JIM & EMI CIVALE

MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

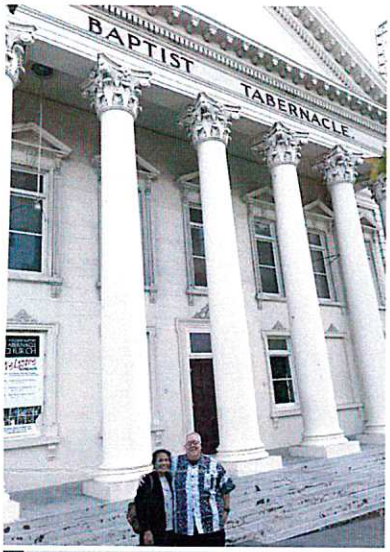
Testifying ... repentence toward God, and faith
toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **ACTS 20:21**

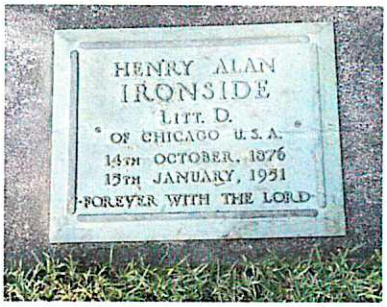
MAY 1, 2019

Dear Friends,

April began for us in New Zealand, then took us back to Samoa, and finally brought me back to American Samoa where I have been for the last two weeks. The New Zealand trip went very well, praise God. I preached nine times in as many days — once in Aukland, once in Masterton, and seven times in Hamilton at ***Fellowship Baptist Church*** for their "Go Beyond" Missions Conference. People received the Word well and decisions were made during several altar calls. Pastor Jono Millar, his family, and the church were most gracious and accommodating to us and we thoroughly enjoyed our time with them. We appreciated the international composition of the congregation and learned a lot about the Maori people, Cook Islanders, Tuvaluans, and several other groups. We also met seven different Baptist pastors and their church members who traveled to attend the conference.

Due to the sudden grounding of the Boeing planes, our return trip from New Zealand was delayed for three days. What Emi and I first saw as a great inconvenience turned out to be a great blessing. During the delay, I joined the pastor who hosted us for those last days for a hospital visit to one of his church member's friends. Praise God, I was able to serve as Pastor Paul Brinkman's silent prayer partner as he witnessed to Mrs. Yvonne and led her to the Lord. Brother Paul was so kind, polite, and patient in his presentation of the gospel. What glory to see a soul saved in Aukland, NZ!





Brother Paul then took me to a few interesting sites. The first was to the gravesite of H.A. Ironside. I never even knew Ironside visited New Zealand, let alone that he was buried there! I was in for another surprise when Brother Brinkman brought me to the Baptist Tabernacle in downtown New Zealand. That once-great church had a membership of ten percent of the the Aukland population! That was in its earlier years when Charles Spurgeon's son, Thomas Spurgeon, established it in the late 1800's and sound preaching continued through the turn of the century. A few NZ pastors and I are considering renting the building in May of 2020 during New Zealand's ***Samoan Language Week*** to hold a preaching rally and to distribute Samoan Bibles to the diaspora there. It would be a BIG undertaking and we are seeking the Lord about it. Your prayers for wisdom would certainly be appreciated.

Once back in the Samoan islands, Emi and I got busy planning Sunrise services in both churches, starting the second quarter of the school year in Savaii, and following up on visitors. More on all of that that next month!

Your grateful friends, *Jim & Emi Civale*

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