



August 2023 Update

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalms 37:5

Since our last update in April, much has happened! We had a busy summer of ministry opportunities that was a combination of excitement and exhaustion! We are thankful for young team members and faithful church members that worked along beside us as we ministered to both children and teens in VBS and teen camp.



Throughout the summer we continued working on some projects here at the church in between ministry activities. In order to give the church a more local feel, we used the beautiful local mahogany wood to make a cross and a sign for the church. Then we added a small koyeng shelter over the sign and the chief of our village gave us four stone money to display. He told me that "every thatch-roofed house needs stone money!" The chief, who is also our neighbor, has been so kind to us, and we are praying that some day he will come to know the Lord. Diane has had this idea for the sign for years and as we finished, she suggested we make a stone path now!



Before the summer activities began, Diane made a 3-week trip back to the states to visit our older children and her parents and she also met with her oncologist. We are praising the Lord that her bloodwork looked great! The boys and I got sick while she was gone (it might have been my cooking), which sure did make us miss her even more! She made it back in time to celebrate our 28th wedding anniversary and Mother's Day.

While Diane was gone, our church family had 2 funerals. One was a sweet older lady named Elizabeth and another young adult man who was away from the Lord. Elizabeth was like the grandma for our church family and was dearly loved. We were thankful for the time we were able to spend with her before she passed away. Her family told us that before she took her last breath, a big smile came across her face. The funeral was a huge opportunity to share the gospel with her extended family and friends. Many people were there as we shared the hope that is found in our Savior, Jesus Christ.



Pastor Truly and Lency went to Guam for vacation and while they were gone, we worked on remodeling their kitchen and repairing other things on their house and bathroom. They experienced Super Typhoon Mawar while they were on Guam and went without water and electricity, so needless to say, they were excited to come back to their newly remolded home with water and electricity!



If you have ever visited Yap, you have most likely met CJ, a deaf guy who has been a great help to me and the ministry here over the years. You might remember that he went to Guam with me to help on the koyeng project on the Harvest Baptist Bible College campus. It was a great privilege to marry him and Lily who has also been a faithful member of our church for many years. He told me that he was praying that we could catch a marlin to help feed the people at the reception, and God gave us two marlin!

Vacation Bible School: Son Treasure Island



Vacation Bible School is always a highlight for the kids on the island! Because of the construction on the new building and being off island for Diane's cancer treatments, we have not had VBS for several years. We were blessed by a church in the states sending us VBS curriculum and decorations as well as sailor hats and pirate bandanas which made Sontreasure Island come alive! Of course, all of the real life decorations for an island were easily accessible here and you could even hear live tropical birds chirping in the rafters! For a video of the sailors and pirates sword fighting on the plank, go to <https://vimeo.com/854078562>

Over 100 kids registered during the week and learned about the treasures of God's love. Several children prayed to ask the Lord to be their Savior. We are praying for lasting fruit from the decisions that were made in the hearts of these children.

We were thankful for three HBBC guys who came back to help with our summer ministries. Dickson, Jino, and Sherman first went to their home island of Fais and helped in the ministries of Fais Baptist Church and then came and helped us for the month of July. Their excellent spear fishing abilities also helped provide fish for their daily meals and for our teen camp!



Sherman helped teach 7-9 yr olds:

Jino was a pirate in the skits;

Dickson & Allysha teach 4-6 yr olds;

Steven & Adam helped teach 10-12 yr olds

Teen Camp: Fruit Wars – Bananas vs Mangoes



Although the weather for the week of our teen camp was not ideal, it didn't stop these teens from having a blast! We were thankful for our new, big building that was an all-purpose room for the week. Teen camp days are full with two meals served, a split session and an evening service, devotionals in the camp booklet, lots of games, cheering, skits, and an intense Bible memory competition. We registered more than 80 teens and many of them made decisions to follow the Lord during the week. For a video of the teens singing at teen camp go to <https://vimeo.com/854113825>



Evening preaching service



Skit Time!



