



God is our Refuge

This morning I was reading 2 Samuel 22 where David prays to the Lord with thanksgiving. The chapter reminds us that God is our rock, our fortress, our deliverer, our shield, our tower, our refuge, and much more. I'm praising God that He is always our place of safety and security.

It is hard to believe that it is already May 2016. In fact, just last week I wrote 2015 on a check. We have kept busy these last months. Hannah was hired to teach part-time at the College of Micronesia. Originally she was offered a full-time position, but ended up only receiving the part-time position. While it wasn't what we had hoped for, the additional income was certainly a blessing.

One of the goals of our trip to Yap was for Nathan to help with some building projects. This goal has certainly been accomplished as the first part of 2016 has been full of work projects. It started in February with rebuilding our church koyeng. A koyeng is much like what we would call a pavilion, but it is more common in the Yapese culture. It is a place for people to gather, relax and fellowship. Our old koyeng was a local design with wooden pillars and a thatch roof. The pillars were rotting and the thatch roof was leaking badly. We rebuilt using cement pillars and a metal roof for a long-lasting building.



We continued work projects in March by preparing and pouring a concrete porch on the house on the church property. Not only is this a nice edition to the house, but it also gives an extra place for the kids to meet for their Sunday School Class.

In April, I worked closely with Paul and a few other men to install some solar systems for individuals in the community. These systems not only help people in the community, but the profit from the installation also helps to fund various ministries of the church. Toward the end of April we moved on to the next project which was building a partition wall in the church building. This was done in preparation for the start of a new Christian school this fall. By adding a wall to the church it allows for some classroom space. Finally, in May we have begun building a new building which will also be for the new school.



Amid all of the business we have enjoyed several highlights. Nathan has had the privilege of sharing with the teens every other week. He has been preaching a series on decision making; he began with the most important decision you will ever make - salvation. Several young people responded, and the adults in the room had the opportunity to counsel several of the teens. Many of the teens were struggling with the assurance of their salvation due to the Catholic background that many of them have.

On Easter Sunday we had a special service and feast at a nearby beach. It was a wonderful time to reflect on Christ's resurrection in a unique environment, but it was also just a great time of fellowship. It was a special encouragement when one of the men approached me and wanted to talk about spiritual topics.



When we arrived on Yap last year, our plan was to stay for one or two years to help with various projects at the church. Our goal was to be a help to the Zimmers while we prayed about God's will for our future. Over the last months, we have prayed earnestly for God to make His will clear to us. After much prayer, God has made it clear that He is leading us away from Yap. While we originally planned to stay a while longer, we have come to realize that due to our low support level, we have become a financial burden on the Zimmers. The house we have been living in will also be needed for classroom space for next year's school. Combining all these reasons, we have decided to return to the States at the end of May. Even though this is not the answer we were expecting to receive from the Lord, we do not feel our time on Yap has been wasted. We have made many great friends and were able to be a part of many of the work projects we came to help with. We also have been able to work on the radio station and automate additional features to keep the station playing up to date programming.

We appreciate each of you who have prayed for and supported us during our mission trip. Please do not stop praying for our family now as we will continue to seek God's will for our future ministry.

Nathan and Hannah