



News from
The Mark Zimmer Family
Yap, Micronesia

January 2017

New Year Blessings from Yap

Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth; shall ye not know it? I will even make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert. Isaiah 43:19

NEW BELIEVERS!

Special blessings from God came in the form of a young Filipino engineer who has been visiting our Sunday services for several months. After one of our services, I was greeting people and his friend said, "Joenie has been very interested in the preaching in the services and realized that he has never accepted Christ as his personal Lord and Savior." I turned to Joenie and asked him if he would like to do that right now. He immediately said, "Yes," and I was able to lead him through some Bible verses. Afterwards, he called on the Lord for salvation.

Several ladies in our church have been earnestly praying for their husbands' salvation. One of the ladies named Charity and her children have attended for several years. We have prayed that her husband, Mike, would come to know Christ. It was a huge answer to prayer to see him come to our Christmas outreach service. After the Christmas story was read and I shared about the greatest gift ever given, he raised his hand and I was able to lead him to Jesus!

Both men were baptized during our New Year's service/fellowship on the beach along with Loraine, several children, and a young Yapese man named Adam. Adam wants to attend Harvest Bible College this fall. It brings to mind the verse that says, "It shall be to the Lord for a name, for an everlasting sign that shall not be cut off."

NEW THATCH ROOF

Our church men rallied together and cut fresh thatch from the mangrove swamps for the new roof on the church **koyeng** (shelter). I enjoyed being part of the process as we cut tall branches with machetes from plants that grow in brackish water in the swamps. There were plenty of mosquitoes, and we prayed none of us would catch dengue fever as an added "bonus." We then cut the leaves off the branches and bundled them up with vines to be carried out of the swamp for weaving.

The ladies volunteered to make the roofing material by weaving the leaves around sliced bamboo poles. Some ladies wove at home, and others gathered together to weave at the church. Although this type of roofing is labor intensive, it is amazing how the Lord provides everything naturally for the people to use. He has indeed given them the wisdom to make beautiful roofing. The previous roof lasted approximately 5 years.

When the koyeng roof was half finished, we received news that one of the teens we had been trying to help had been involved in some trouble with the police and decided to take his life. He hung himself in the village next to ours, and the family asked if I would take part in the funeral. I found it very difficult to speak, but the Lord gave me grace to share the incredible message of God's love towards all people. The young man was only 14 years old, and Diane wept as



Baptismal group



Mike being baptized



Ladies weaving



Men putting on roof

she remembered him attending her Sunday school classes as a little boy when we first arrived in Yap years ago. We stopped the koyeng project for a week during the funeral preparations and service, and resumed after the burial.

NEW CHURCH ROOF FROM GUAM!

In our last prayer letter, I mentioned we needed a new roof for the church and half of the house. God provided the funds we needed, and I was able to go to Guam, give the manufacturer the sizes we needed, and booked the roofing materials on the ship for transport to Yap. The roof has arrived and we plan to start taking off the old one and installing the new one very soon. Praise the Lord and thank you so much for praying and giving so generously toward this very important project. I know a roofer that might want to volunteer his services!

CHURCH APARTMENT REMODELING

On the church property we have two 20-ft containers that have been modified into a two-bedroom apartment. A kitchen made of local wood was added a few years back. During our first term here, Rollence Lug and his family lived in the apartment for 5 years before moving to Fais. During our second term, James Layomai's family lived in it for 5 years before moving to Ulithi. The apartment has served as a place for our Harvest Bible College students to stay in the summer as they work in the church, and also a place for Rollence and James' families to stay when they return to the island.

Since we don't have anyone currently working with us as an intern, the apartment has been vacant and given me a chance to do some repair and remodeling work. Extensive termite damage was found in the roof structure as well as some of the walls, so we replaced the wood, added a porch, and made some interior repairs.

I plan to do more work in the kitchen in the coming months. After Klinton and Lucy are married at the end of May, they will be moving into the apartment and assisting us in the ministry.

CHRISTMAS JOY!

Seen below is the Christmas feast, a group of church members, and children singing "Silent Night" and also performing the piece in sign language.



Christmas feast



Happy Yuletide members



Sweet little Jasmine



Children singing and signing 'Silent Night'



Laarow, Lounicia, & Diane



Men on top of nearly finished roof



Extensive termite damage in the apartment



New porch on the apartment



Happy siblings!

Additional Praises | Church Member Prayer Requests

- **Adult Bible Studies:** We have had great turnouts for the marriage Bible study, and we are praying that through studying God's Word and applying its principles, marriages will be strengthened and families will be committed to building Christian homes.
- **Ulithi:** James Layomai is seeing fruit in Ulithi, and he asked me to come and help him build a porch on his house for his growing Bible study. I hope to go in the next few months. Please continue to pray for their ministry on Falalop, Ulithi.
- **Medical Expenses:** God provided the funding needed to pay off all of Diane's medical bills!
- **Together Again!** Our son, Joe, was able to spend his Christmas break from college with us here in Yap. We enjoyed many water activities and some inside 'chill' time during a tropical storm. It was nice to have him around the house—just like old times! Now he has returned to Greenville, SC and is being shocked back into winter weather by the south's recent snow storm.
- **Jasmine:** This sweet little girl (*pictured on previous page*) and her siblings have been coming to our church for several years, and she has faithfully witnessed to and brought her parents to church in the last year. Jasmine was born with Goldenhar Syndrome which is a rare, congenital birth defect. She also suffers from severe spinal scoliosis and skeletal disease. Shriners' Hospital in Sacramento, CA accepted her as a patient. Accompanied by her father, Jasmine traveled to California a month or so ago for major surgery. The doctors inserted two metal rods on each side of her spine to help straighten her back. She is recovering now and hopes to return to Yap in a few weeks. Her family was pictured in our last prayer letter. We have been ministering to her family, and her bold testimony for Christ is impacting the hearts of her parents to turn to Christ.
- **Laarow:** Laarow (*seen on previous page with teen Lounicia and Diane*) has been a faithful servant of the Lord in our church for several years. Each Sunday she brings fresh flowers and puts them up in the church and even in our home. As the ladies in the church were decorating the church for Christmas, Laarow felt uneasy and sensed something was wrong at home. When we took her home, she discovered her house had burned to the ground. Our church has rallied around the family and is trying to provide for their needs. Also, her husband does not know Christ and we are praying that his heart will be softened by the love that we are sharing because of Jesus Christ.
- **James:** Another sad thing happened this past weekend. The brother-in-law of James and Alex was spear fishing and drowned. Please pray for their family in the next couple of days as funeral times can be times of great temptation in their culture here. We are praying that James and others in our church who are related to the family will be a light in the darkness, and that souls would be drawn to Christ through this difficult time.
- **Spiritual Steadfastness:** Please continue to pray for several in our church who seem to take some steps forward and then fall back. Please pray that we can all keep our eyes on Christ and not be swayed or discouraged by the evil around us.

Our church's theme this year is ***Walking with Jesus***, and we are trusting Him to direct our paths these next twelve months. May 2017 be the best year yet as we live and grow in Him! Thank you for your very significant investments in the ministry here in Yap! Mark, Diane and Family



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