

JIM AND EMI CIVALE — YOUR MISSIONARIES TO SAMOA

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

PRAYER LETTER/MONTHLY UPDATE - JANUARY 6, 2018

Dear Friends,

On New Year's Eve, Emi and I walked from our son's car to the airport entrance on a frigid, 12° evening in New York City. A few hours later, the New Year began for us at an altitude of about 35,000 feet. Nearly 36 hours after that, we walked across the tarmac on a humid, 87° day at the airport in Samoa. Praise God, we left the U.S. just before the "bomb cyclone" struck the east coast. We have been praying much for our children, grandchildren and many friends in that region dealing with those extreme conditions.

As we write this month, we have not yet made it over to the island of Savaii to be reunited with our church folks there. Instead, we are spending the week in the capital clearing our container through customs. The process has provided ample opportunity for patience to have her perfect work. I pray that by the time you receive our letter, the process will be completed. On Tuesday we dealt with the handling company who could not locate the container paperwork for several hours and then could not process it because the necessary details had not been sent from the previous location. They asked us to come back the next day. We returned to hear

that they still did not have the details and that I should sit there at their desk so no one else comes and distracts them from working on our case. Over the next three hours, I made friends with the whole office staff. In fact, once everything is cleared, I plan to go back and give them each a Bible! Our next stop was at the desk of the customs agent assigned to clear our container. His job would be to verify the contents, to assure that the cargo is properly fumigated by the Ministry of Agriculture, and to assign values for the Ministry of Finance. That process has taken another two days and is not yet done at the time of writing this update. After we stood in the sun for several hours, the custom's agent invited me in to the air conditioned offices of



the Ministry of Finance and I got to make new friends over the next few hours. More opportunities to distribute Bibles! Patience or "onosa'i" goes a LONG way in Samoa and if you pass their tests, you open doors for years to come. Although I am not a naturally patient person, my years here and God's grace have helped me grow in this area. We are now at the final stage of having the values determined for taxes and customs costs. We have appealed to the Minister of Finance to waive all the fees and are awaiting his final decision. We have gone through the Member of Parliament from our district in Savaii who has nieces at our school and has been our honored guest at our last two graduations. He believes that we will get significant help and has praised our "onosa'i" so far.

We look forward to getting over to Savaii in a few more days. At that point we will be focused on preparing the church to host a fourteen-person mission team from January 29 to February 8. There are numerous events we will be coordinating during the mission trip – Brother Sopo's ordination, the blessing of the Bibles, a medical clinic, a youth camp, a Children's Bible program, and the renovation and set-up of our Bible College/Computer Lab. Emi and I are very excited about all that lies ahead in 2018. At the same time, we are most thankful as we look back over 2017. Thank you to all of our friends and supporters! You were so good to us last year. God has been faithful to bring our support back up and has fully funded our Samoan Bible campaign, even providing a nearly \$1,000 buffer. We thank Him and each of you for such great faithfulness.

Joyfully His and yours,
Jim & Emi Civalé

PHONE (571) 389 - 0717 (until 12/30) 011-685-772-6760 (after 1/1) EMAIL civalejim@yahoo.com WEBSITE jimcivale.edifyhub.com

SENT BY Dry Run Independent Baptist Church www.dryrunchurch.com

SENT THROUGH Baptist International Missions, Inc. www.bimi.org