



# Quarterly News from The Mark Zimmer Family

Yap, Micronesia

## SPRING 2019

Let them give glory unto the Lord, and declare his praise in the islands.  
Isaiah 42:12

### **HOMeward BOUND**

On April 22, we left Greenville, SC, where we said good-bye to our 3 older children, and began our trip back to Yap with our 2 youngest boys. We were thankful to have short layovers and smooth connections and arrived in Yap 27 hours after departing. Although weary from traveling, it was great to be home and see our friends and ministry partners again.

### **TOGETHER AGAIN**

It was a joy to see the church packed on our first Sunday back. We are thankful for the faithfulness of those who served in the church while we were gone and encouraged to see the people still following the Lord. That Sunday we were showered with flower leis and welcomed back by special singing and delicious food! We were happy to return while it is crab season as that is one of our favorite foods! The ladies prepared the crab several different ways, and it was fun to try out their recipes.

### **LET THE BUILDING BEGIN**

As we returned and saw the church filled, we realized how important it is for us to build a larger building. The first step was to communicate with the chief of our village to make sure he was satisfied with our plan. His driveway is at the edge of our property, and his house is right next door, so we like to run our ideas by him to keep a positive relationship between him and the church. The Lord prepared his heart to allow us to begin the addition.

The second step was to begin finding and cutting down trees so that the wood can be drying in preparation for building. The Lord also worked miracles in this area, and men have been calling me and stopping me in town offering trees for the project. Several of these men join us when we are working, and we try to show them the love of Christ by the way we work and through the Bible challenges we give at the job site. Please pray that these contacts will lead to lasting fruit.

See video of cutting down tree at

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCTJaJztdVKqKM1LwrD6sHcg>

### **MILLING CREW**

I'm grateful for a great group of guys who are here to help me with this labor-intensive project. Some of our HBBC students returned for the summer, as well as my son Joe, and they are not only a huge help with projects but also with ministry activities and teaching and preaching as well. My assistant, Truly Erra, also works tirelessly and is a great encourager and example. I am also so thankful for the portable Lucas mill and the Woodmizer band saw that help us turn these trees into lumber. There have been some minor repairs that we have had to make to them, but they are still running strong!



**Chicago to Tokyo flight path: 13 hours**



**Our new little family arrived safely in Yap**



**Sunday Morning worship service**



**Teens sing special music**

## SENDING TO SERVE

Klinton and Lucy served faithfully during our furlough and had a desire to go and help Rollence Lug on Fais Island after our return. We are grateful for their investment in the ministry here through the years, and we look forward to hearing how God uses them on Fais.



*Praying for God's blessing on them and their ministry*



*Klinton, Karis, and Lucy*

## Additional Prayer and Praises

- **Church Building Expansion Project:** Praise the Lord we have received the needed funds for the building project. Please pray for good weather and safety as we cut the trees and mill the lumber.
- **Prison Ministry:** We began going down to the prison again on Sunday afternoons. It has been a blessing to take some of the men in our church as well as the college students who are home for the summer. This past Sunday, 8 guys went with me and we sang and taught the Bible to approximately 50 prisoners and several guards. It is such a joy to hear the prisoners sing so loudly! Please pray for souls to be saved and lives changed.
- **Upcoming Summer Activities:** In July we will have our teen camp and instead of VBS this year, we are planning a community outreach family carnival type day. Please pray that we will reach many new people through these outreaches and that we can be a light to those around us.
- **Family:** Leaving our older children behind has been tough, but we are thankful that they have good jobs and are continuing their education. Joseph is helping with milling here in Yap for the summer and plans to return to BJU in the fall. John Mark attends Greenville Technical College and also has a job doing computer work. Cherith finished up her homeschooling while staying with Diane's parents and will be attending Bob Jones Academy for her senior year in the fall. She is working at Publix.
- **Needs:** Our family car broke down while we were away, and it is being assessed right now to see whether it is possible for it to be fixed. It will either be costly to fix or we will need to purchase a new vehicle.

Grateful to be partnering with you to reach Yap for Christ!

*Mark and Diane*

If you would be interested in receiving our updates through e-mail, you may contact us at [markanddiane@zimmerfamily.org](mailto:markanddiane@zimmerfamily.org).



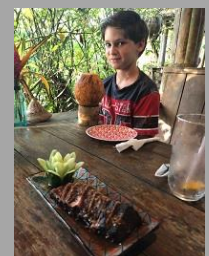
*College students help with tree work*



*Milling in the jungle*



*One of our seniors, Zoelynn, graduated from my brother Paul's school, Faith Christian Academy. She plans to go to Harvest Bible College in August. Her sister Maxine (right), also came back from HBBC this summer and is helping in the children's ministries of the church.*



*Diane helped Lency and Truly watch their baby, Hunter, while Lency finished teaching. The boys sure love this little guy, too! Levi loved coming back to the island of fresh coconuts and blackened sashimi!*