



News from  
**The Mark Zimmer Family**  
Yap, Micronesia

## October 2015

Dear Friends:

A famous preacher once said, "I would rather light a candle, than curse the darkness." At times situations seem so dark, but we are thankful that in the midst of this darkness, we know a Light that can cast out the darkness around us.

### Refugees in Yap

Last November a boat with 34 refugees from Indonesia arrived in Yap. The boat was listing to one side and had nearly capsized during the trip. These men, from India, Nepal, and Indonesia, were fleeing persecution in their countries.

A man from our church named Martin had been visiting them at their shacks along the water, and felt burdened to start a Bible study with them. We got permission from Yap's Assistant Attorney General to bring them to church on Sundays as well as have a Bible Study with them on Monday nights. We praise the Lord that some have made professions of faith!

At the Monday night Bible study, I had started in Genesis with creation and after several Bible studies we were to the story of Joseph. We were talking about how he had been imprisoned, treated unfairly, and yet he kept a good attitude and glorified God through his trials. The leader of the refugees told me that they had just heard from immigration that they might have to stay here for at least one more year and would not be allowed to leave the dock to go to church or even to have the Bible study anymore.

This news was devastating to their group, and he wanted me to know that they were almost to the point of losing faith that God would deliver them from their situation. However, through the Bible study about Joseph, God has given them hope to trust the Lord and His timing.

### Visit from Dr. Les Ollila

In August we were privileged to have Dr. Les Ollila visit with us for a few days. He preached our Sunday services and then we had a special service on Tuesday night before he left. We were able to spend half of the day out on the ocean, and he hooked a 70-pound yellowfin tuna! During his visit, Doc "O" was a great encouragement to me in so many ways as he helped me load the ship with supplies for Roland and James on the outer islands. Because of his expertise in logging, he went with me to the jungle and gave me great advice that I will be able to use in the future.

### Yap Students at Harvest Baptist Bible College

Also in August, several students from Yap Baptist traveled to Guam to attend school at Harvest Baptist Bible College. Three new students, Francis, Phil, and Jaylyn, began their first year, and we are thankful for the good reports we have heard so far. After serving in the church over the summer, Klinton, Jackson, and Joaquinne also returned to continue their studies at HBBC. These young people are a blessing to us and faithfully served in the ministry. Please pray for them as God directs their lives.



*Men's Bible study group with some of the refugees.*



*Doc "O" crushes 70-pound yellowfin tuna!*



*HBBC students return to Guam. Left to right: Francis, Klinton, Jaylyn, Joaquinne, Jackson, and Phil*



*Speech class elective. (next page)*

## School has begun!

Zimmer Homeschool started back up in August. Joseph is in 12th grade, John-Mark in 10th, Cherith in 8th, Caleb in 5th, and Levi started K-5. Since Diane wanted the two older boys to take speech, and she has her degree in Speech Education, she decided to open up an opportunity for 9th through 12th graders at our church to come and be a part of the class. Passing by the church during class time sounds like they are having a lot of fun while learning valuable speaking skills. (*previous page*) Soon they will begin preparing for an evangelistic Christmas play for the church. We plan to have two showings and invite the family members of the students who do not attend our church with hopes to reach them for Christ.

## Surgery for Young Salina

We praise the Lord for a faithful family in our church, Jack and Shirley, and their children, Salik, Palikan, and Christina. Christina began inviting her friend, Salina, a couple of years ago and Salina has become a special part of our church family. A couple of months ago, Salina was diagnosed with a serious life-threatening heart condition, and it was recommended that she go to the Philippines to have surgery. With the help of some Sea Bees who have been working here in Yap and attending our church, as well as some of you who helped via a Go Fund Me account, and other donations by church members, we were able to give the family the money for her and her father to go to the Philippines last week. Continue to pray for her as her oxygen levels need to improve before they can perform the surgery. Also pray for her family and the opportunity to reach them for Christ through this difficult trial.

## More Finished Projects

One more October blessing was being able to finish two projects that we have been working on for the past year. The lumber that we have milled has been useful in meeting needs, not only for James and Roland on the outer islands, but also for our church people here in Yap. Both projects required help from many volunteers and God is using these opportunities to teach us how to serve one another in the body of Christ. It is also necessary in their training process to teach these young men carpentry skills that will be a valuable asset to them in the future. I was so thankful to have Edwin here to help me finish the projects.



*Levi is thrilled to be in K-5 and learning how to read!*



*Salina and Christina*



*Edwin, Regina,  
and Mark in front  
of Regina's house*

*Martin and myself in front  
of his house.*

During this Thanksgiving season, we would like to say a special thank you for your continued prayer and support for our family and ministry here in Yap. We also give thanks to the Light of the World,  
Who is able to bring hope and peace to all.  
Mark, Diane, Joseph, John Mark, Cherith, Caleb, and Levi

## Additional Praises and Prayer

- **Rebuilding:** Continue to pray for James, Roland, and Patwin as they rebuild on their islands. Praise the Lord that we were able to send nearly 1,000 cement blocks and over 100 bags of cement and other building supplies on the ship that left last month. We also sent the wood that Patwin helped me mill so that he can also build his own house on Fais Island.
- **Refugees:** Please pray for the refugees here in Yap. Pray that their physical and spiritual needs may still be met.
- **Joseph:** Please pray for our son, Joseph, as he makes decisions to attend college next year.
- **Diane:** Praise the Lord for medical answers to some physical problems that Diane has been facing.
- **Edwin:** Pray for Edwin as he will be flying back to Guam and will be getting married in December at Harvest Baptist Church.

See [FACEBOOK](#) for additional photos: [MarkandDiane Zimmer](#)

If you would prefer to receive an electronic letter rather than this letter write: [markanddiane@zimmerfamily.org](mailto:markanddiane@zimmerfamily.org)

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