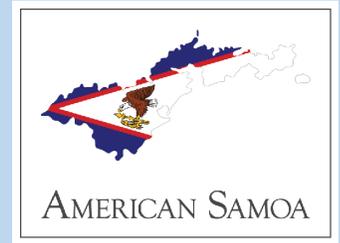


# JIM & EMI CIVALE

## MISSIONARIES TO THE SAMOAN ISLANDS

Testifying ... repentance toward God, and faith toward our Lord Jesus Christ. **ACTS 20:21**  
**JANUARY 2020**



Dear Friends,

We trust you had a Merry Christmas and pray you will enjoy a Happy New Year. We last wrote in mid-November, a week-and-a-half before leaving Samoa for a month-long trip to the US. The Lord has been good to us in our time here and as we prepare to head back to Samoa next week, we are thankful for His many blessings. First, though, I want to plead with you to keep the people of Samoa in fervent prayer as they reel from the measles epidemic that has stricken our shores.

**MEASLES EPIDEMIC** The epidemic started back in October when an overseas traveler who was still in the incubation stage arrived in Samoa with the measles. Samoa had a very low percentage of those vaccinated which left the tiny island-nation vulnerable to the highly contagious disease. So far, we have lost eighty-one lives, almost all children below four years old. A staggering total of 5,612 people have been diagnosed so far and Samoa has been in a state of emergency for nearly two months. Please pray for comfort for the grief-stricken families and for the furtherance of the gospel at a time when people are especially attentive to matters of eternity.

**MEDICAL TESTS AND PROCEDURES** Between us, Emi and I have had more than dozen medical appointments over the last four weeks. We are thankful for great results all around. Emi had some important tests and screenings done which have all come back negative, praise God. She also had a full physical and all of her numbers are good with two borderline areas that will have her being more careful with cholesterol and sugar intake. My numbers were also all good and my last five months of dieting have paid off well. Please pray as I continue working on weight-loss and making healthy food choices. I also had laser surgery to compensate for narrow angles between the cornea and lens in both eyes and to prevent pressure build-up. I am writing this letter just after my follow-up appointment and the results are all good. We are glad to return to Samoa having many questions answered and matters addressed.

**MORE SAMOAN BIBLES** Our next 15,000 Bibles are slated to be shipped some time in January and we are excited to continue our vilage-to-village distributions in American Samoa and Samoa. Please pray for the shipping and customs costs and logistics.

**FAMILY TIME** It was great to have all our children and grandchildren together under one roof. We celebrated Christmas a week early when we could all be together. Our two granddaughters turned four and three in November and December and are an endless source of joy. We thank God for the time He has given us together and for the good health and many blessings our children are enjoying.

In closing, Emi and I thank you all for your prayers, support, and all the Christmas cards and gifts we received. We also thank the churches that had us in to preach over the last four Sundays. May God bless you all throughout 2020!

*Jim & Emi Civale*



*Love, Joey & Millie*

*Emi*

*Jim*

*Carol, Ava, & Mike*

*Michael*

*Liz*

*Salvatore*



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