



JIM & EMI CIVALE

MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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

APRIL 1, 2019 (ISSUED EARLY)



Dear Friends,

I spent most of March in American Samoa while Emi was in Samoa. As I am writing this, Emi and I are preparing for a one-week trip to New Zealand to preach a conference at one church and single services at two others. We will also visit some church members who relocated from Samoa to New Zealand over the last couple of years. It will be a busy week but we are excited to see what the Lord will do. Please pray for safe travels and fruitful results. It is interesting to note that there are more Samoan people living in New Zealand than there are in Samoa itself. We look forward to meeting more of the Samoan diaspora as this will be our second trip in as many years to minister to Samoans living abroad.

In American Samoa, we saw two people baptized and added to the church, one in his fifties and the other in her forties. Brother Alex has been saved for some years now and has attended the services regularly with his wife, Flo, who was saved, baptized, and added over ten years ago. Flo, Emi, and I have prayed for Alex to take that next step for all these years and were thrilled to see the Lord answer that prayer. Over the last six months, Alex asked several questions about baptism and I sensed that he was considering the matter seriously. Nonetheless, I was still surprised when he asked me over lunch if I would be willing to baptize him. Kiristina, on the other hand, walked forward at the alter call two Sundays ago and trusted Christ as Savior later that week in our living room. It was her desire to follow the Lord in believer's baptism and be joined to the church as soon as I felt she was ready. Please pray for both of our new church members as they grow in grace and knowledge of our Savior. We also had the joy of dedicating two young children to the Lord. Lydia, who is Alex and Flo's daughter, recently moved back from the US to American Samoa with her husband, Pita. Lydia was saved and baptized at our church years ago and her husband at another Baptist church. Last month they came forward for membership and soon after arranged to have their children, Jadiel and Aiden, dedicated. It was lovely to have the children, their parents, and both sets of grandparents at the dedication.



We praise the Lord for the continual growth of the church and thank you all for your prayers. Emi and I are looking forward to seeing both churches turned over to national pastors over the next year and we ask you to pray with us to that end. There are still so many Samoan people to reach with the gospel and such a great need for many more Baptist church plants in Samoa. Having two churches that are rooted and grounded could certainly help us advance in that direction.

In Samoa, the church and school operated steadily with some visitors to the church, our new deacons serving joyfully, and the school finishing it's first quarter. Thank you, as always, for your prayers, friendship, and support.

Jim & Emi

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