



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

**YEAR-END 2019 UPDATE**

*I will look unto the Lord; I will wait for the God of my salvation: my God will hear me. Micah 7:7*

When life's burdens seem too heavy to bear, as Christians we can look to the Lord and confidently know that God will hear us in our times of need. The past few months have been very difficult at times, but God continues to work in hearts and lives in and around us.

**BUILDING PROGRESS**

Since our last update, the Lord has allowed us to pour the footings, slab, and lay all of the cement blocks. We are currently working on finishing the rim around the top of the block. The next step is to build and install the trusses.

**SEPTEMBER**

A couple of friends from Wisconsin, Josh & Bill, came to give us a hand on the foundation, backfilling, and pouring the slab. They were excellent concrete workers and the floor turned out great. We had a big turnout of local men to help us mix and wheelbarrow the concrete over.

**OCTOBER**

After laying out the foundation for the building, we realized that the slope of the ground would not allow us to connect the 2 buildings without creating water problems. We decided to add a larger stage area to increase the seating capacity of the new building. As we worked on laying the foundation for the new stage area, a tragic event occurred.

As many of you already know, our dear friend, helper in the ministry, and acting attorney general here in Yap, Rachele Haemmerling, was murdered on October 14. The next few weeks were difficult as we grieved with her husband Simon, our friend and missionary pilot who flew us on several occasions to visit the ministries on the outer islands. Rachele's family and my brother John and his wife Jamie were able to come to Yap to help support us and minister with us to plan a memorial service to honor Rachele and her service here on our island. Although it was a very difficult time, we are thankful for the testimonies we continue to hear of those who were impacted by her life and the examples of love and forgiveness shown by her family. We then traveled to Wisconsin where we participated in a funeral service at Rachele's home church. We continue to mourn in her absence and lift up her loved ones in our prayers.



**Footings in September**

**Current progress of the building**

**Josh and Bill help to make the slab perfect**

**Islanders show appreciation for their help**



**Mark had the opportunity to marry Simon & Rachele in July**





## NOVEMBER

Our next team came from Harvest Ministries in Guam. They helped us pour the stage area and began laying block on the new building. During that week we were able to install about half of the block.



*Enjoying Thanksgiving dinner with new friends and ministry workers. The Lord has brought this new family to our church after they visited our carnival this past summer. Mia has been a great friend to Diane and Mike has been helping on our project. Also pictured is our friend Yusaki, Truly and Lency, and Jackson. We are very grateful for these friends and servants in the ministry here.*

## DECEMBER

The beginning of December brought another team from Community Bible Church in Indiana, and they helped us finish the rest of the block work and formed the beam and the opening around the back of the building. The ladies sanded, stained, and varnished most of the 4 x 6 rafters that will be used for the truss work.

This team was also able to take a quick day trip to witness the outer island ministries first-hand. Our first stop was at Fais Baptist Church where we sat down for a noon meal that the Fais people had prepared for us. After eating, we said our tearful good-byes and traveled on to Ulithi where we saw James and Masency and their children.

## CHRISTMAS TIME

While the Indiana team was here to help, the ladies had a Christmas fellowship. They cut-out and decorated Christmas cookies, decorated the church for Christmas, and then Pastor Matson's wife, Rachel, gave a challenge to the more than 50 ladies who attended. The Sunday evening before Christmas, our church gathered to sing, hear a Christmas message, and share a meal together.



*Indiana team visits church plant on Fais*



*Making forms over garage-door opening*



*Taking time to catch some huge fish*



*Ladies prepare mahogany beams and decorate Christmas cookies*



*Last year to be packed inside the smaller church building for our Christmas service*



*We were hoping to be able to bring our older 3 children home for Christmas, but at least we were able to enjoy Facetiming with them as they opened some of their presents on their Christmas Eve in the states and our Christmas morning in Yap!*

### **Additional Prayer and Praises**



- **Upcoming Funeral:** Long-time church member, Terry Muturwan, passed away this past Saturday evening. Please be in prayer for her family as we as a church family minister to her family through singing and a challenge to all those at her funeral this week. Although we will greatly miss her, we praise the Lord that she is no longer in pain and is now in the presence of her Savior!
- **Church Building Expansion:** Continue to pray for safety and good weather for the project. We are hoping to be in the building for our Easter Service.
- **Upcoming Visitors and Teams:** We are thankful and looking forward to more helpers coming in a couple of weeks! Pray for their safety and provision as well.
- **Prison Ministry:** It has been difficult to see new prisoners, including those who have been arrested for the murder of Rachele. Thankful for God's grace in our hearts as we minister to them.
- **Health Crisis:** Continue to pray for those in Yap and in our church family who continue to battle the dengue virus and other diseases. We have had the opportunity to sing and be an encouragement to several families who have lost loved ones.

We are so thankful for the many people God has sent to encourage us and help us in recent months. Thank you for ministering to us while we minister here.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to you and your families!

### *Mark, Diane & Family*

You may continue to contact or text us in Yap on our US cell phone numbers:

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