



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."*

January/February 2009

Dear Friends,

Yap Baptist's first service of the New Year involved voting on having Roland replace me as the pastor of the church while we are on a one-year furlough, beginning the end of May. The long-term plan is for Roland to serve in the church for the one year, and upon our return, we hope to assist and provide support for Roland and his brother James to start a new work on their home island, Fais, an outer island of Yap. The vote was a unanimous agreement to accept him and his family to minister as pastor. We are thankful for his testimony and faithful service to the Lord. Some 5 years ago, Pastor Joe Cannon had Roland live here in this house during his absence, and now we have decided to allow Roland and his growing family to stay in the house while we are gone. His brother James, who will graduate from HBBI and marry in May, has expressed his desire to serve here as youth pastor and will stay in Roland's current home. Another graduating HBBI student, Lucy, will be staying in the guest room and helping in the children's ministries. If God lays it on your heart to help these islanders financially while they serve in the church, you may contact us and we will let you know how to make it possible.

The end of January, Roland organized a joint teen meeting with Faith Baptist which included a competitive basketball tournament! The teens seemed to have a great time, even though our team was crushed by the giants on their team! We appropriately watched the movie "Facing the Giants," after we had some good food provided by the ministry wives. After the movie, I gave a short challenge about facing the giants that they have in their lives. Many of the teens responded to their desire to stand for God even when the temptations are strong. Please pray for these young people that they will make right choices to follow the Lord with their lives although their culture tries to pull them away.

In February, we started a few milling projects and spent several weeks working on making lumber for a few of our friends and neighbors. The Lord provided some nice trees that were owned by our village chief. He was in need of some boards for his house and gave us 50% of the wood. The other 2 projects were for George, a member of our church, and Tony, a man we have been witnessing to for several years. Roland and I want to put hardwood flooring on the church platform, and the Lord provided the material and much more. This was a great opportunity to share the gospel and also meet some new people.

My son, John Mark, had to write a poem for his English class, and he chose to write on milling in the jungle. We all kind of pitched in our ideas and I thought he summed up milling pretty well!

"Milling with my Dad"

Would you like to go milling,
With the chirping birds singing
And the poison tree stinging?
Chainsaws blaring, "Vrrrooom!"
Tall, towering, trees
Crashing with a boom!
Sweaty men are grunting.
Monster logs are rolling.
Milling blades are whirling.
Mahogany boards, strong and straight,
Milling with my dad is great!

Prayer and Praises:

- The Ladies Bible Study continues of Sunday mornings. Please pray for these ladies to remain faithful even though Satan loves to keep them extra busy to keep them from church. Praise the Lord for the group of ladies that are learning and growing.
- Continue to pray for the prison ministry and for some of the prisoners who have been released that they would see the importance of turning their lives to Christ.
- The custom-made eye glasses from the Medical Team arrived and we have been blessed to pass those out and see the smiles that they bring to those who have had trouble seeing. Please continue to pray for those that we were able to witness to and give Bibles to, that they would see their need for spiritual sight as well.

- Please pray for our furlough plans. We are scheduled to leave Yap on May 24, spend one week in Guam, and arrive in Greenville, SC on May 31. Please pray for the scheduling of our meetings and for housing during our stay. Continue to pray for new and growing believers and the struggles they face in their sinful culture.
- Please pray for Yap Baptist Church during the transition stage of Roland becoming pastor. Pray for Roland that the Lord would give him wisdom as he leads the congregation and for the church people to grow and unite through this process.
- Praise the Lord for puppies! Our dog Lassie delivered these cute balls of fur! Definitely makes a kid's life lots of fun!

Thanks again for your continued prayers, support, and notes of encouragement! We love the ministry that the Lord has called us to, and we realize that your prayers and support are a huge part of keeping us here on the field. Thank you for the sacrifices you make for God's Kingdom.

Because of Christ,

Mark, Diane, and family

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