



August 2024 Update
...Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus...
Hebrews 12:1-2

Summer Outreach Ministries

Excitement is always in the air during the summer ministries here in Yap! Kids, teens, and even adults look forward to VBS and Teen Camp each year. This year we focused the themes on Hebrews 12:1-2 and running the Christian race. The kids competed as Hotwheels vs Matchbox and the teens competed in Cars Wars as Corvette vs Mustang. It was a super fun time for all!



VBS



Teen Camp

The kids learned about the life of the Apostle Paul and Diane worked hard on compiling the themes and stories for each day: Ready, Set . . . Believe, Tell, Rejoice, Trust, Finish. The teen camp booklet and messages focused on Starting the Race, Running with Endurance, in God's Strength, in God's Will, and Finishing Strong. Each day at Teen Camp a different islander church leader shared their testimony of salvation during a split session. We **praise the Lord for many who came to know Christ as their personal Savior** and made decisions to follow Him in their lives. **Please pray for these young people as their decisions are put to the test** as school started this week and **pray for the church leadership as we work to disciple and encourage those who chose to follow Christ.**



To see the winners of Car Wars 2024 watch <https://vimeo.com/999375300>
To see kids race in cardboard box cars watch <https://vimeo.com/999681073>

It Takes Teamwork!

Outreaches such as these take lots of planning and preparation as well as many willing helpers to make it run smoothly. We are so thankful for the team of servants God has given us and the unity we experienced throughout the events. **Thanks to all of you who prayed and gave** both near and far to help these young people learn about the Lord. We really appreciate so many who sent decorations as well as T-shirts, prizes, candy, jewelry, and toiletries to make our "store" the best ever! To see the teens enjoying the store watch <https://vimeo.com/999378953>

HBBC Graduates Serving

We are grateful for the HBBC graduates who have come back to help in the ministry and tell their own people about the Lord and how He has changed their lives. It is an incredible testimony to other islanders and a blessing to us! Pictured below, Zoelynn taught the 4-6-year-old class for VBS, Allysha taught the 7-9 year olds, and Francis the 10-12 year olds. All of these **teachers grew up in our church and went to VBS and Teen Camp themselves!** It is so exciting to have them serve with us! During teen camp, they all gave testimonies during the split sessions and mentioned how VBS and Teen Camp was where they heard about Jesus' love and where they accepted Christ as their Savior!



Church Members Serving

So many church members stepped up to help this year. Ladies came every day and worked together to make the snacks and meals. The men went fishing and caught tons of fish, 500 pounds of marlin and 200 pounds of reef, that helped feed the teens for the whole week! The men even helped to fry and barbeque the fish for the meals.



To see the teens enjoying their meal of barbequed fish watch <https://vimeo.com/999377746>

Local Pastors show Servant Leadership

We are grateful for the team the Lord has joined together to serve Him and the people of Yap Baptist Church. We are blessed to have two Yapese guys helping in the ministry here. **Francis Bechey** grew up in our church, graduated from HBBC, and has come back to serve as a pastor. **God has gifted him as a powerful preacher and with a genuine pastor's heart.** He also worked for a T-shirt printing company, and so we invested in getting him the equipment, T-shirts, and vinyl to make our teen camp shirts. He will also use these tools and talents to supplement his income here at the church.



*Francis and Steven have a fun spirit even when getting the pie in the face by those who brought the most visitors!
Allysha and Steven plan to get married September 21!*

Steven Limirag, who was one of our teens and also graduated from HBBC, **helps with our youth** as well as teaches in a local elementary school. He and **his fiancé, Allysha**, who grew up in our church, graduated from HBBC, and also teaches at a local elementary school, **plan to get married September 21**, continue helping in the ministry, and stay in the apartment on the church property. God blessed Steven with lots of energy and he did a great job leading the game time during the summer activities.

Allysha and Zoelynn help Diane with teaching the kids' classes and Allysha has taken on a lot of the computer work that Diane usually does. Allysha did a great job compiling the Teen Camp booklet as well as making power points for messages and songs.

