



# JIM & EMI CIVALE

## MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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



May 24, 2018

Dear friends,

We can sum up May in three words — motion, mothers, and mourning. With Mother's Day services on May 13<sup>th</sup> and two funerals the week after, everyone in our church and village was in constant *motion* this month. On top of all that activity, Emi was on the run with her already-understaffed school having one teacher out sick and another who travelled. We also held school-wide performances for the parents and hosted a missionary from Australia for two weeks. Miss Sharon Emonson (pictured to the right) did a good job and sure helped ease Emi's load. Sharon has now returned to Australia for a month and will then serve in the Solomon island for a few weeks. She will return to Samoa in mid-July to stay until the school year ends in November. The church members were also on the move preparing for one of the funerals and the Mother's day services. That brings us to our second word.



Our church is blessed with a great group of *mothers*. This year our assistant pastor's wife, Mrs. Kalala, organized both services. In the morning, the older mothers shared testimonies and special items. Their skit on the wise and foolish virgins especially moved many to tears. In the evening, the younger mothers did a lovely job, too. The fathers and youth decorated the church and presented the mothers with flower and candy *ulas* (necklaces). Each family prepared feasts to honor the mothers and sent platters up to our house, too, in Emi's honor. It was fun watching Sharon's shock as one family after another came and presented platters of fish, lobster, pork, taro, and breadfruit.

Our third word, *mourning*, refers to the fact that we had two funerals in the village this month. The first was for an elderly woman named Ana (her family is pictured to the right), and the second for Ripena, the wife of one of the village pastors. Ripena passed away suddenly at fifty-two years old. In Samoa, pastors are afforded greater respect that even the highest chiefs and government leaders, so Ripena's funeral was especially elaborate and culturally demanding. It lasted five days, involved just about everyone in the village, and was attended by many, many visitors from outside the village. Please pray for comfort for the two families and that the many seeds of the gospel that were sown would take root.



Beginning on June 2<sup>nd</sup>, Emi and I will be hosting Ms. Anna Stockman, a teacher from the state of Virginia, who will be serving with us for two months. We are grateful for her much-needed help and praise God for the way he brought the planning for this trip to pass over the last few weeks.

As always, we thank you very much for all you do for us and the people of Samoa.

*-Jim & Emi Civala*

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