



### **April 2023 Update: New Life in Christ!**

*"If any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new. 2 Corinthians 5:17*

#### **RESURRECTION SUNDAY**

Our church family gathered at Malay beach in the southern part of Yap for our baptismal service, food, fun, and fellowship! It was a blessing to see the unity and excitement among the Yapese believers as we celebrated our living Savior! Please pray for these new believers as they continue in their Christian life that they will grow and have grace to fight the temptations that come their way. For a baptism video go to: <https://vimeo.com/816136789>.



*Praise the Lord that 11 Yapese people followed the Lord in believer's baptism!*

God miraculously provided a huge catch of tuna fish earlier in the week which the people ate their favorite way . . . raw sashimi! (*Pictured in the cups on the table*) We were grateful that although a storm was a few miles to our southeast, the weather remained clear enough to have the service and the kids enjoyed an egg hunt.



*Everyone contributed to a delicious meal; an elderly lady, Margie, followed the Lord in baptism*

## **MARK'S PARENTS VISIT**

We had a special visit from my parents in February. My dad insisted on helping with projects we were working on. God's timing was perfect because my dad was able to fabricate a part I needed for the sawmill and also weld up a much needed frame for the projector so we could install it in the rafters. Mom and Dad were both able to be part of our ministry teaching men and ladies Bible studies and Dad shared at our teen meeting.



*My dad spoke to the teens and my mom spoke to Diane's ladies Bible study*

## **VILLAGE OUTREACH PROJECT**

Each village in Yap has a men's house and a women's house where they meet and prepare for village work. The chief in our village asked me if we could remodel the kitchen area in the women's house. We were able to make the cabinets at the church with milled lumber and install them with a countertop and sink. We also made door frames and installed the doors in the building. This project enabled my assistants to learn valuable building skills, and it built relationships with the men from our village. Please continue to pray for the men in our village to come to know Christ.



## **UNIFYING FUTURE LEADERS**

Church activities are a great way to allow people of all ages to feel like they are part of our church family. We try to use every opportunity that we are given to show them that the Christian life is worth living. Some of these young people will be the future leaders of tomorrow.



*Future "Fishers of men"; Adam brings a challenge on Wednesday night; Teen girls make pizza*



*Teens decorate cookies for Valentines Day*

## **SPECIAL NEEDS**

Two of the three vehicles that we use to pick up people broke down in one week. We ordered parts for one of the vehicles which will cost a total of \$4500. The other van has extensive engine damage and we have not been able to get the parts we need yet. We were forced to purchase a used vehicle on island so that we could continue to pick up people for church. The Lucas sawmill also needed a complete overhaul which cost \$2800. To say the least, these issues have been a huge financial burden to us.

## **SAYING GOODBYE IS HARD**

We have had several families in our church leave the island recently for better work opportunities, school, or medical reasons. Levi had to say goodbye to two of his closest friends here in Yap during the past couple of months. One friend moved to the states, and another moved to Guam. We were all sad when the Ruan family had to move to Guam because their dad is receiving long-term medical treatment there. We have known these young people most of their lives and they were a great help in our ministry.



*Levi says goodbye to his friends; Levi and his friends celebrated his birthday by having a fun water day*

## **COMING UP . . .**

### **VBS/CAMP**

In July we plan to have Vacation Bible School and Teen Camp. The church people are excited since we have not been able to have these events for a few years. **Would you be able to help us by sending prizes for our "store"?** The kids and teens earn points through, attendance, Bible memory, visitors, and devotionals, and then are able to spend their points in the "store." Items in the store include t-shirts and shorts of all sizes, school supplies, toiletries, small toys, prizes, and candy. If you are spring cleaning and want to get rid of lightly used items, you can send a flat rate box through the USPS to PO Box 459 Yap, FM 96943. Another way to help is by ordering online and sending items to the same address. Thank you for your help!



*Thankful for curriculum and decorations a church sent to us!*

**WEDDING!**

If you have ever visited here in Yap, you most likely met CJ, a deaf guy with a big personality! CJ helps a lot with projects here at the church and is a hard worker. He and Lily, another lady who has come to our church for many years, plan to get married the end of June.



*CJ and Lily plan to get married July 24*

**FUTURE PORK BARBEQUE!**

We got 3 pigs that we are raising on the property . . . one adult female and two piglets. They are growing quickly and we look forward to some good meat in the future!



**FAMILY FUN**

I'm thankful for the time I get to spend with my boys exploring the ocean! Below are some of our treasures from the past few months:



*Giant Trevallies caught casting*



*Stingray caught by throwing line while standing on a rock in low tide*



*Yellowfin Tuna caught trolling*

## Additional Prayer and Praises

- **Praise the Lord for our new projector:** The new projector has been put to good use and has allowed us to show power point presentations of our announcements, song service, and Bible studies. We also showed the movie *Pilgrim's Progress* to the teens.
- **Praise the Lord for Faithful Helpers:** Thankful for Truly, Lency, Steven, Adam, and Allysha who faithfully serve here at Yap Baptist as well as James and Patwin who continue to serve faithfully on the outer islands.
- **Praise the Lord for answered prayer with Pastor James Layomai's health:** Pastor James from Ulithi has been struggling with sinus issues for several years. The doctors here could not fix the problem, so he went to Guam to receive medical treatment. Thankfully, the doctor was able to prescribe some medication that has been helpful.



*James Layomai family serving on Falalop, Ulithi, outer island of Yap*

- **Church Members Health:** Please continue to pray for Susan, a church member who continues to battle cancer in the Philippines. Her husband, Joy, and their family have been a great help and blessing to YBC over the years, and they need your fervent prayers. Please also pray for Alan who recently had to go to Guam for medical help. He is struggling with kidney and heart failure.
- **Praise the Lord for Diane's Health:** In January Diane had her blood work done and all of her numbers were in the normal range for which we are so thankful.
- **Ministry Opportunities:** Please pray with us about a couple of opportunities to minister in our village and in the southern part of Yap. We are still praying for open doors to start a ministry in the south.
- **Stateside Family:** Please continue to pray for our adult children in the states: Joe and Kara, John Mark, and Cherith.

May you sense the love and grace of our resurrected Lord in your heart and life. Thank you for your faithful prayer and support of the ministry here in Yap!

### **Mark, Diane & Family**

Even when we are in Yap, you may continue to contact or text us on our cell phone numbers:

Mark: (864) 351-9037

Diane: (864) 518-2970

### **Field Address:**

P.O. Box 459 • Yap, FM 96943

• 011-1-691-350-2533 (home)

### **Mission Agency:**

World Wide New Testament Baptist Missions •

P.O. Box 725 • Kings Mtn., NC 28086

• PH (704) 730-1440