



To give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace. -Luke 1:79

May 2013

Dear Friends,



We are busy packing and trying to finish projects before we leave for the USA in just 2 weeks! We will arrive in Greenville, SC at 1:45 pm on Wednesday, May 22nd. As we look back on our last 3 months here, we have so much to praise HIM for!!

Easter Service and Baptism on the Beach

We had a great service on the beach in our village, and **13 people were baptized** including our son, Caleb. The weather was beautiful and the fellowship was a special blessing. After the service and a delicious feast, the children enjoyed an Easter egg hunt and swimming.



Projects: Koyeng Completed, Bathrooms Started

The church men have come together and worked diligently to **finish the second koyeng project**. Many locals are using it now every day! Our urgent need to make a couple of **extra church bathrooms** will be resolved soon as we are almost half finished with the boys and girls rooms!! Our church is growing and with only one bathroom, it was causing quite an understandable dilemma. **Please pray that we will be able to finish the bathrooms before we leave on May 22nd.** When we return to Yap, we will need to add on to the church building which is another great problem to have!



Bible Studies:

Men's Prayer Breakfast and New Bible Study for Married Men

The men have been meeting on the first Saturday of the month for breakfast and a time of singing, prayer, and Bible Study. Our attendance has been very good and the guys always love Diane's home-made cinnamon rolls, fried rice, or whatever we serve them! This past Saturday we served fried reef fish after some guys and I had a very successful spear fishing trip!



We have prayed for years that the Lord would give us **Yapese families where the husband, wife, and children come to study God's Word together.** This past term we have seen this prayer answered. Several men expressed a desire to have a Bible study to learn how to be better Christian husbands and fathers. Our first meeting started with only 2 men, but now we average 8-9 men. These men are learning how an accountability group can help them in their spiritual struggles. **Please pray for these men while we are away to keep being an encouragement to each other and a proper example in their home.**



Ladies Bible Study

Diane will finish her study on the *5 Love Languages* with the ladies this coming Sunday. Some of the women have shown real Christian growth through the study of God's Word and the books that Diane uses to supplement her class. The ladies are getting along better with each other, trying to be better wives and mothers, and also serving more in the church. **Please pray that these ladies will also encourage each other to stand strong and love their husbands and children.**

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Teens Following the Lord

On the Friday before Easter Sunday, God did a great work in the lives of several of our teens. When Pastor James gave an invitation after his message, more than **10 young people made decisions to accept Christ!** We are praising the Lord for his working in the lives of the youth, and it has been great seeing them become involved in serving in the church as well. The teens are now taking turns teaching the kids' class during Sunday School and the younger kids' class on Thursday nights.

Kids Night Bible Study

Our kids' night on Thursdays is continuing to grow. We have between 50-60 kids coming each week. Besides having fun playing games and singing, the kids have a 30 minute classtime where they hear God's Word and learn how to follow Him with their lives. Several older children went through our baptism Bible study and 4 of them were baptized on Easter Sunday. Many other children wanted to follow the Lord in this way, but their parents did not grant their permission. **Please pray for these young people as they strive to grow and please the Lord even in their unsaved home situations.**

Visitors



Mission Agency President

We were privileged to have **Danny and Darlene Whetstone** come and visit us in early March. We had a great time of fellowship and encouragement with them. They were a great blessing to our people as well through their preaching and testimonies. Many of the ladies were touched by Mrs. Whetstone's testimony.

The Whetstones were able to be here while our son, Levi, celebrated his 3rd birthday. It seems hard to believe that it has been 3 years since his miraculous birth. We enjoyed one last Zimmer party with my

brother Paul and his family before they left for the states. We are looking forward to being together with all of **my family from around the world this summer for our Zimmer family reunion** in Traverse City, Michigan.

Harvest Baptist Bible College Recruits

Two representatives from HBBC in Guam, Bobby Wood and Joaquin Pena, came in early April to recruit for the college. 10 of our young people filled out applications. The guys were able to experience a little bit of Yap's good fishing as well!



Layomai Family Steps into Leadership

James and Masency had a **healthy little girl on April 4th and they named her Jamie Rose.** It is a blessing to watch their family grow in number and in their Christian lives.

James is ready to take over for me as the pastor of the church in our absence. Please pray for him that God will give him wisdom for leading the church. His brother Patwin will be graduating from HBBC and is planning to come to help him starting in July. Lucy Nam, a past Yap Baptist teen and graduate of HBBC, will also be coming back to help for the time we are away. A couple of HBBC students will also come for the summer to help here in Yap and on Fais.

Additional Prayer and Praises

- Please pray for the financial needs of those serving in the church while we are gone. We already support James' family, but we would also like to **help support Patwin and Lucy** while they are here. If anyone is interested in helping out financially, we would be very grateful and I know the Lord would bless your gifts.
- Please pray for the continued summer activities for Yap Baptist. **Teen camp is scheduled for July 22-26 and VBS will be held the week after, July 29-August 2.** We are excited to see the local leadership run these events on their own, and we are confident that they will do an excellent job!
- Please pray that the **church members** will support, encourage, and serve along side of James and Masency helping to **carry the load.**
- Continue to pray for **Roland and Chelyn Lug and family in Fais.** They plan to come back to Yap for a visit right before we head back to the states, so we look forward to seeing them again. They are coming to get supplies for their VBS and teen camp they will hold in June.
- I also got to talk on the phone to **Truly Erra in Chuuk** and he and Lency are doing well there making progress in their Bible studies there on Fefin.
- Please pray for **Levi** as he is **having severe tooth pain.** We were hoping he could make it back to the states in time to have the tooth fixed there, but it looks like he will not be able to make it because of the pain. We are trying to get him an appointment here to have them extract the tooth, which is all that the dental assistants can do. No dentist is on island right now.
- Please pray for **Diane** as she has been having pain in her left foot for several months. The doctor here believes that **she has plantar faciitis** which makes it painful when she stands too long. Packing has made it difficult for her to get any relief.
- Please continue to pray that we will be able to acquire **a van for our furlough.** We are looking into the option of buying a van and then bringing it back to Yap to use in the ministry here. If you have any possibilities, we would love to hear from you.

Thanks again for your faithfulness in holding up our family and ministry in your prayers and financial support. We are grateful to partner with you to reach the island of Yap! We look forward to seeing many of you in the months to come!

Serving HIM,
Mark Zimmer and family