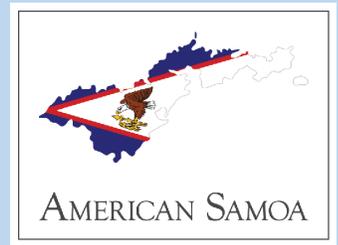


JIM & EMI CIVALE

MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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

OCTOBER 1, 2020



Dear Praying Friends,

As you know, we are in the very final stages of turning over both church plants and our school ministry. The churches have called their own local pastors and the school has its new administrators in training. We are still waiting for flights to open so Pastor Tooala and his family can relocate from living with us in our home here in Samoa to the parsonage in American Samoa where the church there eagerly awaits their arrival. It boggles the mind that flights between our two covid-free countries remain closed, but God's Word promises great things for those who wait upon Him, so that is exactly what we are doing.

Last month I mentioned church plant possibilities without going into any detail. Let me bring you up to date on two openings before us. The first involves planting a church on the other side of our island in the village of Salelologa. Over the last couple months we have been working with a group of families from that village who have joined our church in Asau. They travel a great distance to be with us for services. One of those families has offered several acres of their land for the church plant and we are now involved in working out the logistics. The upcoming steps include legal and cultural procedures for acquiring the land, obtaining permission from the village council of chiefs to start a new church in their village, and then building a simple house where Emi and I can live and start church services. We currently have five "matāfale" (extended family groups), comprising eleven nuclear families (about sixty people altogether) who are saved, baptized, and ready to charter a church. There are some others in Salelologa who have also announced their plans to join once we are approved by the village. As you can imagine, there is great anticipation. The Salelologa believers are excited to launch a true independent Baptist church in their village, and the church in Asau is excited to be reproducing a New Testament church following patterns from the book of Acts. Many reading this letter are long-term prayer partners who will recall the intense effort it took to get Asau village to open to a new church plant ten years ago (it was about as contentious as a U.S Supreme Court nomination!). We certainly covet your prayers as we repeat that process in another village.

The other church plant possibility is in a place that may seem very unlikely. We have been invited to visit Anchorage, Alaska during our 2021 furlough. There are over 7,000 Samoan people living there and one of the churches to whom we sent Samoan Bibles has reached out to us to ask if we could consult with them to start a Samoan church plant. We have agreed to go up, hold special Samoan revival services, distribute Samoan Bibles, and do a survey trip to seek the Lord about a church plant. I may have more information on this to share next month. For now, let me close, thanking you all for your remarkable faithfulness in prayers and support, even during a pandemic and a period of political upheaval.

Jim & Emi Civalé

Meetings and fellowship with some of the prospective members of the upcoming church plant on the other side of our island



Welcoming the newest members of Asau Baptist Church. They are traveling two hours to our services and another two to go back home! Lord willing, they will soon be charter members of another church plant on the other side of Savaii.



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