Fais Island Family

You may remember in our last update how our long-term ministry partner and pastor of Fais Baptist Church, Rollence Lug, passed away in February. His daughter Angel was able to come from the states to visit Fais and her father's gravesite as well as be part of the VBS they had on their island. Rollence's brothers also went to Fais for the month of June to help build a house for their brother Patwin, who pastoring the church on Fais. What an amazing legacy Rollence left behind as all of his brothers came to know the Lord as a result of their older brother's testimony and they continue to follow his example.



Diane with Chelyn and Angel Lug



Rol's brothers: Edwin, James and Patwin

We also enjoyed having Rol's brother James Layomai and his wife Masency, church planters on Falalop, Ulithi, stay with us for a month and help in our VBS and Teen Camp. Chelyn was also here for a month and recently went back to Fais and is praying about God's will for her future ministry. **Please pray that the Lord would give her wisdom.**

Milling Opportunities

The sawmill continues to meet needs for our projects around the property, for my brother Paul's school, and for church members who need assistance. It also allows me to rub shoulders and share the gospel with men I would otherwise not have contact with. The mill needs constant upkeep and new parts, and recently I needed to replace the carburetor and the ignition coils. **Praise the Lord it is working beautifully again.**



One such project was for a family in our church who has been facing numerous trials recently. Their father has been in prison and the shelter they were living in was in bad repair causing them to have to sleep on the ground under the flooring. Then their landowner forced them to leave their home with nowhere to live. The mother, Sherry, has 6 children and we were burdened to help them. A lady in our church helped to find land for them and bought tin for their roof, and we built a small local shelter with the local wood that we mill. They are so happy for their new home.



Stevie, one of Sherry's sons whom we built the house for, was my assistant when I fixed our car that had been in an accident at the beginning of the year. Stevie told me that he wants to be a pastor someday. **Praise the Lord that our car is back on the road now! And praise the Lord another church van is on its way to Yap and should arrive this week.**

Koyeng Completion!

We were grateful to complete the koyeng process in time for the rainy season to begin again. We refinished the benches as well and the people are enjoying this cool and comfortable place to relax between services.

Many hands make light work as the men and teens tie on the thatch roofing. Our son Caleb painted the cement posts to look like real wood.



*I had the honor of praying at the first **Memorial Day service** held here in Yap. There are many islanders serving in our US military and several Yapese have lost their lives. It was a very moving service. We are honored to have two retired veterans attending Yap Baptist Church.*

Additional Prayer and Praises

- **Praise the Lord for the purchase of a church van:** We have had multiple issues with our church vehicles, trucks and personal vehicle during the past few months. Finally, the mechanic said the church van is going to cost too much to repair, so we decided to purchase a used van from Japan. Hopefully, it will arrive this week. It has been a challenge picking up people in the flatbed trucks especially when it is raining.
- **Praise the Lord for the rain!** Thankfully, the rain held off for the most part during our summer activities.
- **Praise the Lord for healing:** Bobby Nepomuceno, who had a stroke, returned from getting treatment in the Philippines and is doing better. A sweet lady who we all affectionately call "Mama Margie" had a mild stroke and was unable to attend church for a while. Diane went to visit her with some ladies who knew how to sing in her language, and she was so encouraged. She is doing better now and has been able to come back to church. To see a video of the ladies singing with her, watch <https://vimeo.com/999788953>
- **Pray for Bible Studies:** Please continue to pray for two couples with whom we are doing a marriage and family Bible study. Also, please pray for Diane as she has been meeting with several different ladies individually, some who are unsaved and searching. We continue our ladies and men's Bible studies on Sunday as well as the prison ministry on Sunday afternoons.
- **Pray for Kaiden:** Please pray for this sweet baby and his parents, Arron and Charlotte, as he goes to the Philippines for open heart surgery.



- **Pray for our stateside family:** Please continue to pray for our adult children in the states: Joe and Karalyn, John Mark, and Cherith.
- **Praise the Lord, we are going to be grandparents!** Our son, Joe and his wife Karalyn are expecting our first grandchild in early November! We plan to go back to the states on **October 16** and will **stay for approximately 9 months to visit our churches.**

We look forward to seeing many of you over the next year as we travel reporting to our churches. If you would like for us to visit you or your church, **please let us know.** Thank you for your faithful prayer and support of the ministry here in Yap!

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