



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."*

Jan/Feb 2008

Happy Yap Day from our little island!!

Once a year, in celebration of local culture, the Yapese have a weekend of local dancing, food, and selling of hand made things much like a flea market in the states. Roland and I celebrated Yap day on the ocean where the Lord gave us a bunch of fish for Sunday's baptismal, as well as a chance to share fish with church people and others we are trying to reach with the gospel. Today was the baptismal service on the beach and we were blessed to baptize several Yapese as well as some outer islanders who have made professions of faith within the last year.

God blessed us with incredible weather today as we headed for the ocean in our village, Argnel, Delipebnaw. The tide was perfect and it was fairly calm on the sea. The people who were to be baptized had all come except for Theresa, Romeo's mom. She contracted pink eye and could barely see last night when we went to visit with her. I told her we would re-schedule her baptismal as soon as she gets better. Others indicated today that they would like to follow the Lord in baptism as well.

One of the older ladies that was baptized had spinal surgery a year ago and in an effort to keep her from injury, both Roland and I worked together to lower her carefully under the water. Praise the Lord she didn't feel any pain and it worked out for God's glory. Roland also baptized a friend of his and two teens, one of which plans to go to HBBI next fall. God is so good!! After the service we ate (too much) including several platters of fresh sashimi, and then the kids played on our village "high dive." OK, Diane and I jumped in too!!

In January one of our church kids named Emmanuel died suddenly. He was a disabled boy who came to church often. His mother Terry came to our house on January 2 to tell us that he had passed away. I was asked to perform the funeral and so God opened a door for me to talk about what Emmanuel's name means in the Bible. After I spoke, one lady wailed for short time and soon someone else came and nailed the coffin shut and they loaded it into a pickup truck. They transported it to the grave site where it was lowered into the ground and I read some more scripture and tried to give a simple plan of salvation. No one responded directly but seeds were sown and God's Word went forth.

New Outreach Opportunity

During the holidays, two guys that Roland and I had befriended during the year committed crimes and were put in prison. One of the guys called me from jail and asked me to come down and see him. He wanted a Bible and something to study. We had some of the Basics for Believers booklets and so I was able to bring that to the jail along with a new Bible for him. When I got there, he told me who his roommate was, and it was our other friend, and God had put them both there together. We were able to talk to them about the Lord and the next week, our Bible study had grown to 8 prisoners. Then last Sunday it was raining so hard they took Roland and I into the prisoners quarters and we had a captive audience of about 20-25 men including guards. We talked about lasting change that starts with a relationship with Jesus. I was encouraged by the number of questions the guys had. Please pray for fruit to be seen through this outreach.

Addition Progress

Our guest room is coming right along and we only have the floor left to fasten down, and the air conditioner to purchase and install. Praise the Lord for those who helped us with the finances to build it and the Lord laid it on a friend's heart to bring a sink and faucet from Home Depot in Guam! What a blessing! God answers prayer!!

We look forward to having our first guests in the room from March 20-28. Our home church pastor and his wife will be visiting us, which we are really looking forward to!

Thursday Nights

The kids class on Thursday nights is growing and many of the older children are responding with conviction, as Diane has been teaching them on the life of Christ and is now teaching on His death and resurrection. Please pray that they will soon see their own personal need to accept Christ as their Savior.

God allowed Roland and Chelyn to go to Chuuk to visit her parents for the holiday season, but they are back now serving the Lord here in Yap. We are excited to have them back as we realized first hand the amount of work they do for the ministry while they are here.

Prayer and Praises!

My strength is returning after suffering from a bout with Staph infection. After the second round of antibiotics, my glands have returned to normal size. Please continue to pray for the health of our family and others on the island as sickness has been very prevalent recently.

Outreach opportunities: Praise the Lord for the new prison ministry.

Pray for the chief of one of the villages that we pick up people from. He is also the father of one of our HBBI students. He has agreed to have a Bible study with me that will start this week. Just the fact that he agreed is a huge answer to prayer.

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 stand strong for God and that they would see God provide for all their needs.

New believers that would be able to resist the temptation that surrounds them every day.

May the Lord find us faithful,

Mark and Diane

Joseph, JohnMark, Cherith, and Caleb