

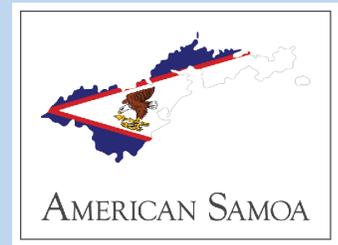


JIM & EMI CIVALE

MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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

FEBRUARY 2020



Dear Friends,

Greetings from Samoa! It is good to be back after our month away. We were pleased but not surprised to see that the two churches fared well in our absence. In American Samoa, they nearly completed the pastor's house on the church land and have finalized the preparations to do a full-scale pastor search. In Samoa, they have prepared well for the ordination, ground-breaking, and other events connected with our tenth anniversary celebrations next week. The success of both churches in our absence further confirms that we are on the right path as we prepare to turn them over fully to local leadership.

As we move more and more into the background this year, we are seeking the Lord as to our next steps. What will the road ahead look like for us? A third church plant? More focus on equipping national men to plant churches? Concentrating on the Samoan hymnal, study Bible, concordance, and Bible college material projects? Focusing more on completing the Samoan Bible distribution to every village and home? As you know, we are involved to some degree in all of these endeavors already, but they are secondary to our direct church-planting work. Will the Lord lead us to make some adjustments to our priorities in these areas or even call us to something different altogether? We do not know yet, but what we do know is that God is faithful to reveal His perfect will in His perfect timing. Please pray that Emi and I will be sensitive to His Spirit, attentive to His voice, and responsive to His calling. Our short-term plans going forward are to turn over both churches completely in 2020, to take our next full furlough in 2021 (our last was in 2017), and to continue following His leading through it all. It might be early to mention our 2021 furlough, but since we have, if any of our supporting churches would like us to report in next year or participate in missions conferences, please let us know and we will plan accordingly.

In just a few days, we will welcome guests from Hawaii and New Zealand who will be coming to celebrate the tenth anniversary of Asau Baptist Church. While with us they will...

- Sit on an ordination council and participate in an ordination service for our incoming assistant pastor
- Witness our current assistant pastor being installed as the senior pastor of Asau Baptist Church
- Join hands with our church members to dedicate the land where we will build our fellowship hall this year
- Assist with the completion of our new baptistery and other projects
- Minister with Emi and the teachers in the school ministry
- Preach and teach in our church services and school ministry.

Please pray that God is glorified through it all.

Thank you for praying the last few months during the measles epidemic in Samoa. After claiming ninety lives, the disease has run its course and the state of emergency has been lifted. Please continue to pray for those who are grieving.

Before we close, one last bit of exciting news. Our latest shipment of Samoan Bibles (21,975 of them!) and 20,000 Samoan tracts has just left *Beacon of Truth Baptist Ministries* in Florence, South Carolina. As you can see to the right, every inch of the container has been filled with the Samoan Bibles. Please pray for their safe arrival and good reception as we continue our village-to-village and house-to-house distributions. *Beacon of Truth* has raised all the funds for the printing and shipping and we are most grateful to Dr. Dan Hummel, his great team, and all who gave to this project. Emi and I will only incur customs, clearing, and inter-island transporting costs which will be about \$3,500. Please pray in those funds. We are expecting the shipping container you see above to arrive in American Samoa on March 17th. Thank you again and again for your many prayers for us and the people of Samoa.



Jim & Emi Civale



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