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**Quarterly
News**
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The
Mark Zimmer
Family
• • •
YAP, MICRONESIA

DECEMBER 2020 UPDATE

*The Lord is my rock, and my fortress, and my deliverer; my God, my strength, in whom I will trust.
Psalm 18:2*

DIANE'S HEALTH

In August we returned to the states primarily to have a doctor check on some health concerns that Diane had. After an ultrasound, MRI, and biopsy, the doctors determined that my best friend and partner of 25 years has stage 3 triple-negative breast cancer. As you can imagine, this news was devastating to both of us, but in reminding ourselves that God is our strength and deliverer, we find peace in the midst of the storm. Although our lives have dramatically changed, we continue to believe that His way is still perfect.

Diane began chemotherapy in early September and will complete her treatments on January 13, 2021. Surgery is scheduled for the first week of February, followed by an undetermined number of radiation treatments and reconstructive surgery. At this point we are unsure when this process will be completed. We are still hoping and trusting that we can return to Yap sometime in the summer.



20 followed the Lord in believer's baptism



Special time--new family baptized together

VILLAGE BAPTISMAL SERVICE

On July 26th our church family met at our village beach to baptize 20 believers. Our new believers' Bible study met several times, and each person had a chance to give their salvation testimony. Not knowing what was in the future for our family, this special service was our last Sunday in Yap, and we look back with thankful and emotional hearts to this incredible day that we were able to share together.

Visit the following links to view video footage of the baptismal service:
<https://vimeo.com/491360189>, <https://vimeo.com/491378066>



Church family at the beach



Both koyeng roofs were replaced by many of the church members working together to weave the thatch and tie the bamboo pieces to the roof. Truly and Jack also replaced the tin roofs on the apartment and Sunday School room.



*Last catch with our local pastors,
Jack and Truly*

PRAY FOR THE LOCAL PASTORS & MINISTRY TEAM

We are extremely grateful for the team that God provided to carry on the ministry while we are away. Truly and Lency Erra and their son, Hunter, stay in the ministry apartment, and Jackson Fahoyelmarey stays in a room in the old church building. Truly and Jack have taken over the preaching, teaching, and discipleship ministries and also keep up with maintenance and projects around the property. Stevelyne Leeguor stays in the guest room of our home as she continues to await her fiancé, Francis Bechey, who is still stuck in Guam because of the FSM border closings. She also teaches in a local elementary school. Stevelyne and Lency teach the children's classes and help with the secretarial duties, birthdays, decorating, and cleaning. A lady in the church, Mia Tammad, stepped in to assist with the baking needs for the church. We are grateful for all of their hard work and the many good reports we have received. They have been able to accomplish several projects that needed to be done around the property. It is a blessing to see the ministry team working and serving together with our church people.



*Frank saying goodbye to his cousin,
Leilynn, heading to Harvest Baptist Bible College*



Diane saying good-bye to Lency and Hunter



*Stage built and lights on! Cement stairs and walkway connect the koyeng and buildings.
A local architect who attends our church donated 4 solar lights for the church property.*

BUILDING PROGRESS

Before we left, we finished the electrical and trim work, built the stage area, and completed the sidewalks and steps around the building. A few days later, we were thrilled to be able to turn on the fans and lights inside and outside of the building. We praise the Lord that we had the time to finish the building to a point where they can use it while we are away.

TRAVEL TIME

Since the borders to Yap have been closed since March, we were fortunate to get on a flight with other college students leaving the island. Leilynn Ruan left with us to attend Harvest Baptist Bible College. We entered into the world of masks and social distancing and learned quickly what is and what is not acceptable. The borders to Yap and the other FSM islands are still closed to incoming passengers and no one knows when they will be open for sure.

CHRISTMAS TIME IN YAP

The ministry team and church members have been working hard to put together a Christmas program, December 20th, and plan to invite the community. They did a great job of decorating the inside and outside of the building, and I'm sure the lights are a welcoming sight there in Yap. Please pray for those who come to be open to the message of the gospel and for our church people to show Christ's light to those around them.



*Friends from the States sent Christmas decorations for the new building.
Guys made pavers allowing people to easily cross to the new church building.*

FAMILY TIME

One huge blessing for our family during this unusual time has been that we get to spend quality time with our children. Our daughter, Cherith, was able to come live with us at a home my brother, Dave, is graciously allowing us to stay in while we are here in Greenville, SC. Our two older sons live in a house about 15 minutes away and spend a lot of time with us. We are looking forward to celebrating Christmas together this year!



Our little family getting ready for the long flight over the ocean.



Reunited!

ADDITIONAL PRAYER AND PRAISES

- **Provision from the Lord:**
 - Sound equipment, projector screen, and chairs for new church building
 - Shipping expenses for the container
 - Flatbed truck and minivan for the ministry in Yap
 - Medical costs have been covered 100%
- **Grateful for Blessings:**
 - We have been extremely blessed by friends and family in the Greenville area who have brought meals to our family during this time.
 - We are so grateful for the many people who have sent encouraging cards and gifts to our family during this time. The Lord has been so good to use His people to supply our needs and bless us in unbelievable ways.
- **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.
- **Personal Prayer Needs:** Continue to pray for our family that we will continue to trust the Lord no matter what happens. Pray for strength for Diane to make it through her final treatments and surgeries.
- **Ministry Needs:**
 - a new church sign
 - a video projector
 - wall-mount monitor
 - materials for the epoxy flooring

As 2020 comes to a close, we have so much to be thankful for. We are hopeful that we will have many more years together serving the Lord on the island that God called us to. Thank you for caring and supporting us during this time.

Merry Christmas from our family to yours!

Mark, Diane & Family

You may continue to contact or text us 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.

For more pictures, look for us on Facebook under MarkandDiane Zimmer or Diane's Cancer Journey. You may also wish to follow our page: Yap Baptist Church.