



January 2024 Update

*The whole world was lost in the darkness of sin,
The Light of the world is Jesus!
Like sunshine at noonday, His glory shone in;
The Light of the world is Jesus!*

As we enter this new year of 2024, we look back at the end of 2023 with gratefulness for another year of life and ministry here in Yap. This year will mark our 20th year serving on these islands, and through the difficulties and the triumphs, we praise the Lord for allowing us to share the Light of the world with the people of Yap. Thank YOU for partnering with us through the years to see souls follow Christ.

I spent a lot of time in the fall months cutting trees and milling wood to send to the outer island ministries and also to help with my brother Paul's ministry. Diane spent time homeschooling Levi and also tutoring two little boys in the afternoons to help improve their reading skills. We both continued with our men's and ladies' Bible studies and the prison ministry on Sundays, and I also had the opportunity to do several Bible studies in homes and saw several people make professions of faith. Please pray for these new believers.

We are thankful for our ministry helpers, Truly, Lency, Steven, and Allysha who continue to teach our children's classes and teens as well as help maintain the property here at the church. Steven and Allysha also both teach at village elementary schools where they have a great impact on the children there.

For Diane's birthday in October, we surprised her with a big party at the beach. Many came to celebrate her life and two people even gave their pigs to barbecue for the event. She felt loved and appreciated.



Medical Missions Survey Trip

A team from Harvest in Guam, Dr. Scott Hughes, Nurse Rhonda Green, Pilot Frank Deal, and Kinton Euthuemar, came out to survey the possibilities of medical missions to the outer islands of Yap. They were able to visit with the church plants on Ulithi and Fais to see how medical missions can be used as a means of reaching people for Christ.

Thanksgiving Fellowship

We enjoyed having fellow missionaries, the Collins family, who serve with Pacific Missionary Aviation over for a Thanksgiving meal. Our friends Mike and Mia Tammad and their children, as well as Brett Taylor, an American who is teaching at Yap High School this year, and our ministry team enjoyed a fantastic meal and a great time of fellowship.



Friends Visit!

Our friends, Jim and Rachel Matson, who pastors in Milton, Indiana were a huge blessing to us when they visited for two weeks. We were able to take them out to visit the church plants on the outer islands of Ulithi and Fais. Their church helped significantly with our new building and brought a team out a few years ago to help with the construction. It was a thrill to their hearts to see in person the new building being used for God's glory. Jim was also able to meet the chief in the south who has offered to give us land to start a ministry in the southern part of Yap.



We managed to get a little fishing in during our free time! We were having difficulty with our sound system and so our friend, **Ken Keith**, from Harvest in Guam came for a few days and helped get the system up and working again! Ken was also able to join in on a fishing trip, and we all enjoyed the fresh sashimi!

Family Visits!

Our son Joe and his wife Kara came to visit for two weeks over Christmas. We had so much fun with them, and Joe enjoyed showing and sharing his island home with his wife. We were able to take a trip to visit the outer islands of Falalop, Ulithi and Fais. The people enjoyed seeing the young boy who grew up in Yap return to visit with his new wife!



Christmas Outreaches

Ladies Christmas Party

The ladies enjoyed a fun Christmas party in early December with games, crafts, and a mystery potluck. Each lady brought a different dish and then they had to guess what each dish was and who made it. They are so creative with the things they can make from local food so it was fun and challenging!



Operation Christmas Child

We had the awesome opportunity this year to receive gifts through Pacific Missionary Aviation from Samaritan's Purse for children ages 2-14. We passed out around 120 gifts and the children, as well as many of their parents who attended, heard the gospel and received a shoebox gift that also included "The Greatest Gift" book that clearly shares the gospel. We pray that these gifts will open many hearts to receive Christ.

<https://youtu.be/uBr24zbJddU?si=Uz7Lc9Ubqf3CVn7s> (video of Operation Christmas Child at Yap Baptist)



Christmas Program

On Christmas Eve our church had a special Christmas service, and they performed a play that Diane compiled called, "Christ, the Messiah." Several parents attended and the gospel was clearly given.



Outer Island Ministries

In December we had the opportunity to visit both church plants on Falalop, Ulithi and Fais with the Matsons and with our son Joe and his wife. It is always a great encouragement to our hearts to spend time with local pastors, James Layomai on Ulithi, and Rollence Lug and Patwin Hafelichog on Fais.

The Bible study on Falalop, Ulithi continues to grow and the people are talking about the possibility of building a more permanent building to meet in. They currently meet on a large front porch that we added on to Pastor James' house. <https://vimeo.com/900050985> (video of Ulithi Bible Study)



In August Pastor Rollence Lug and his wife Chelyn came back from the states and returned to Fais. Several men in the church, including his brother Patwin, had been rotating preaching for the years he was away and the congregation stayed strong and faithful. Hearing them sing brought tears to our eyes.

<https://vimeo.com/900038335> (video of Fais Baptist Church singing)

Additional Prayer and Praises

- **Praise the Lord for safety** as one of our vehicles was involved in an accident. Thankfully, the driver had already dropped off all of the teens when the vehicle lost power and rolled backwards into a tree. Praise the Lord, the driver was not hurt, but the van is totaled. We are also grateful for a gift that has already been given to purchase a new van.
- **Homegoing of Susan Guarin:** For several years we prayed for Susan as she battled cancer. In September God chose to take her home. Please continue to pray for her husband Joy and their daughter Patricia. They recently returned to Yap as Joy will resume teaching at the College of Micronesia.
- **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. I am meeting with the village chief and some of the elders to look at a piece of property tomorrow.
- **Stateside Family:** Please continue to pray for our adult children in the states: Joe and Kara, John Mark, and Cherith.

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

Mark, Diane & Family

Mark: (864) 351-9037
Diane: (864) 518-2970

email: markanddiane@zimmerfamily.org

Field Address: PO Box 459 Yap, FM 96943

Mission Agency: WWNTBM PO Box 725 Kings Mtn, NC 28086