Kekai was awarded the Christian Leadership award for the week. Teen bonfire/testimony time gave the teens a chance to share how God worked in their lives during the week. It was a great encouragement to see so many take a stand for Christ by throwing a stick in the fire.

Special thanks to those who sent items for our VBS and Teen Camp Store

We were so thankful for all those who sent packages to us with prizes and clothing for our "store." As you may know, the kids and teens earn points by attending, bringing visitors, completing their devotionals, and memorizing verses. They then can use their points in the "store" where they can get prizes, candy, school supplies, jewelry, and the most loved items . . . clothes! To give you an idea of how it works, attending is 100 points and each memory verse is worth 100 points. We make the clothing worth 100 points each so that they can get lots of clothes! It makes us so happy to see them walk away with huge piles of clothing! Perhaps you will see your shirt on an islander in a picture or in real life if you come to visit!



The VBS Store



Our happy store helpers, Lency and Allysha



Happy customers at the Teen Camp Store...they especially love jewelry and clothes!

Serving the Lord Together

It was such a joy to see so many in the church join in to help with making food and serving during our summer activities. For the VBS snack, the ladies brought round local leaves that work as a bowl to hold the snack. For teen camp, they made plates of food for each camper.



We were so thankful to also have James and Masency Layomai here to help with our July activities. The plane was not able to fly back to Ulithi, so they had to stay for the summer after visiting Masency's mom in Chuuk. They always help in such huge ways. James was able to preach a couple of nights of our teen camp and they also brought many visitors from Ulithi that live here in Yap. They plan to return to Ulithi this next week.



Pastor James, from the church plant on Falalop, Ulithi, preaches during teen camp



Some Ulithian boys who joined our teen camp

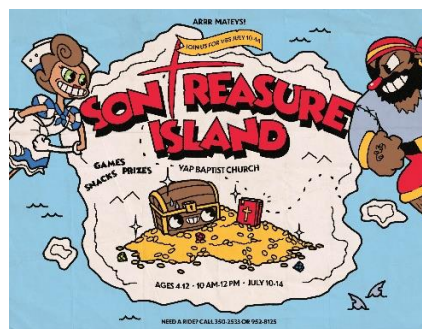
Additional Prayer and Praises

- **Praise the Lord for those who gave** to help us purchase parts from both Japan and Guam to fix the vehicles that broke down. All vehicles are currently running smoothly!
- **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. If you would be interested in helping to support these local pastors, it would be a big help to us and a blessing to them.
- **Praise the Lord that Fais Baptist Church Pastor Rollence Lug** and his wife, Chelyn, and their son RJ recently returned to Yap after spending time in the states with Chelyn's family. They have been staying with us since they returned, and it has been great to be back serving the Lord together again. Please pray for them as they plan to return to Fais in the next couple of weeks.

- **New Harvest Baptist Bible College Student:** Delicia, who has grown up at YBC after her dad was saved at one of our medical clinics, recently left for college at HBBC. Please pray that she will have a great year. Delicia was awarded the Bible Memory award at teen camp for memorizing all of the verses in the booklet . . . 83 verses to be exact!



- **Church Member's 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. Susan recently had to undergo a very extensive surgery and is now recovering in the hospital.
- **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.
- **Caleb starts college:** Our son, Caleb, graduated from high school in May and has decided to stay in Yap and pursue an online degree in graphic design through Liberty University. We are thankful that he will stay with us for a few more years as he has been a great help to us in the ministry. He did all of the graphic design work for our VBS and Teen camp flyers and invitations and he designed the booklet covers for camp as well. Any artistic ideas Diane has, he is able to make them a reality! Caleb has also designed a logo for our church as well as a welcome power point slide presentation that plays on Sundays. He hopes to find some graphic design work to help pay for college, so if you are in need of any design work, you may contact him at caleb@zimmerfamily.org.



Thank you for your faithful prayer and support of the ministry here in Yap!

Mark, Diane & Family

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