided to use their remaining ten hours to raise funds to help us with the Samoan Bible Project. As I drove, I heard people from all over the country (and a few from Canada) calling in donations and challenges for matching donations. Even after I arrived at my destination, I remained glued to the radio. At 9:57 pm, three minutes before the ten hours would end and normal programming would resume, the donations met and exceeded the \$40,000 goal. Friends, the entire hard-cover project (plus an additional \$600) was provided for in ten hours! Only God...

That's not the end of the story, either. When I called FBN to thank them, Pastor Eborn invited me down to his church to present our ministry and to spend time with his radio station manager and engineer, Dwayne Ebron and David Robinson, who shared much knowledge and resources.

## **Samoan Bible Project – BEACON OF TRUTH**

(soft-cover Bibles and New Testaments)

The other printer, Beacon of Truth Baptist Ministries, is already printing our soft-cover Bibles and New Testaments by faith, even though they have not raised all that is needed to fund the project. They are also coordinating the shipping of all of the Bibles (hard and soft cover) as well as many other items for the school and radio station in Samoa. Therefore, any gifts given toward the Samoan Bible Project at this point will be sent to Beacon of Truth to cover both printing and shipping costs.

## **Radio Station Project**

Since writing you last, I went twice to Beaver Spring, PA, where I underwent training in setting up and operating our radio station and the use of sound-editing and automation software. As this was all totally new to me, I had a lot to learn and I am very grateful to Pastor Denny Mallonee, Faith Baptist Church, and their engineer, Bro. Clint Heiser. They invested much time and resources to be sure I had all that I needed.

## **SHAPE (Samoan Hymn and Piano Education) Program**

God has provided us with a teacher and the necessary equipment and materials for our SHAPE program which will begin in February. Emi and I will be spending a few days with Miss Hannah and her church and family in December and then we will fly with her to Samoa in January.

## **Bus Ministry Project**

This is the only project that has not advanced since our last prayer letter, so please pray for the Lord's provision for this important project. Last year, when we distributed Samoan New Testaments to our neighboring five villages, we heard over and over from people that they would come to our church if they had a way. Very, very few people have cars on our island and the local buses do not run on Sundays. Therefore, we wish to start a bus ministry not only to pick people up from their villages, but also to develop inroads to plant churches in those villages. So, let's pray together for this need.

May your remaining weeks of 2013 be filled with the joy and love of Jesus Christ, and your new year with much victory.

Joyfully and gratefully,

*Jim & Emi*

**PRAYER REQUEST** *On December 25<sup>th</sup> 1996, I received the greatest Christmas present ever. It has been my desire ever since to share that gift with others. Please pray for opportunities, wisdom, and boldness to do exactly that as I visit over the holidays with friends and family.*