



Quarterly News from
The Mark Zimmer Family
Yap, Micronesia

JULY 2020 UPDATE

*From the end of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed: lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.
Psalm 61:2*

The past several months have brought many changes to our island and to the world. Praise the Lord, He never changes! When attached to the Vine, Jesus Christ, we can bring forth fruit right where we are planted.

So far, there are no cases of the coronavirus on Yap or any of the states of Micronesia. In March and April, the Yap government advised us to not "mass gather" and then for approximately 2 weeks, there was a curfew in place as well. In May, since FSM had closed its borders to anyone entering the island, we were able to go back to normal, attending church and schools also resumed. Our first Sunday back to church was Mother's Day, and it was a blessing to be together again.

Because of the travel restrictions coming into Yap, which are expected to continue until the end of September, many have been separated from their loved ones and plans have been altered. We decided to postpone our trip to the states for our daughter's graduation and instead work toward completing the new church building. Since the building is near completion, we have decided to return to the states to purchase some final items for the building and hopefully return to Yap when they reopen the borders. Our flight is scheduled to arrive on August 3 and we look forward to being reunited with our children in Greenville, SC.

BUILDING PROGRESS

One of our church members, George, is experienced in cement work and has helped us with plastering the inside and outside of the building as well as pouring sidewalks around the entire building. He is also helping with installing the electrical. We have been blessed to have an architect and an engineer also attending our church who have drawn up plans for the interior work. We milled local lumber and made mahogany siding for the gables on each end of the building and also constructed an awning on one end of the building to help with rain and sun issues. The windows and doors have been installed and the painting is also complete. We plan to purchase a garage door for the large opening that allows overflow into the koyeng. Currently, we are building the stage and installing the electrical.



Plastering cement



Installing local mahogany siding

Here is a link to a video walk through of the new building:
<https://vimeo.com/438024849>.



First Sunday back after social distancing



Current progress of the building



Used clothing gifts for Mother's Day



Our daughter, Cherith, graduated from Bob Jones Academy; with our sons and Diane's parents



Teens enjoyed a fun day touring the island. Here they are posing at a WWII airplane crash site



Building an awning and Diane painting

OPPORTUNITIES FOR USE

We have already had the opportunity to use the new building for our Father's Day feast as well as several children's and teen activities. It's nice to see the people enjoying the building so much. We are excited to see how the Lord uses this building for His glory!



Father's Day Feast



Thursday Kids' Night

CHANGED PLANS

In May we planned on being in the states for our daughter's high school graduation and our 25th wedding anniversary. Flight restrictions, however, kept us here in Yap, and we watched Cherith's graduation online. We are thankful that her grandparents and her brothers were there to celebrate with her.

Flight restrictions also kept our Harvest graduates from returning to Yap. Francis and Stevelynne were planning on getting married here in Yap this summer, but he is still in Guam waiting for the inbound flights to open. Jaylynnne also wanted to come back to Yap to help us in the ministry. Although their plans have been altered, we are thankful that they have continued to serve the Lord this summer in Guam as they wait for their next step.



Celebrating our 25th wedding anniversary



Harvest Baptist Bible College grads: Francis (left) Jaylynnne (right)

OUTER ISLAND MINISTRIES

It has been great to hear reports and see pictures of the outer island ministries! Pastor James and Masency came back to Yap for a short visit, and it was great to see them and their children and hear of God's work in the lives of the people on Falalop, Ulithi! Klinton and Lucy, who have been filling in for Pastor Rollence and Chelyn while they have been on furlough, returned last week from Fais island on their way to begin a new ministry working at Harvest in Guam. It was also encouraging to see how God continues to grow His church on Fais island as well. Please be in prayer for the soon return of Chelyn and Rollence as their return date has also been affected by the travel bans.



Falalop, Ulithi Bible Study Group



Fais Baptist Church Family

FUN PETS

We thought some of the kids out there might like to see the fun pets we get to have here in Yap! You can't get too attached because they may fly away or need to be released back into the ocean, but at least we get to enjoy God's creation for a time.



Our boys enjoy watching these fish in the small aquarium in their room. They enjoy going out while it's low tide and catching them in a net after shaking them out of coral. A friend gave us a baby sea turtle that enjoyed swimming around in our fish tank until we decided to let him swim back out into the ocean. Levi nursed a sick seagull back to health by feeding it fish until it was strong enough to fly away one day.



Diane finally got the black puppy she has always wanted. Of course, she named her Ebony, after our beloved black lab that we left in the states when moving to Yap. We aren't sure what to name our new kitty. Mama thinks it should be called Baby Yoda! Meet our pretty white cat, Nancy. Our two youngest boys are cat lovers! (Along with their dad, although he wouldn't admit it!)

Additional Prayer and Praises

- **New Church Building:** We continue to praise the Lord for His provision and protection. We received additional funds to help us complete all of the cement sidewalks and steps around the building which is a huge blessing during the rainy season. The chairs have also been provided for and we plan on purchasing those while we are in the states. We also plan on packing a container to send a garage door for the large opening, a church sign, projector, monitor, screen, and sound equipment, as well as materials for the epoxy flooring.
- **New Believers and Baptism Bible Study:** Tonight, we held a Bible study for those new believers who desire to follow the Lord in believer's baptism. There were 16 in attendance. On Sunday, July 26th we will be holding a baptismal service at the beach in our village.
- **Travel Plans:** On August 2 we will be heading back to the states to get some needed supplies to finish the building as well as taking some time to visit our children and our parents. If all goes well and the borders reopen, we plan on returning to Yap at the beginning of October.
- **Faithful Helpers:** Please be in prayer for our faithful assistant pastors, Pastor Truly and Pastor Jackson, and our teachers, Lency & Stevelyne, as they lead the church while we are away. Pray that the people will remain faithful to the Lord during this time and continue to step up to help in the ministry.

We are grateful for your continued prayers and support of the ministry here in Yap. We look forward to seeing some of you in the next coming months.

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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For more pictures, look for us on Facebook under MarkandDiane Zimmer.

You may also wish to follow our page: Yap Baptist Church.

