



Mark Zimmer Family *Serving in Yap, Micronesia*

January 2007

Dear Friends,

As we come to the end of one year and the beginning of another, we praise the Lord for His watchcare over our family on the mountain tops and even through the valleys. We pray that you have experienced the same comfort in knowing that Our Lord cares for you as well.

So what has been happening in Yap?!

Holiday Happenings:

How do we celebrate in Yap? Much in the same way as you, just a little warmer . . . try 100 degrees! At times from the inside of our house, you would never even know that the temps and humidity are sky rocketing outside! Christmas tree lights and decorations, the smell of Christmas cookies, and Christmas music keep us feeling in the Christmas mood. Diane even let me spray "snow" on our kitchen window! Can you even believe they sell that here in Yap!!? We are praying that the people of Yap will come to know this same Christmas joy that we as believers experience in Jesus Christ!!

Christian Christmas Radio!

Christmas music coming from Joy Family Radio here in Yap has been an extra special blessing this year. In November and December God allowed us to be a part of the team effort to have a Christian radio station in Yap. In His providence, God led Paul to a couple of 100 foot towers in the South that were in great shape but just needed to be taken down. God used so many people in this event - even non-believers to accomplish the daunting task. When all was said and done, the towers were down, and other than a crushed thumb nail (Paul's), the crew was in good shape. The temporary tower will be replaced, Lord willing, with a permanent 200 footer some time in the near future. God allowed this dream to become a reality and Yap has been blessed to have Christian music and programming over the air waves since mid November!! "It is no secret what God can do!!"

Christmas Angels and Shepherds Yapese Style!

Our Christmas service was a special highlight for all who attended. "A Gift for Jesus" was the theme of this year's program focusing on giving Christ your heart. We had two plays for the church people to be involved in and the Filipino choir, children's choirs, the ukulele choir and other specials and poems tied it all together. It was an encouragement to see many groups of people working together to communicate the Christmas story. Diane and I just enjoyed sitting back and watching this year!

Thanksgiving & Christmas Food and Fellowship

Of course, what would the holidays be without food and fellowship! We are so blessed to have family and other Christians here to share our holidays with. Thanksgiving and Christmas Day we had meals at Bob and Polly Whitmore's house and on Christmas Eve we had a fun time of caroling, food and games at our house. We caroled from the back of our pick up truck and although the Yapese are not fond of people coming to their house to sing, some Filipinos, Chinese, and Peace Corps enjoyed it, as did we! The Yap Police department didn't understand what we were doing as we ended up getting pulled over on our way to carol to one of Roland's friends. When I explained we were singing Christmas songs to people, the officers frowned, but we were allowed to go!

Project Progress

Roland and I also started working on an open air Sunday school room. We expect to be finished some time in February. This room should be suitable for the junior age class which has been meeting in our house for the past couple of months. We were about ready to install a roof on the structure when an unexpected visitor Abe Traucht was in Yap on business and needed a place to stay. He offered his assistance and by Saturday we had the roof completely installed. This was a real encouragement to Roland, Ben and me.

Roland and I have also been working on cabinets for Bob's house in our spare time. We have finished all the upper wall units and we were able to install one corner floor unit with a temporary counter top.

New Faces & Bible Studies

Romeo's Mom, Theresa, has started coming faithfully to our Sunday service along with her granddaughter, Tella. She is neighbors with Regina whom we have talked about before. They have expressed interest in having Diane answer some of their questions about God, so Diane has agreed to a Monday Bible study with them. Clara Yirimyad will also go with her to translate if needed. Please pray for the Lord to guide Diane and that these ladies will truly understand the peace that only Christ can give.

Thank you for your continued prayers for the Teen Girls Bible study that Diane is having on Thursday nights. The girls are growing and it is exciting to see their sincere interest in knowing what the Bible has to say about God's plan for their lives.

We have almost completed our study on "Trusting God" in the Adult Sunday School Class. Please pray that the Lord would give us direction with the next type of Bible Study we should begin with the adults.

Happy New Year!

We had our New Years service on the beach with lots of local food and beautiful weather, but Diane and the kids were not able to attend. We have been recovering from a tropical flu virus which swept us all off our feet for a few days. Caleb has had the worst case of it and has not been able to hold down much food or water for over five days. He has also developed a rash and has been very lethargic throughout the whole sickness. We are seeing some improvement in him today. Please pray for his complete recovery.

Prayer and Praises:

Praise the Lord for visitors who came to offer help and encouragement in the past couple months . . . Ben and Hollie Cooper from Hawaii, Natalie and April from Guam, and Abe Traucht from Guam.

Praise the Lord for some of the church members who have come back to church and are getting things right in their lives.

Praise the Lord for His protection for our children as they have battled with sickness and accidents in the past couple of months.

Praise!! Clara Yirimyad, a recent graduate of HBBI, helper for Diane and teacher of our young children's SS class, recently got accepted at Bob Jones University! She will begin school next August. Please pray for her as she prepares for college and for the necessary finances needed for her schooling.

Pray for Klava and Susie who will be leaving Yap as he has joined the Army. Ruth and RuthAnn will be coming back from Kosrea to take their place as managers at the store behind our house.

Please continue to pray for the funds needed to build a permanent classroom/ Sunday School building.

Pray for the Bible Studies that souls will be saved and Christians strengthened.

Pray for health and safety for our family.

Pray for start up and operating costs for the radio station. A radio station fund has been set up at our mission board if you are interested in helping.

May the Lord bless your families this coming year!

Yours for Yap,

Mark, Diane, and kids