

# The Civale Family

## Your Missionaries to the Samoan Islands



July 1, 2016

Dear Pastor or Missions Director,

Greetings from Samoa! We are Jim and Emi Civale, BIMl missionaries since 2006. We are currently planting our second church in the Samoan Islands and are looking forward to planting a third after our 2017 furlough.

We pray that you would consider having us in to present our burden for souls in Samoa. It would certainly be our honor to minister to you and your people while in the U.S. and then to serve on your behalf when we return to the field.

The Lord has done some dramatic things in our lives that we would like to share...

- (1) He saved us and called us out of Catholicism:** Emi and I were devout Roman Catholics with plans to join the priesthood and convent. After studying for seven years at Jesuit universities, I was challenged to prove my former faith from the Bible in order to convince one of my brothers to remain in the Catholic Church. Instead, the Holy Spirit convinced me to trust Christ alone as my Savior and to seek a Bible-believing, Christ-centered, salvation-preaching church. In 1996, I entered the doors of the church I would later come to restart in my living room and pastor for seven years before being called as a full-time, church-planting missionary. Emi and I have found that the full story of God's grace in converting and calling us has been an encouragement to many over the years. We would love to share that with your church. If you would like to preview our testimony of salvation, please visit the "About Us" tab at our website. (<https://jimcivale.edifyhub.com/>)
- (2) He directed us to start a second church plant in a remote, closed village:** In 2009, the Lord directed us to turn over our first work and to move from the eastern to the western part of the chain of islands comprising American Samoa and (Independent) Samoa. The move would be dramatic – from a developing to a third world country, from a U.S. territory to an independent nation, from one side of international dateline to the other, from using U.S. currency to Samoan currency, from driving on the right to driving on the left, and most significantly, from enjoying religious freedom to experiencing the lack thereof. It would take us eighteen long months to persuade the village chiefs to approve our request to start a new church. If you would like to preview how God marvelously opened Asau village, please visit the "Videos" tab on our website.

**(3) He impressed and equipped us to publish a Samoan translation of the Bible:** When our second church plant quickly jumped from less than ten to more than one hundred members, we saw a great need. Almost no one had a Samoan Bible. In fact, there were only six copies in the whole congregation. One was a Mormon copy with their other books included, two were Catholic copies with the apocryphal books included, and three were later, spurious translations of the Samoan Bible. The older translation was no longer being printed and the newer one cost more than any of our church members made in a month. The Lord impressed us to address this need in various ways. We started by translating and printing several tracts. Then, we digitalized the entire Samoan Bible with a tremendous team of volunteers. The digitalized document became the basis for Samoan John and Romans booklets, New Testaments, and whole Bibles. With the help of several great printing ministries, we have printed, shipped, and distributed 7,500 whole Bibles, 10,000 New Testaments, 60,000 John and Romans booklets, and countless Bible tracts to more than twenty-five villages. The Lord also put us in touch with several software publishers who used our digitalized document to make the Samoan Scriptures available on computers, smart phones, and other handheld devices. This has provided the people of Samoa with their first and only computerized Bible search and research tools. We cannot begin to explain what a difference it has made in Samoa for people to have access to the Word of God in their own language!

**(4) He led us to open and operate a Christian School and Bible Institute**

General literacy is a prerequisite for Biblical literacy. This basic truth led my wife to begin ABC Academy, a ministry of Asau Baptist Church. ABC Academy started with six students in 2011 but now enrolls ninety preschool and primary students. We also operate a Bible Institute in order to train preachers and teachers.

Thank you for considering our request to present the burden and vision God has given us. Please let us know your feedback.

Sincerely and gratefully,



Jim and Emi Civale  
Samoan Islands, Acts 20:21

**Sending Church:** [Dry Run Independent Baptist Church, Duncansville, PA](#)    **Pastor:** [Rev. John Leatherman \(814\) 695-6318](#)  
**Mission Board:** [Baptist International Missions, Inc. BIM](#)    **Field Director:** [Rev. Steven Maldoff \(423\) 344-5050](#)

**Furlough address:** [145 Chesterfield-Crosswicks Rd, Chesterfield, NJ 08515](#)

**Email:** [civalejim@yahoo.com](mailto:civalejim@yahoo.com)    **Website:** <https://jimcivale.edifyhub.com/>    **Telephone (after Mar 1, 2017):** [\(609\)-357-8404](tel:(609)357-8404)

**NOTE:** We will be on the field until March of 2017, so email is the best way to contact us We can also be reached at **011-685-758-7232**