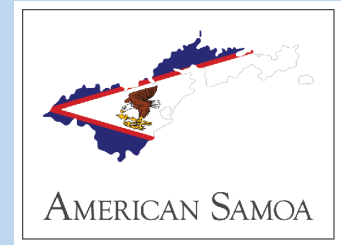


# JIM & EMI CIVALE

## MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

Testifying ... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **ACTS 20:21**

**NOVEMBER 1, 2018**



Dear friends,

The month of October was a one of contrasts. On the one hand, I got to bless a baby girl at the hospital shortly after she was born to two of our church members in American Samoa. That was the same weekend we celebrated the gift of children in our annual, nation-wide White Sunday services in both churches. On the other hand, we had five funerals in Asau, one of them being for the *tu'ua o le nu'u* (village mayor) who was pivotal in opening the village to the Baptist church back in 2010.

Emi and I spent White Sunday in American Samoa. It was a lovely day built around the theme, *Washed as White as Snow*, from Isaiah 1:16-19. The children and youth did an outstanding job and I thoroughly enjoyed seeing them conduct every part of the services. I was especially blessed by fifteen-year-old Donald's preaching. Leading up to the day, he was as nervous as anyone I ever coached, but once he got behind that pulpit, the Lord really blessed.



The children and youth of Vai o le Ola Baptist

Right after White Sunday in American Samoa, we returned to Samoa to spend almost two weeks with the church there and to attend the mayor's funeral and another funeral of one of our elderly chiefs, Saitumua. I preached at Saitumua's funeral, using David's statement in I Sam 20:3, "...there is but a step between me and death." Reminding those present of our inability to count the steps between us and the grave, I encouraged them to recognize the unusually high frequency of funerals this month as a wake up call to turn from sin to the Savior before we take our last step. The power and boldness of the Holy Spirit was evident as people hung on every word. Only God knows how many, if any, genuinely prayed to receive Christ as Savior. Certainly seeds were sown; hopefully some took root. The next morning I preached the same message but in greater length and depth at



our own church. Again, the Spirit moved, people hung on every word, and we had a full altar. I was especially moved by the coming forward of a number of our elderly church members. May God use those commitments at the altar to see the church in Asau reaching more people for Christ, so that their last step on earth may be their first in heaven.

Emi and I will be in the US for the month of December and the beginning of January mainly for a few medical appointments for Emi to address a nerve-related issue causing her intense, recurring pain down the back of one of her legs. Please continue in prayer for her. We will also be attending several important meetings with our sending pastor, with the director of our sending church's RU program, and with the director of our sending church's printing ministry. Seeing the fast-growing drug problem in American Samoa, we would like to see an RU program started as soon as possible, and having exhausted all of our Samoan Bible supplies, we will be seeing if we can get more printed.

With Thanksgiving upon us, we are reminded how profoundly thankful we are for your friendship, prayers, and support.

*Jim & Emi Civalé*



Meet Meli Litara who was born on October 12th, 2018!



Donald did a great job preaching his first sermon on October 14th, two days after his sister was born!

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