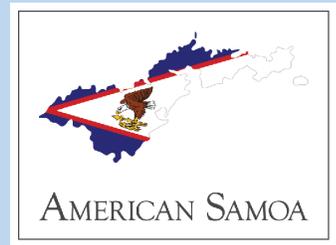


# JIM & EMI CIVALE

## MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

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

**FEBRUARY 1, 2021**



Dear Praying Friends,

We pray that the first month of 2021 brought blessings your way. Emi and I started the year with a brief getaway over in the capital to celebrate our thirtieth anniversary. We loved our time away together! After those few days totally to ourselves, we attended Lighthouse Baptist Church in the village of Vaitele Fou. I was honored to preach their very first service of 2021 and thrilled to lead Siasoi to the Lord at the end of the service. What an awesome way to start the new year! Siasoi is pictured to the right between me and one of the pastors-in-training, Malaki Lei Sam. Please pray for Brother Malaki's follow-up and for Siasoi's spiritual growth.

Once Emi and I returned all refreshed to Asau, we started preparing for the new school year. Teachers reported for orientation and preparations on January 18<sup>th</sup> and the students began classes on the 25<sup>th</sup>. Praise God for a good increase in enrollment this year and for an especially devoted staff. Emi is training a new teacher for the preschool and kindergarten class. Miss Stella, who is also our church piano player, is off to a great start.

Since we last wrote, Emi was blessed to lead three young people to Christ. They responded to altar calls on three different Sundays in Asau. It began with Simi (the boy holding the Bible), then the next week with Tom (the boy with Emi and his grandmother), and then last Sunday with Faith (the girl in the red dress). They are all church kids, two from Asau and one from our new church plant group (Tom).

Please keep praying for our third church plant. We continue to wait on the chiefs of Salelologa to allow us to start a church in their village. As of now, they will not even consider our request again until late February or maybe even March. We had considered alternative courses of action as mentioned in our last prayer letter (and in greater detail in a direct letter to each church/individual who sent special offerings). As of now, we believe the Lord is leading us to simply wait on Him to work in the hearts of the chiefs. Therefore, we are holding the funds we had prepared for the momoli (that cultural ceremony when a village accepts a church) and will not pursue other options for at least a few more months. Emi and I were honored that nearly everyone who sent a designated offering responded to our special letter and granted us the flexibility to use the funds however the Lord leads. The trust imparted to us is not taken lightly. We were also greatly encouraged by so many of you who have been praying with us, sending us special messages, asking us for updates, and offering us godly counsel. We appreciate each of you more than we can say.

Your grateful friends,

*Jim & Emi Civala*



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