



News from
The Mark Zimmer Family
Yap, Micronesia

May 2016

Dear Friends:

Since our last update we have seen God working in many areas of our lives: Diane's health restored, God's provision, God's protection, and multiple answers to prayer. His all-sufficient grace continues to give us strength during our times of great need. Thanks so much for your faithful prayer and encouragement over the last few months.

My grace is sufficient for you, for my strength is made perfect in weakness. 2 Corinthians 12:9

God Provides Lumber

Last summer we started cutting down some trees that the chief of our village had given to us with plans to use the lumber to **help rebuild the church in Fais that Typhoon Maysak had destroyed**. After cutting and transporting the logs for a few months to the church property, our village chief brought a crew of men and began to help me mill the large pile of logs. We dried this wood for a few months, and Jack helped me treat the wood by rolling dirty oil on all of the surfaces of the wood to protect it from termites.

After bolting together the ceiling rafters, we realized that we needed more lumber for the trusses. I began looking for more trees that would work for straight rafters, and the Lord directed a guy to call me from Gagil who had the exact trees that we needed. It was such an answer to prayer to have Roland come back from Fais the Friday before we were scheduled to start milling the wood on Monday. The trees were cut and milled by that Wednesday evening, and we took the lumber to the dock on Thursday to be loaded on the ship, *Voyager*. Roland and his sister, Stella, left on the ship this past Wednesday with the lumber, building supplies, and tin for the roof.

By the time you receive this letter, Jack and I will be on a plane to Fais to spend a week or two installing the roof system. This church building will be a more permanent structure made from cement blocks with anchor plates to hold down the trusses. **Thanks so much to many of you who have been part of this eternal investment as many lives will continue to be touched through the building process, as well as the church building being a ray of hope on this island.** I am thankful that some men in our church have agreed to bring messages while I am in Fais. **We covet your prayers for our time on Fais Island.**

God is in Control

Last year we had a record number of typhoons in our area, and this year the weather service has reported that we are experiencing an El Nino weather pattern that will continue until August bringing extremely dry weather. We have felt the effects with dry season winds and **a lack of rain which has caused the water reservoir to be drastically depleted**. Although currently it is raining a little more than past months, it is only enough to keep some vegetation alive, but not enough to cause any water to flow into the reservoir. It has been a very difficult time for the islanders, as well, because they depend greatly on their local foods, such as taro which requires swampy soil. However, their taro patches are dry! We know that God is in control, and we are learning to trust Him even more through this time. the future. Please continue to pray for those who visited for the first time, some who have returned, and others to whom we are reaching out.



Chief Manuel gives trees and helps mill lumber for the church in Fais.



L to R: Pastor Roland, Fais member, Fais member, Jack, and Mark.



Lumber ready to take to the ship.



Reservoir: May 2016 - the red pipe/drain on the left is usually covered with water.

Reunited!

Diane's surgery was a success, and **her health has been restored!** She headed back to the islands the end of March with our youngest, Levi, but it was a bittersweet time for her as she left our oldest son, Joe, back in the states to work through the summer before going to Bob Jones in the fall. We met in Guam and enjoyed a week of vacation time together before heading back to Yap.on Him.

Diane is back ministering to her friends and family and reaching out to many with her kind words and deeds. With the help of Lucy and Stella, she was able to catch up on all the cakes and birthday presents that she missed while she was away. God has blessed her with energy, compassion and the gift of giving. On Mother's Day the ladies showed their love for her by giving her an abundance of leis. I am so thankful that God has given us more time to serve together on this mission.

During Diane's absence I learned a lot about cooking, cleaning, and appreciating what hard work it is to take care of three children, to try to feed all of us, and to keep things going around the house as well as in the ministry. Jack and I continued to work on the outer island project, and I **remodeled the guest bathroom** because of termite damage and corrosion on the shower drain which had caused major leakage problems.

Thank you for encouraging us through your faithful giving and prayer,
Mark for the Family

Thank you for praying for these upcoming summer opportunities:

- Harvest **Baptist Bible College students**, Klinton, Jackson, Joaquinne, Francis, and Jaylyn, will be returning to help in the church ministries. Phil will be staying to work at Harvest. We are also thankful to have graduates, Lucy, Stella and Jody, helping in the church. The testimony of these young people is a great encouragement to the teens and the church.
- While I have some extra help, we are hoping to put on a **new church roof**.
- Some of the Harvest students may go to help at the **teen camp in Fais**.
- Our **VBS and teen camp will be held in July**. We are looking forward to having the camp team from Harvest join us again this year.
- Please pray that these summer opportunities will produce **new relationships with people** who need the Lord.



Saying "goodbye" to our oldest son, Joe.



Yap Baptist Church Mothers



Lucy and Stella were a huge help!

Additional Praises and Prayer

- **Stonefish:** A few weeks ago I was walking barefoot out to my boat at low tide and **I stepped on a Stonefish**. I experienced intense pain and swelling that went from my foot all the way up to my knee. Per doctor's orders, I kept my foot in hot water for two hours which helped break down the proteins in the poison. Thankfully, after a couple of days, the nerve pain and swelling subsided, although some pain remained for a couple of weeks.
- **Church Leadership:** Pray for the **adults in the church to remain faithful to the Lord and continue to grow**. Pray that God will raise up **Godly servant leaders** that will take a stand.
- **Severe Drought:** Pray for **rain** for our very dry island.
- **Joseph:** Pray for **our son, Joe**, as he works this summer in Greenville, SC and then attends Bob Jones in the fall.
- **Fais Church Work:** Pray for **safety and wisdom** as we work on the outer island project.
- **Roof Finances:** Please pray for a need for some additional finances to see the church building roofs finished up.

See [FACEBOOK](#) for additional photos: [MarkandDianeZimmer](#)

If you would prefer to receive an electronic letter rather than this letter write: markanddiane@zimmerfamily.org

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