

The Mark

Zimmer Family

Serving in Yap, Micronesia

April/May 2005

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"They that wait upon Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as eagles; they shall run, and not be weary; and they walk, and not faint." Isaiah 40:31

It is hard to believe that it is already June and that Paul and Sherry are now on their way back to Yap! They will spend some time in Guam and then arrive here on Wednesday, June 8th. The people here are excited for their return and have planned to meet them at the airport and to have a big feast for the Wednesday evening service. It is with mixed feelings that we will move on to our next phase of ministry as we have grown very close to the people here in the north of the island.

New Believers at the Church in Makiy

A highlight of our time came on April 17 when we had a baptismal service on the beach and 8 new Christians were baptized! Since our last update, 2 boys, Ryan (14) and Boochthin (9) accepted Christ. Their parents were some of the first new Christians that Paul and Sherry were able to lead to Christ and it is neat to see their children following the Lord as well. An outer island teenage girl named Mack also accepted the Lord in May!

May Celebrations

A highlight for Diane was a Mother's Day luncheon held here at Paul and Sherry's house on May 6th. Our home church in Chetek, WI gathered together 17 boxes of goodies for us to share with the ladies. They sent everything from soaps and cosmetics to hair accessories, jewelry, pens and notecards. Each lady received a large gift bag full of treasures! It was such a blessing to them and even greater blessing to Diane as she was able to share it with them. They made their own personal pizzas and then also brought local food to share. Each lady from the church was invited to bring their mother/mother-in-law or a special lady friend with them. There were 15 ladies who attended and Diane was able to share the gospel as well.

Besides being Mother's Day, May 8th also marked our 10th wedding anniversary! When we got married, I told Diane that maybe for our 10th anniversary I would take her to a tropical island . . . I kept my word!!



Ladies enjoying their Mother's Day gifts



Dinner with the Peeler family at a local restaurant

Projects

At the beginning of April, the Lord gave us an opportunity to be a blessing to the men of our village. They have been busy building a coral bridge and needed some wood to complete the bridge. I saw this as a great opportunity to serve and to meet a need. Bob and I used Paul's flatbed truck to haul several trees which they had already cut, and they appreciated it so much. We also milled some 6x6 inch boards for the other bridge in our village. This opened many doors for new friendships, and one of the men helping has come to church to visit on a Sunday morning. The mayor of our village was kind enough to give us a couple of trees to mill in return for our work so we used them for making the pearlins for Bob's house.

The end of April, Jack and Melinda Peeler came out to help us and have been here for 5 weeks. They have been a huge help to us. The first couple of weeks we worked on installing some windows in Paul's house as well as some ceiling fans and an air conditioning unit. We also trimmed out much of the interior of Paul's house. They have been living over at our house in town and working on getting that house ready for us to live in. He installed some air conditioning units, ceiling fans, replacement windows, and also painted two of the bedrooms. Melinda helped make curtains for Sherry's house, and has been busy cleaning, organizing, unpacking and helping Jack! We are so thankful that the Lord sent them at this time to help us get ready to move. They have also been filling in over at Yap Baptist Church helping with preaching and children's church. Praise the Lord for their talents as well as their servants' hearts.

What is poison tree?

I battled poison tree for the whole month of April! While sectioning some big logs in the jungle, it began to rain. When the rain drops off the leaves of the poison tree and touches the skin, you break out in a horrible rash that develops into

blisters. It is very uncomfortable and almost impossible to sleep at night. I am thankful that I got over it, but now JohnMark seems to have come down with a pretty good dose of it, so tomorrow he will go to the hospital for medicine!

Most of May has been spent milling lumber in the south end of the island. I was able to mill 17 logs for a man named Edward, and I am currently milling 7 more large trees for a man named Greg. The Lord has allowed me to meet and become friends with many Yapese men, and we are praying that the Lord will use this to open doors for a future ministry in the south.



What's for dinner?

Many people ask us what we eat out here. Actually we have been surprised with how much the stores do offer. They just typically run out of food and it may not be back in the stores for several weeks. This was the case with milk, eggs, bacon and butter this past month! We are learning to stock up on essentials when they do arrive. We do enjoy having pop (soda!), ice-cream, and bubblegum. We do crave a nice head of lettuce and a juicy ripe tomato, not to mention some fresh strawberries!!!!

April Praises:

2 brothers, Boochthin, age 9 and Ryan, age 13 accepted Christ
Baptismal Service held on the beach and 8 were baptized
The Whitmores arrived safely back in the states for their furlough
The Peelers arrived to work on projects
Mark finished the kitchen cabinets in Paul and Sherry's house
Our hot water heater got fixed!

May Praises:

Got our car fixed after having it broken down for almost 4 weeks
An outer island teenage girl, Mack, was saved
Teen Meeting on Thursdays at Yap Baptist have been well attended

Prayer Requests:

Safety and strength for Mark as he mills lumber
Safe return of the Peelers to the states and that the Lord would increase their support
Our move over to Yap Baptist Church and starting of a new ministry there
Believers to grow and courage to fight temptation

Thank you to all of you who pray for us and for those that send special notes of encouragement and packages to us. It means so much to us and to our children to have so many behind us in our work out here.

By His Grace,

The Zimmers