



## **Mark Zimmer Family** *Serving in Yap, Micronesia*

March/April 2007

Dear Friends,

March and April were busy months full of blessings from the Lord along with some opposition. We saw the Lord at work in the lives of some dear people that we are ministering to, and we also saw the work of the Deceiver in the lives of others we are working with. Our God is always faithful and we have been encouraged by His words of wisdom: "Your labor is not in vain in the Lord."

### **Teen Outing**

We had a joint youth activity on the other side of the island with Paul's group of teens in March. It was an exciting time for young and old alike. There was a volleyball tournament, tug of war match, swimming, and plenty of food. Our youth group is still talking about the fun times they experienced being with other teens who desire to learn the Bible and take a stand for what is right. Our guest speaker was Don Eckert from Harvest Baptist Bible Institute. He preached in our Sunday morning service as well and is always a joy and blessing to the people here.

### **HBBI Recruiting**

Don Eckert's primary purpose for coming to Yap was to talk to teens interested in going to Harvest in the fall. We had a good response from our young people and two of them indicated that they would like to go this year. We had several others that were interested and wanted to hear more about the school. We are praying that the Lord will send the young people from our church who will benefit the most from Christ centered teaching.

### **Visit to Guam**

God opened a door for Roland and his family to go Guam for Harvest's homecoming and missions conference. They stayed for a couple weeks and spoke in chapel as well as in church. God used the trip in their lives to renew their vision for ministry and helped them to see that they are making a difference in lives. All four of our HBBI students were a tremendous encouragement to Roland, and he was thankful for the spiritual growth they are experiencing as they study God's Word.

Roland returned from Guam with some really fun game ideas! Here, they toss several water balloons back and forth with sheets! Diane with some of the teenage girls.

### **Easter Sunday**

Our services on Easter were a special blessing. The people took turns singing their special music until several language groups had sung their songs, and some sang twice. It was an encouragement to see them singing to the Lord. I preached a message about the importance of the resurrection, and after the message we moved the chairs out and brought in the tables for the food. The people had brought local food and we all shared what we had as a "potluck dinner." Many stayed after for an egg hunt with the young children. Our children had helped Mommy boil and color some eggs the day before, and we also were given some Easter candy and plastic eggs from some of our friends off-island. The children had a great time and the adults had fun watching.

Some of the teens decorated the church for Easter with woven ferns, braided coconut branches, and flowers. It was beautiful! Leah, below, made flower arrangements in bamboo vases.

## **Outreach**

The Lord continues to work in the hearts of some of the Yapese. A lady who has been coming to Diane's Yapese ladies' Bible study accepted Christ in March. Her children have been praying for her for many years and she is now coming to church faithfully. One of her son Francis, 11, also made a profession along with a 13 year old boy named Jay. Diane also had the privilege of leading one of the teen girls, Jody (pictured center above with the teen girls), to the Lord as well.

About a year ago, I came in contact with a Yapese man about my age and began a friendship with him. I was able to mill some lumber for him, and when we mill, we begin with a short Bible study. He was very interested and responsive to the message of the gospel. Since our milling, he has come faithfully to church and last night we stopped in at their home for a visit. Diane had made a banana cake and we met his wife and one-year-old daughter. His wife was very cordial and we are praying that God will allow us to develop a lasting friendship with this family so we can continue to share the message of hope with them.

I also started a Sunday night Bible study for adults. We have had some interest from the people and we are praying that it will grow and the people will be hungry for the Word of God. Please pray with us that our church people will be faithful to the Lord.

## **Summer Camp**

We are looking forward to a week of teen camp in the month of June. Last year, Michael and Rebecca Saunders came to Yap and helped run a youth activity. This year, we decided to have a week of camp here at the church, and Michael, a group of his teens, and some of our own HBBI students will be coming to help run the camp. We are aware of the rising cost of food, gas, and electricity, so we are praying that God will meet the need of about \$50 per camper. These young people are from poverty stricken homes and could not afford to pay this money, so if anyone would like to help with this, we would really appreciate it. We are expecting around 40 to 50 teens.

## **Additional Prayer and praises**

- New believers, that they would grow spiritually
- Pray for the teens as they face temptation and opposition from family and friends
- 2nd Joint Teen Outing on May 19th
- VBS Week: June 25-29
- Teen Camp: June 11-15
- Finances to support Teen Camp
- HBBI perspective students need enrollment fee and plane ticket to Guam, each needs \$500
- Pray for Clara Yirimyad as she prepares to go to BJU on July 15th
- Pray for Bobby, our song leader, who is in the Philippines right now.
- Praise the Lord for new families coming to church
- Praise the Lord that Jovita Masiwemai and her husband, John, recently returned from the Philippines. She has a long journey of recovery, so please continue to pray for her and her family. Praise the Lord for her excellent testimony through her recent medical trial.
- Praise the Lord we are finishing up remodeling our bathroom.
- Praise the Lord for my wife of 12 years (our anniversary is May 8)

Thank you for your continued prayers and faithful support!

Yours for Yap,

Mark, Diane, and kids