



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

*Isaiah 65:24 "Before they call, I will answer;
and while they are yet speaking, I will hear."*

November/December 2007

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!!!!

Although the thermometer has been reading between 100-120 degrees lately, our family still feels in the Christmas spirit with all the lights, smells and sounds of Christmas as well as the blessing of family and friends to share it with. During the holidays we find ourselves reflecting on God's goodness and fond memories of Christmas when we were children. Our children will have joyous memories of Christmas in Yap and how the Lord provided tangible evidence that He is taking care of us across the miles. Thank you to so many who shared in making this Christmas especially memorable for our family by sending us many gifts and cards.

Back to November . . . Whitmore Reunion

My sister, Ruth, who is married to Bobby Whitmore, came to visit for the month of November with their two girls, Faith and Liddy. Bobby is a medical doctor and opted to work in the hospital in Yap for a month. This also gave them opportunity to visit Bobby's parents (fellow missionaries here in Yap) and share a wonderful Thanksgiving with us. Joe and Anna Whitmore were able to come for a short visit as well. Cherith especially enjoyed playing with more girl cousins!

Thanksgiving Dinner and Play

Although the Yapese do not celebrate our Thanksgiving holiday, we were able to remember our American heritage and spend a time of Thanksgiving with our American friends and family. The Zimmer kids from both families along with some other missionary kids from a local missionary pilot, Vince and Molly Davis, performed a thanksgiving play reminding us of God's promise to always take care of us just like He did for the Pilgrims when they set out for a new country. Our pilot friend, Dave Morgan from Guam, had dropped off 3 turkeys-one for each family, so the ladies made an old fashioned turkey dinner with mashed potatoes, gravy, pie and all the fixin's! I even dared to deep fry a turkey!

December Began with a Ladies Fellowship

The ladies got together on December 1st for a good-bye/Christmas party. There was a good group of ladies in attendance and they enjoyed decorating the church for Christmas, talking, laughing, playing games, doing a craft, and eating, of course! It was an encouraging time for all who attended. Nicole Roach, who was in Yap for 3 months helping all of the missionaries, was the guest speaker, and just a few days later, she headed back to Barbados.

Babins and Morgans come for a Christmas visit

We enjoyed the fellowship of 2 families from Guam that were able to come for a short visit during Christmas. The Babins have 4 boys and the Morgans have 2. The Babins also brought Janelle Mitchell with them who is a single teacher at Harvest. The kids all had a great time playing together . . . the best Christmas gift they could get! And the adults enjoyed a great time of fellowship together. Of course, we had to have a big Christmas meal together again with turkey, ham and all the fixins! They were all able to sing a special for us during our Christmas program as well.

Christmas Celebration

The Yapese church members beautifully decorated the church with local coconut tree weavings for our Christmas service. For our service, many groups and families sang songs around a beautifully decorated manger. After the singing, I read the Christmas story and preached a short message about the true meaning of Christmas. We enjoyed a great time together as a church family with plenty of good food and small gifts for everyone.

Some highlights of the evening were:

The older children's class did "Silent Night" in sign language (taught to them by Nicole Roach).
The younger children's class sang "Go Tell it on the Mountain" with motions.

The Filipino Men's Quintet sang several songs (many of these men are living single here in Yap as their families remain in the Philippines).

A Yapese family sang a song in Yapese.

The Kosreans sang in their language and threw candy at the end . . . yes they were the favorites!

Our family sang, with Caleb's voice getting all the attention!

Needless to say, we had a great time of fellowship together! It greatly encouraged our hearts to look out over the congregation the Lord has blessed us with and see the lives He has changed in the past year.

Prayer and Praises!

- Roland and Chelyn went through a trial recently as Chelyn experienced a miscarriage after carrying the baby for only 7 weeks. They are visiting her family on a neighboring island called "Chuuk" and will be gone for about 2 weeks.
- Outreach opportunities
- Finances to complete our addition
- Safety and strength as we work on the project
- Our young people now attending HBBI and BJU that they would continue on for God and that they would see God provide for all their needs.
- Have a blessed holiday season!!

Mark and Diane

Joseph, JohnMark, Cherith, and Caleb