

## Mark Zimmer Fais Update

February 6, 2011

On Monday, January 24, we picked Roland and his family up at the airport. They flew back from Fais to Yap on a small plane owned by Pacific Missionary Aviation. They were returning to Yap for a little "R&R" and to get some supplies for Fais. On that same Monday, we heard that the ship would be leaving for the outer islands in less than 2 weeks. We saw this as a window of opportunity to get some more building supplies to the island. What would have been a relaxing 2 weeks for Rol and the family turned out to be a marathon to get the lumber and materials on the ship. With God's help, we made the deadline. On Sunday, Rol gave an update in church, and the people rallied around the family with hugs and gifts. God is using this family to give the church a greater burden for home missions.

The work in Fais is moving forward. Rol brought back some pictures of the work he has completed on his house as well as a local meeting house for his Bible study. They are praising the Lord for souls that have been saved and for those that faithfully attend his Bible study.



The last 2 weeks have been spent finishing the milling for the rafters, banding them together, making a basketball hoop, compiling our needed equipment and roofing supplies, and loading it all on the ship. As I sit here typing, the ship is being loaded with the remaining cargo and is ready to go.



Please pray for our trip to Fais Island to install a roof system for Roland. Truly and Roland left on the ship (Hapimohol) this past Friday. Tomorrow, Chelyn and the kids will fly on the PMA airplane back to Fais with James and his wife Masency, and me. We plan to stay until Friday, Lord willing, if the work is completed.



Please pray for the team's safety, the weather to cooperate, and the freedom to share the Gospel with those we come in contact with. We will be working together with guys from Fais who are lost, and we have an opportunity for them to see Christ in us.



The guys will be sleeping in a six man tent and "roughing it" with less of the conveniences than we have here on our island. Roland has been there for several months now, and when he came back he had lost over 30 pounds. He said they have plenty of meat (fish and crab), just no "food." We will carry food and supplies with us so we aren't a burden to the locals.



Please also pray for Diane, the kids, and Truly's wife, Lency, as they stay back here in Yap without any male "supervision."



This is an exciting endeavor and we are so grateful for your help in praying for us and for supporting missions here in the Yap islands!

February 11, 2011

Praise God, we made it safely back to Yap. We finished capping the roof just one and a half hours before the plane arrived to take us back home. God blessed with great weather and many willing workers and incredible stamina. We sensed your prayers as we worked, and we only had to climb off the roof once when lightning struck too close for comfort.



The ship arrived on Sunday afternoon and Monday morning Roland, Truly, and a crew of locals carried most of the building supplies up to the job site. Upon our arrival around





10:00 am Monday morning, the materials were ready for installation. Monday afternoon we set a basketball hoop we had fabricated in Yap and sent on the ship. Paul had some 3" structural pipe we had used for the gin pole he donated, and we brazed the rest with galvanized 1 and 2" angle iron. We also laid out our rafters for the Tuesday morning "go" time.

Tuesday morning at 5:30 am Roland woke us up for coffee and bread. We prayed and made plans for our day. Day 2 went smoothly and at sunset we had finished the main structure of the roof. We struggled to pound the nails in the wood as the mahogany had been drying for nearly 2 years since we had milled it. We pre-drilled every nail with one battery powered Makita drill my friend had given me. Power was provided by a small Honda generator that a group of friends had donated before we left the states. For all the power tools, lighting, and other uses, the generator only used about 5 gallons of gas!!

That night we went spear fishing. I tagged along fully aware of the dangers but trusting God for safety and provision. When we reached the water, an islander asked me to pray before we waded out. After prayer, we were instructed to "stay close to right side of the channel" on the way out. They warned us about the rocks and the waves and currents. I have to admit, the swim was more difficult than putting on the roof. I tucked in close to Roland when a rather large shark startled me. It wandered off and we continued looking for fish. Near 11:00pm it was time to come back in. We were getting tired, and we hit a patch of current that refused to let us get back to the channel. I noticed as we were kicking, we had stopped moving forward. Valentino surfaced and shouted for us to follow him. We plunged toward the reef riding a rather large wave, and we made it over. I noted that it was abruptly shallow. I stopped swimming and we all sat up. The locals were shouting for us to stand up but with fins on it's difficult. Suddenly a big wave pummeled us on the reef. Thank God no one was seriously injured. We sustained coral bites and one spear was bent in half, but other than that we were no worse for all the wear. We then made our way back to camp and the fire was going, so we put some on the fire and enjoyed the kill. I have never enjoyed so many lobsters in 5 days time!



Wednesday morning we were back up on the roof at 7:00 a.m. We put on the fascia board, finished the rafters and the blocking, and started the purlins. We completed half of the purlins and stopped at 5:30pm for supper and prayer meeting. The church people started arriving for the Bible study and began singing songs in outer island. I've never heard those tunes before, but they sang beautifully and with all their hearts. I preached on "living for Jesus is worth dying for." James interpreted, and we sensed the liberty to share the Gospel. It was a real blessing. After church we talked and sang until about midnight. Rol has already had to add an extension to his "church building." Facing from left to right, Roland, me, and James translating. The ladies made beautiful flower leis to honor me as their guest.



Thursday morning we were up at 6:00am and on the roof by 7a.m. We finished the purlins and put on most of the tin roof. By 6:30 pm the sun had set and we were almost finished roofing. At dark, we walked down to the ocean to wash off the grime. We sat in the water for a few minutes and went back for supper. William had caught a big shark and Wahoo so we had sashimi wahoo (sushi) and barbequed shark meat. We also ate local potatoes and yams as well as fried bananas and rice. The church people all came to celebrate the catch and the progress. We ate until late and fell into our tent exhausted, but still felt the urgency to finish the job before the plane arrived the next morning.



Friday morning came too soon, and we started roofing at the crack of dawn. We worked feverishly, and praise the Lord, we finished the capping an hour and a half before the plane arrived!! Another blessing was that there were no major injuries during the trip. Roland did step on a nail that went in pretty deep, and James was bitten by a centipede while he was sleeping. The critter bit his back and caused him a great deal of discomfort, but neither injury was bad enough to shut down progress.

Thanks so much for praying.  
In Christ, Mark