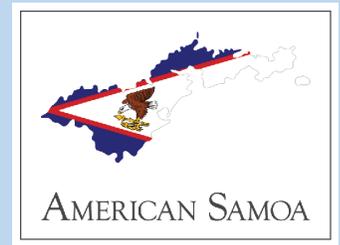


# JIM & EMI CIVALE

## MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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

**APRIL 22, 2020**



Dear Friends,

About seven weeks ago, Emi dropped me off at the airport for my bi-weekly trip to American Samoa. We'd become accustomed to our two weeks together followed by two weeks apart and had accepted that it would likely continue for the next four or five months as the church in American Samoa continued its pastor search. Five weeks ago, however, Samoa and American Samoa declared states of emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All travel between our two countries suddenly ceased and Emi and I have been apart for nearly two months now. Just a couple days ago, both countries extended that restriction for at least another thirty days. Please keep us in prayer through this unexpected season of separation.

Even with the cancellation of all church services and closing down of all schools in both countries, Emi and I are trying to keep busy for the Lord. In American Samoa, I have continued our Samoan Bible distributions with my good friend, Pastor Mac Ane (pictured with me to the right). He has joined me in both village-to-village visits and in setting up distribution points at various locations throughout the territory. We spent two days at the StarKist tuna cannery, two at the Utulei park near the capital, two at KS Mart, two at Cost-U-Less wholesale store, and two at the Laufou shopping center. People have received the Bibles very gratefully, noting over and over again how the timing couldn't be better with everyone spending so much more time at home due to the state-of-emergency restrictions and reduced work weeks. Of the 21,840 Samoan Bibles we received two months ago, all but 1,890 have been distributed so far. When Pastor Mac and I went village to village, we encountered many people who had already received Bibles at one of our distribution points. Truly American Samoa has been saturated with the Scriptures!

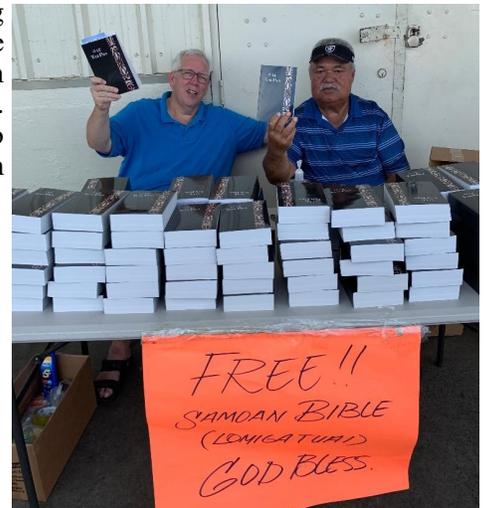
Over in Samoa, Emi has been working with the teachers to prepare packets of schoolwork for the students and delivering them weekly to each family so the students can work at home as they await the reopening of the school. It has been a way for her and the teachers to minister to the families as well and people have been encouraged by the contact. Although we are not charging tuition during the shutdown, we wanted to keep the teachers working so that their income is not disrupted. The Lord has been faithful to provide for this so far and we can afford to continue to do so until mid-June. We pray that schools will reopen by then.

Before I finish, I want to say how extremely thankful Emi and I are that so many of our supporting churches and friends have not wavered in their monthly financial support even while dealing with cancellation of their own church services and the implementation of even stricter stay-at-home orders in their communities. We are truly humbled and grateful for your sacrificial giving and faithfulness. May God bless you with good health and much peace as you deal with the many ramifications of the pandemic where you are.

*Jim & Emi Civale*

P.S. Please continue to pray for...

- Pastor Sopo and Assistant Pastor Ropati as they minister in Asau.
- The pastor search for Vai o le Ola Baptist Church in American Samoa.
- Samoa and American Samoa to remain free of any cases of COVID-19.



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