

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 - FEBRUARY 1, 2018

Dear Friends,

Thank you so much for your prayers during our first month back. It has been one extremely busy month of ministry. I last wrote when we had just arrived in Samoa and were in the capital beginning the process of clearing our container. It would take a total of eleven days to get the the job done. Although it took longer and cost more than we had ever imagined, we were happy to be back home on our island of Savaii at last on January 12th with all of our cargo in tact.

Two days later, I preached for my first time being back in Samoa and God blessed mightily. We had a full altar with many people making important decisions about serving the Lord as faithful witnesses. One man for whom we have been praying since the church started in 2010 was the first to walk the aisle, coming forward for salvation. I prayed with him briefly at the altar and invited him up to the house immediately after the service. Over the last seven years, I probably counseled seriously with him three or four different times, not counting many other encounters and visits. Each time he simply said, "I am not ready, yet."

Praise God, on the 14th of January, he was ready and received Christ as Savior! Two weeks later, on the 28th, he was baptized and added to Asau Baptist Church.



Please pray for Talking Chief Laufafaitoga Sone as he walks in newness of life. It was very sweet that his elderly mother visited the service to witness his baptism. After the service Emi told me that she was crying in joy to see her son baptized.



I also counseled with another couple last week who have begun attending our church but are not yet saved. We had a great meeting during which I was able to discuss many things with them and give a clear presentation of the gospel of grace. I believe that they will be saved soon and ask for your prayers to that end. Their children have been saved, baptized, and added to the church here several years ago, but up until a couple months ago, they attended the Mormon church. Please pray for Atonio and Tovaega.

The school part of our ministry has increased again this year, growing to 117 students in the first week of school. We heard earlier today that four more are coming tomorrow to enroll. Emi has lost two of her really good teachers this year and is short-staffed, so please pray for her. I am glad to see that the remaining teachers have really stepped up and are doing a good job, but we need help more than ever with this expanding ministry. Please also pray for Emi as her leg has been bothering her and she has been frustrated with being limited to the amount she can get done. If you ask me, though, she still works harder than anyone I know.

I am leaving in the morning to head over to American Samoa to meet our visiting mission team. My pastor and assistant pastor and several others from our sending church are less than twenty-four hours away from boarding their flights as I write. Please pray for their travels and for each of the events they are involved in. I am sure that our next prayer letter will be filled with details of how the Lord used them here in the village of Asau.

Emi and I now have a U.S. phone number that you can use to call us here in Samoa, (609) 379-2992 . Feel free to call us but please be mindful of the time difference. Just google "What time is it in Apia, Samoa?" before you call.

Your grateful friends,
Jim & Emi Civalé