



Quarterly News from
The Mark Zimmer Family
Yap, Micronesia

MARCH 2020 UPDATE

My flesh and my heart faileth: but God is the strength of my heart, and my portion forever. Psalm 73:26

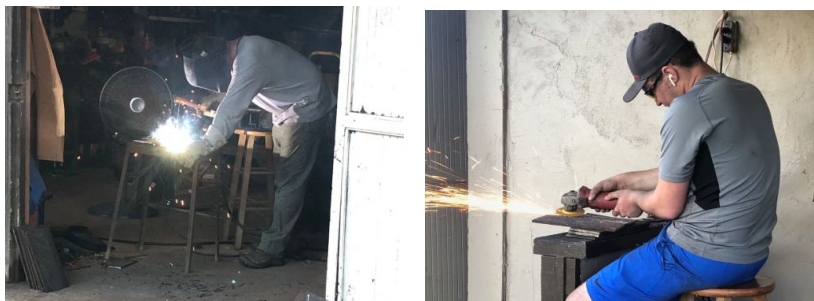
Thank you for praying for us as we also pray for you during this uncertain time. So far the coronavirus has come as far as Guam, but there are no confirmed cases in the Federated States of Micronesia at this time. There is a travel ban currently in place so that may change our plans of returning to the US for our daughter Cherith's graduation. Although our services here have been canceled, we continue to encourage our church members through posting a weekly Sunday message on our Yap Baptist Church Facebook page. We rest in the promises of God, and He is our strength and help in time of need.

BUILDING PROGRESS

The slower ministry schedule has allowed more time to work on the building, and we are thankful for several months of nice weather to make significant progress. Every step of the process, God has sent the workers we needed for each specific job. Our assistant pastors have worked faithfully beside me countless hours. Even local men from our church and others we are reaching have come to share in the burden and offer their expertise.

JANUARY

Before starting the roof, we needed to fabricate steel plates for the truss construction. God sent our friends, Kipp and Drew Malmanger, from Chetek, Wisconsin who worked tirelessly for 10 days welding, cutting, and drilling holes in over 100 steel plates that would be used to connect the 4x6 beams into trusses! The grinding crew cleaned the plates, then the plates went on to the painting crew who painted them black. In a week and a half, we were ready to start building.



Kipp welded and Drew grinded and drilled holes in the steel plates used to connect the beams into trusses

FEBRUARY

We were blessed to have a contractor friend and his wife come to help us build and install the rafters for the roof. Ken and Jen Schmidt, also from Chetek, Wisconsin came for 2 weeks and helped us stain, varnish, and build the trusses. We had milled most of the wood this past summer, but we were still a few pieces short. Ken enjoyed being part of the process of cutting trees and milling the lumber in the jungle and then bringing back mahogany 4x6 to construct the trusses.



Pouring the Beam in early January



Current progress of the building



Sky Trek helped to place the trusses



Truss Crew



Bolting steel plates to connect the beams



Staining and varnishing 4x6 beams



Process for getting more lumber



Installing steel roofing panels

MARCH

In March we installed the purlins that the metal roofing would be connected to. The steel roofing panels came on the ship just in time and a great group of men from the church came and helped install the roof in just one day. We were grateful that the wind subsided for the day so that the lengthy panels were able to be lifted and put in place without injury or damage. Currently, we are plastering the walls and installing the windows.

PRISON MINISTRY

We continue to minister to the men in the prison on Sunday afternoons. Our services include preaching, showing Christian movies, and they especially love singing. For the past few weeks, we have been blessed to have a newly released prisoner attending the church services at Yap Baptist. He shared with me that he accepted Christ while in prison. He has shown a desire to follow the Lord, and he helped us as we worked on the roof.



Interior view of exposed beams



Finished plaster and mahogany window frames ready for louvered glass to be installed



Showing Overcomer to prisoners - Prison Rec room where we meet for Bible study

MINISTRY IN TIMES OF NEED

On several occasions during the past few months, our church was asked to go and sing at funerals. This time is a great opportunity to share the hope of Jesus Christ and encourage people's hearts who are hurting. Our church ladies make flower arrangements, and then we get in our vehicles and go to the home where the viewing is located, sing a few songs, and then I share the Gospel and some verses of encouragement



Teens ride in back of truck to go sing at funeral - Gathering around the burial site for long-time church member, Terry Muturwan

Several people that we know have been hospitalized recently as well. Part of our ministry opportunities includes taking people to the hospital, visiting patients and sharing food or needed supplies, helping them obtain their medicine or other tests, and praying and encouraging them from God's Word. On a recent visit to see a church member, I had the opportunity to talk to another gentleman who was in a nearby bed. After visiting him a couple of times, he accepted Christ as His Savior.



Patient ward at Yap Memorial Hospital - Ken visits the Yap hospital after an unexpected shoulder injury

Additional Prayer and Praises

- **New Church Building:** Continue to pray for safety and good weather for the project. We currently have the funds to finish the construction, but we still would like to get new chairs and put in some sidewalks and a finished epoxy coating on the floor.
- **Bible Study & New Believers:** For several weeks we were able to have a marriage Bible study with two families in our church. Praise the Lord that one of the men realized his need for the Savior and accepted Christ.
- **Outer Island Ministries:** Pastor James Layomai, pastoring in Falalop, Ulithi (left) and Pastor Klinton Etheumar (right), filling in for Rollence Lug on Fais Island, were invited along with their wives to speak at the missions conference at Harvest Baptist Church in Guam. If you are interested in hearing an update on the Outer island ministries, you may listen to some radio interviews they did while in Guam. <https://khmg.org/ht-layomai/>



- **Spiritual Growth:** Pray for our church members that they will continue to be faithful to the Lord although we are not able to have our church services at this time.

- **Faithful Helpers:** We are grateful for the two assistant pastors that the Lord has blessed our ministry with currently. They have worked many extra hours on the church construction as well as pastoring, preaching, and teaching. Thank you, Truly & Lency Erra (left) and Jackson Fahoyelmarey (right) for your service to the Lord.



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.



Going on a Valentines dinner date with our friends, Ken and Jen Schmidt

We are praying for you, our family and friends, as you go through these uncertain times with the coronavirus. May God's peace comfort your hearts.

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

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