

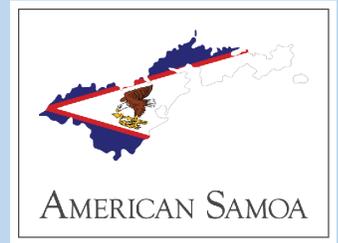


JIM & EMI CIVALE

MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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

JANUARY 6, 2019



Dear friends,

We pray that you all had a joyful Christmas and are enjoying God's blessings in this new year. Five weeks ago we wrote you just before we left Samoa for our medical leave trip to the US. We are now writing a week before heading back to Samoa. Thank you for your prayers for Emi's health. We have gotten solid answers and good help while here in the US and are ready to return to the works in Samoa and American Samoa.

To summarize, we went to an orthopaedic specialist two days after arriving in the US. Those initial tests and x-rays confirmed that Emi's leg pains were not muscle-related, as previously diagnosed in Samoa, but nerve-related. The x-rays revealed bone growth and bone spurs that were aggravating Emi's lower spine, causing inflammation, and pinching a nerve that ran down her leg. Emi had been experiencing much pain in that leg for over a year and had been advised to do stretches and exercises, but they did not improve matters. The first doctor here in the US gave some anti-inflammatory and some nerve medications that provided temporary relief and allowed Emi to sleep through the night for the first time in a very long time. He also ordered an MRI, but our insurance denied it. A second doctor advocated on our behalf and our insurance agency then approved it. The MRI confirmed what the x-rays revealed and an injection in Emi's lower spine was ordered. As we are writing, Emi has not yet had the injection (it's scheduled for Tuesday, January 8, at 9:00 AM). Please pray that all goes well and that Emi enjoys long-term relief—even better, a permanent cure.



While in the US, we were able to see all of our children and both of our grandchildren. What a blessing it was to spend time with them! We were also blessed to meet my nephew, Sammy, for the first time (he's pictured to the right; our granddaughters to the left). God was so good to work it out that my sister Susan traveled from England the same time we traveled from Samoa, so we could meet up in New Jersey.



As hard as the family good-byes always are, we are excited to get back to Asau Baptist Church and ABC Academy in Samoa as well as Vai o le Ola Baptist Church

in American Samoa. From all accounts, the Word was preached faithfully and things went well in our absence.

One month after we return, we will be hosting a missions team coming to do a few construction projects. It is looking like it will be a twelve to fifteen-member team — some from Canada, some from the US, and some from New Zealand.

Thank you for your faithful prayers, steady financial support, and the many Christmas gifts and cards we received. Have a blessed 2019!

Jim & Emi

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