

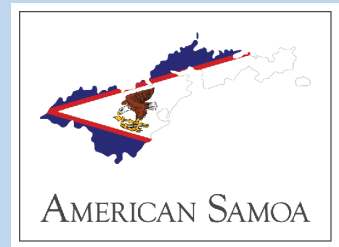


JIM & EMI CIVALE

MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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

APRIL 20, 2021 (FOR MAY 1)



Dear Praying Friends,

Praise God for the “April showers” this month! Most of you receiving this letter are familiar with that expression, marking the time when Spring springs forth from winter. In the South Pacific, April marks the end of our hotter, more humid rainy season and the beginning of the milder, less cyclone-prone half of the year. At Asau Baptist church, we have very much welcomed the changing season and its accompanying showers of blessings.



April started off with well-attended Resurrection Sunday services. At the end of the morning service, as I was shaking hands with people, one of our youth members declared, “Pastor, I want to be baptized!” I knew Ioane had trusted Christ as Savior at an altar call several months earlier and I was thrilled that he wanted to take that next great step of obedience. So, we scheduled his baptism for two weeks later. Ioane’s decision to follow the Lord in baptism started a beautiful chain reaction that led to nine others joining him on the 18th! On top of all that, on the day of all those baptisms, two others placed their faith in Christ and said they want to be baptized, too. They are likely to do so in the month of May. Friends, we had endured some stormy weather and painful pruning in March, but April brought us a calmer climate and beautiful blossoms!

On the Lord’s Day between Resurrection Sunday and the day we baptized the ten, Brother Malaki Lei Sam preached for us. He was on our island of Savaii to serve as an election worker.

The Lord used his messages greatly to encourage our people as well as me personally. Malaki included his testimony of salvation in his morning message. He had been in American Samoa at the time and I had the joy to lead him to the Lord back then. I had forgotten the circumstances God had allowed in Malaki’s life to ripen him for the reaping. How humbling to be reminded how God did all that work in Malaki’s heart some fourteen years ago and then allowed me to be in the place to reap a golden harvest. It got me thinking of all the others God used since to mold Malaki into the man of God he is today. I thought of the the missionary who discipled him in American Samoa after I left the first church plant, and of the other missionary in Samoa who trained Malaki as deacon, encouraged him through Bible college, and molded him as a pastoral candidate. I cannot tell you how encouraging Malaki’s testimony was. It was exactly what I needed, exactly when I needed it.



Pastoral Candidate Malaki Lei Sam
Guest Preacher from Lighthouse Baptist Church, Upolu—April 11

Please continue to pray for healing, growth, and the future leadership of Asau Baptist Church. Please also pray for a village to open up for our third church plant in God’s perfect timing. We had been waiting for the outcome of the national election before re-approaching the village. Two weeks after the votes were cast, we are still waiting. Our fifty-one seat Parliament now has fifty filled by one party, fifty by another, and one by a man who ran as an independent who has suddenly become a kingmaker. Whichever party he chooses to caucus with will gain the majority and appoint our next Prime Minister. The entire country of Samoa is holding it’s breath as the kingmaker “consults with his constituency” before making a final decision.

May God bless each of you during the month of May, especially the mothers on their special day on the 9th.

Your grateful friends,
Jim & Emi Civale



Ioane Faith Annie Perenise Masina Leilua Simi Tom Taotafa Lupu’a



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