

The Mark Zimmer Family

Serving in Yap, Micronesia



December 2025 Update

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and His name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, the Mighty God, the Everlasting Father, the Prince of Peace.
Isaiah 9:6

This Christmas season we reflect on the Babe in the manger and how He came to earth to save us from our sins. How great a sacrifice our Savior made so that we can receive the greatest gift: Eternal Life! Our lives are in His hands. It's all because of Christ!

Our church celebrated Christmas through singing and Bible reading in several different languages that are represented in our church. Click the video below to see a glimpse of our Christmas service at Yap Baptist Church. <https://vimeo.com/1150058350>

Return to Yap September 2025

After 10 months of furlough visiting our churches, in early September we began our trip back to Yap, stopping in Guam to purchase supplies for upcoming projects. It was a joy to be back together with our church family and friends and hear them sing some of their favorite songs. Click the video below to hear the church people singing and Pastor Francis preaching. We are so thankful for Pastor Francis' leadership and excellent shepherding while we were on furlough.
<https://vimeo.com/1150055405>

Water Issues

City water, which usually supplies our house and the church property, was not working from July-November due to repairs on a nearby tank. Thankfully, when we returned, I was able to get a pump and connect water from our rain catchment to the house and church bathrooms and eventually to the rest of the property. Although there were some days that we nearly ran out of water, with the Lord's providing of rain, the large church roofs poured water into the tanks which was then pumped through the pipes to our house and the property. We have never thought about or prayed for rain so much in all our lives! Thankfully, the city water tank is repaired now.



Christmas Service



Pastor Francis Bechey



Ladies Bible Fellowship



Ministry Opportunities & Visitors

With visitors scheduled, we wanted to provide opportunities for them to minister alongside with us as we reach out to our community. In October, Bob and Polly Whitmore came and Polly spoke at a Ladies Bible Fellowship. More than 40 women attended, and Polly brought an encouraging and impactful message about God's cool breezes and then the ladies made local fans out of coconut fronds.



Bob was my casting buddy and landed this beast. Diane and Polly had fun snorkeling together and our boys enjoyed time with, as they affectionately call them, Uncle Bob and Aunt Polly.

Visiting the Outer Island Ministries

For ten years we served with Bob and Polly here in Yap and they invested greatly in the local pastors that were sent to plant churches on the outer islands. They were thrilled to be able to visit these local pastors and their ministries on Ulithi and Fais.



Visiting the Layomai's on Ulithi and returning from Fais with lots of flowers

Malmangers Visit

We had the opportunity to visit the outer islands again in November with our friends from Wisconsin, Kipp and Betsy Malmanger and their twin girls, Lucy and Lindsay. Abi Thompson, who is here in Yap teaching at Yap High School as well as helping in our ministry, was able to come along for the day. Abi enjoyed seeing students she had taught at HBBC and meeting their parents.

The Malmangers were a huge blessing on Yap as well. Betsy and the girls helped paint the exterior of the small church and our assistant's apartment and taught the kids a Christmas song during kids' night.



Men's Outreach

Kipp helped Mark on lots of projects as well as became a part of the team that went to Fais island to renovate the church. Kipp also shared his testimony at the men's backyard bbq.

This outreach was our way of inviting new Yapese men to our church so that we can get acquainted with them with hopes of reaching them with the gospel. The men enjoyed eating some of their favorite foods and were able to hear Kipp's salvation testimony then I challenged the men to accept Christ. Many seeds were planted that day.

The men enjoyed some of their favorite foods: sashimi, ribs, chicken, and turkey tails! The koyeng provides a familiar environment that makes men feel more comfortable.



Fais Baptist renovation before and after



Fais Baptist Church Renovation Project

In October the materials we had purchased in Guam arrived in Yap. The ship, headed to the outer islands, left Yap in November and the materials were offloaded on Fais island a few days later. The Lord provided a team of island guys from Guam and Yap to go to Fais to help the church people put on the new church roof as well as paint, put new screens on the windows, and put in new doors. The Fais people were so grateful and encouraged by this outpouring of love for their congregation. Pastor Patwin wanted us to thank each of you who gave to help their church. Click the video below to see the project and hear the people sing praise to the Lord in their language.

<https://vimeo.com/1150053948>



Diane loves to take ice cream to the kids on the outer islands since they don't have icecream on their islands. Even the adults love it, of course!

Thanksgiving with Ministry Partners

We were grateful to share a delicious Thanksgiving meal with some of our ministry partners here in Yap. We are grateful for both Americans and Islanders who help us in reaching souls for Christ. Pacific Missionary Aviation Pilot, Amos Collins, has been a blessing to us by flying us and taking supplies to the outer island ministries, and we enjoyed having his family join us in celebrating Thanksgiving.



Baby News

Stephen and Allysha had a little baby boy the beginning of December! His name is Kai, and we love having them on the property as they stay in our ministry apartment.

Our son Joe and his wife Kara are expecting our second grandchild, a baby boy this time, in May of 2026.

Additional Prayer and Praises

- **Praise the Lord that all of the money for the sawmill came in!** The sawmill has been ordered and is on its way here from Australia. Thank you to all who gave! Pray for souls that will be reached as a result of taking the sawmill down into the villages.
- **Pray for the Outer Island ministries:** Pray for Pastor Patwin on Fais and Pastor James on Ulithi.
- **Pray for continued faithfulness** of the ministry team and YBC church family.
- **Pray for HBBC students** to remain faithful and not get discouraged.
- **Pray for our daughter Cherith** as she begins an 8-week intense EMT course January 12.
- **Pray for Diane's dad** as his health continues to decline and for wisdom for their family concerning his care. One of the most difficult paths to walk as a missionary is to be far away from family. We are thankful for Christian parents who support us and whom we will see again in heaven someday.



During this holiday season we are reminded not only of God's gift of His Son but also of all of your gifts to us and the ministry here in Yap. We are so blessed by your faithful giving and prayers for us! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Mark, Diane & Family

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

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