



The Mark

Zimmer Family

Serving in Yap, Micronesia

January 2005

**Mark~Diane
JohnMark~Joseph
Caleb~Cherith**

**“The will of God will never take you
where the Spirit of God cannot work through you,
where the wisdom of God cannot teach you,
where the army of God cannot protect you,
where the hands of God cannot mold you.”
“Faithful is He that calleth you, who also will do it.” I Thes. 5:24**

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Little did we know how true these words would be when we wrote them in our last prayer letter. This quotation means more to us now since we have experienced its truth. And surely its truth will ring out even more in the years ahead! Many times since our arrival in Yap, we have encouraged ourselves and our children with the fact that God's army of angels is around us protecting us from the wicked one and his attacks. God's wisdom is teaching us as we try and fail in our own strength, yet He is faithful and His Spirit has seen fit to work through even our most feeble attempts.

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"If it wasn't for the funeral . . ."

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When we arrived in Yap on December 8 and moved into Paul and Sherry's house, we were "welcomed" by more than 20 people living on our front porch who were gathered to await the funeral of our neighbor's mom. Although this could have been a discouraging experience having our children exposed to much wailing and many strangers outside their window, God used this funeral to thrust us into ministry immediately. It was an awesome opportunity to be able to meet so many Yapese people right away. I was able to preach a salvation message to a large group of my neighbor John's relatives. Through these contacts the Lord opened doors for several Bible studies. As a result, 2 people were saved, and today, more than 6 weeks later, John's sister and her family attended church for the first time. The Lord continues to work in John's family and the couple that was saved, William and Joan, have been faithfully attending church and we are taking opportunities to disciple them. Diane has grown close to Joan and I have been able to befriend William . . . and also became his barber too!

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The funeral also brought an unexpected fued between some of John's relatives. On Christmas Eve day we were shocked out of our house as we heard screaming and shouting outside our windows. Too many people living in close quarters resulted in a machete fight. John's brother, Richard, had been cut twice, once on the shoulder and once on his hand. I was able to help the people get the bleeding under control using a towel and pressure on the wound, and then ended up taking Richard out of the village to the paved road to meet the ambulance. When I came back home Diane had the kids making Christmas cookies and listening to Christmas music. Diane had somehow blocked out these horrific events and the children didn't know anything had taken place. Later on Diane cleaned the blood out of the van and we suddenly realized that we were living in a totally different culture! The attacker, Ben, spent only a few days in prison and is now living next door again. He is a 15 year old boy and has been coming to church regularly.

Church Ministry

We have been working at Faith Baptist Church in Makiy, Gagil, the church that my brother Paul started. It has been a joy to see God's hand at work in the church people's lives and to see their great desire to hear and understand the Bible. On Sundays and Wednesdays we each drive minivans to pick up people and bring them to church. We have had close to 20 people in each of our vans at a time! We drive several miles over amazing terrain to pick up the people. It is a great way to get to know the people as we drive them to church. The people enjoy working on their church building and have recently added doors to the main building as well as finishing off a separate meeting shelter for the children. The ladies help by planting plants and flowers on the property and cleaning as well.



Children's meeting area



Little Clifford and his brothers and sisters

Diane has been working with the children's ministry and she helps organize crafts and Bible stories for 20-25 children. An American lady, Patricia, who is married to a Yapese man helps teach the children as she knows both English and Yapese. She has been a great resource and friend for Diane. One Wednesday evening a little boy came to church with a terrible gash on his foot. He wasn't wearing any bandages or shoes and the sore was becoming badly infected. Diane felt very burdened for this boy and so the next day we took bandages, antibiotic ointment, and hydrogen peroxide over to the family to help them care for his wound. Praise the Lord that the five children in this family have been attending regularly ever since and little Clifford's foot has healed nicely. We are praying that we will be able to reach their parents as well.

We plan to continue here in Makiy until Paul and his family return in early June. We will then move over to Colonia to lead Yap Baptist Church since Joe Cannon and his wife (former missionaries in Yap) returned to the US and do not plan to come back. When the Lord called us here we did not know what God had in store for us, but His timing has been incredible.

Home Ministry

While living in Paul and Sherry's house, we have wanted to be a blessing to them in any way we can. I am in the process of making kitchen cabinets and hope to also finish some trim work in some of the rooms before they return. I am also helping Bob Whitmore make cement blocks for his house that he is building, and so far we have made approximately 800 blocks. This coming weekend we will pour the slab for his house.

Diane stays busy home schooling Joseph and keeping track of the others. Caleb is growing quickly and is already eating baby cereal and in the beginning stages of crawling. The kids are adjusting well and enjoy the times that we have been able to go to the ocean. Joseph loves collecting shells, John Mark enjoys catching crabs, and Cherith enjoys tagging along beside. There are a few cultural differences that have the kids asking some pretty funny questions. Most of the people chew betelnut which has a red juice that leaves their mouths and lips red. John Mark would bravely ask them, "What is that in your mouth?!" One day Cherith asked Diane, "Mom, Why does that man have lipstick on?!" (referring to his betelnut juiced lips!)

Our First Visitors

We so enjoyed having our first visitors since our arrival! Pastor Marty Herron and his wife Tami from Harvest Baptist in Guam came to visit January 26-29 and they were a huge encouragement to both of us. They were able to enjoy several great cultural experiences like a "feast", our Yapese potluck, and a barbeque over coconut shells put on by church friends who live in Maap over looking the ocean. Pastor Herron spoke to the people in Makiy on Wednesday night and then again at the Maap Bible study on Friday night.

Thanks to so many of you who have written us encouraging notes and Christmas cards since our arrival! We have covered our refrigerator with pictures of our friends and family which remind us that you are praying for us. We miss you all, but praise the Lord for the ministry He has given us here in Yap!

Love,

Mark, Diane, Joseph, JohnMark, Cherith, and Caleb