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

APRIL 2021 UPDATE

*Behold, I will do a new thing; now it shall spring forth...I will make a way in the wilderness, and rivers in the desert.
Isaiah 43:19*

A change of seasons brings with it New Life! Spring has Sprung! Easter reminds us that Jesus is risen! With the ground bursting with new life and the trees budding, the heavens declare the glory of God...He is risen indeed!

DIANE'S HEALTH

On January 13, Diane completed her last chemo infusion! She was excited to "ring the bell" which is a tradition for those who finish their treatments. Friends sent her bells and flowers and her sister-in-laws showed up to cheer her on. The younger boys and I were allowed into the infusion room for the first time that day to be a part of ringing the bell.

Our family went on a trip together to celebrate. We were able to go to the Ark Encounter and visit my parents in Traverse City, Michigan. The only negative thing about our trip was that our family came down with covid. But what better place to quarantine than at a cabin in the snowy woods of Michigan!

On February 10 Diane went in for a 7-hour surgery to remove the tumor, and the next day she was allowed to come home. The recovery was tough for the first couple of weeks, but she eventually fully recovered. About 8 days after surgery, we received some devastating news. Although the surgeon was able to successfully remove the tumor and all the lymph nodes in the surrounding area, the tumor was still very much alive, and the oncology doctors were suspicious that some cancer cells could still be alive in her body. They recommended that she take a chemo pill for 6 months. So, on March 24 she began her first round which consists of taking 5 pills in the morning and 5 pills at night for 2 weeks and then 1 week off. She will repeat this regiment for 6 months, ending in September. She will then need to have radiation treatments for 5 weeks, followed by a final surgery.

Of course, we were floored with this news and saddened that we would not be able to return to our island for some time. We are thankful that the doctors are being thorough, and we have already seen the need for us to spend more time with our older children here in the states.

GOD'S WORK CONTINUES IN YAP

We are praising the Lord for His faithful servants continuing to serve the Lord on the island. Pastor Truly and the ministry team have continued the work and have seen the church continue to grow. They enjoyed their first service in the new building at Christmas time and have continued to meet in the new building during the new year. Praise the Lord for new families that the Lord has brought to the church.



Diane completes chemo infusions



Family trip to the Ark Encounter



Christmas service at Yap Baptist

<https://vimeo.com/538476494>
Yap Baptist Church service video

<https://vimeo.com/538467767>
YBC children enjoy Easter egg hunt

MINISTRY TEAM ADJUSTMENTS



Jack, Stevelyne, Lency & Truly



Good bye party for Jack with teens



Praying that the borders will open so that Francis & Jaylynn can return to help at YBC



The borders to Micronesia remain closed to incoming passengers. This fact has made it difficult for the ministry team in Yap since we cannot return either. There is a possibility that they may allow a flight for stranded FSM citizens and students in mid-May. We are praying that this flight will be possible to provide extra workers at YBC.

On April 10, one of the local pastors, Jackson, who returned from Harvest Baptist Bible College a couple of years ago to help me build the building, left the island. He had been putting off his plans for over a year now trying to stay until we could return. However, since the borders are still closed to incoming passengers, he needed to go ahead and pursue his dreams. We are grateful for his service at the church for the past 2 years and hope he will be able to come back some day. With Jackson leaving, all of the responsibility of ministry will be on Pastor Truly. Please pray for him and his wife Lency as they have a lot more responsibility now.

Another one of our 2020 Harvest graduates whom we hoped would come back to help in the ministry in Yap is stuck in Guam because of the border closings. His name is Francis and he had plans to marry Stevelyne who helps us in the church in Yap. Their wedding was planned for last July and since he has been stuck in Guam, they have not been able to marry. They have decided to come to the states to get married and return to the island when the borders reopen. They will be staying with family in North Carolina. Losing Stevelyne will add more work for Lency and Truly as well.

Jaylynn, who also graduated from HBBC in 2020, is also waiting for the borders to open so she can come back and help in the church. Some of the other college students would love to return to help in summer activities if the borders would open.

So, the main prayer request would be that the borders could open soon!!!!

FAMILY NEWS



Our son, Joe, asked Karalyn Barker to marry him; wedding planned for November 20th



Our son, Levi, enjoyed celebrating his 11th birthday at Crab de Jour where he was able to eat some of his favorite island seafood again!

HARVEST BAPTIST BIBLE COLLEGE 2021 GRADUATES

Coming up in May, two more of our college students, Steven and Allysha (pictured below), will be graduating. At Christmas time they played the roles of Mary and Joseph in the school Christmas drama. Of course, Diane was very proud as they once were students in her speech class. Please pray for God's will in these two young people's lives. Steven will be doing an internship at Harvest Baptist Church in Guam this next year. Another reason we need those borders to open would be so that these two could come back to help in the ministry this summer as well!



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
 - Epoxy floor materials
 - Medical costs have been covered 100%
- **Container Update:** When we receive word that the borders will be opening, we will begin purchasing items and packing a container to send to Yap. I hope to return to Yap when the container arrives and help unload and install the items.
- **Grateful for Blessings:**
 - We have been extremely blessed by friends and family in the Greenville area who have brought meals to our family as Diane recovered from surgery.
 - We are so grateful for the many people who have sent encouraging cards and gifts to our family. 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 servants, Pastor Truly and Lency as they will have more responsibility after others leave the island. 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 that we can be patient for His timing and will for our lives.
- **Ministry Needs:**
 - a new church sign
 - a video projector
 - wall-mount monitor

From the world's perspective, our circumstances may seem unfavorable, but as Joseph said to his brothers, "You meant it for evil, but God meant it for good!" As a family, we find ourselves thanking God for taking difficult circumstances and turning it into a good thing. Thank you for praying for us as we navigate this season of our lives.

Mark, Diane & Family

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

Mark: (864) 351-9037

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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 or Diane's Cancer Journey

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