

JOHN & JAMIE ZIMMER

The Republic of Palau

God is Building His Church

The maturing of a young church is filled with major "ups and downs". Much time and effort is poured into people's lives week after week, as we seek to equip and encourage those who are seeking change. As we strive to ground men and women in the Scriptures, it certainly can become discouraging if our focus is wrong. Yet, God is always faithful and is calling men to Himself! **HE is** building His church.

Recently, we finished a very powerful study through the book of Romans on Sunday mornings. This past Sunday, we began a new book study through the book of Nehemiah. It will be a great study that will focus on how God rebuilds His people for His work!

On Thursdays, we will be starting an evangelism training class. The training will be in preparation for our summer outreaches. It is so exciting to see God uses His people to accomplish His plan in redeeming man.

Omekulel A Biblia er a Belau began to support our first foreign missionaries!! F G and Melody Homsher, are preparing to go to our neighboring country – Indonesia to spread the hope of the Gospel there. Our church knows this family well and loves them dearly because they gave almost one year of loving service to this young, growing church while we were in the United States for our furlough.

Baptism Service: We had the great joy of baptizing 10 young believers who desired to step forward in obedience to the Lord. It was such a great joy to see people who were once trapped in sin - freed by the incredible grace of God and then publicly proclaim that new life in this way.

Land Update: We continue to wait on the Lord for land. It is such a slow process and truly requires a miracle from The Lord. Please continue to pray that the God will provide a place for our church to have a more permanent location to meet.

Typhoon Maysak came barreling through the Pacific in the latter part of March. The path of the storm tracked directly over a small set of atoll islands called Ulithi (part of Yap Islands). The damage was extensive but miraculously none of the people were killed. In an

effort to bring help, my brothers Mark and Paul organized a team to bring relief to these islands. Majesty and I were invited to be part of a team of 12 to bring help for these needy people. The trip was a terrific success and many doors were opened wide for the Gospel to go forward in these very traditional islands. Thank you for your prayers and please continue to pray for the rebuilding process now. Even more importantly, please be praying for Pastor James Layomai and his family (young couple who graduated from Harvest in Guam) as they are living there and are seeking to spread the hope and forgiveness of Christ to their people. As a side note, I will be having a trip report on Saturday night and inviting all of the Palau Community College students from these islands (about 30) to come and see pictures from our trip and then sharing the Gospel with them. Please be in prayer that God will open their eyes so that they can be saved!

Looking ahead:

It is hard to believe that this year is our 10th annual Island Jams Basketball outreach! As a way to celebrate this exciting milestone, we are planning to have an additional outreach on a larger scale. This year we will add Island Jams Basketball Camp June 9th-12th. The Lord has allowed us to connect with Tanner Smith, a family friend of Jamie's. He played for Clemson and then went on to play for a European Professional team and is now coaching for Mississippi State. Pastor Ken Keltner and his wife, along with our dear friends and former teammates Jim & Dana Towberman along with their sons will be joining us to host a special camp to train young people to become better at basketball but ultimately to point their hearts to the Lord Jesus Christ for salvation.

At the end of the Island Jams Basketball Camp, we will be hosting 2 Island Jams Basketball tournaments. The first tournament will be held at the Palau National Gymnasium on June 13. The second tournament will be held on July 4th, in the northern state of Melekeok, the Capital of Palau. Please be in prayer for God to work in a powerful way to change lives through these events.

Another added delight over the past few months have been some **wonderful visitors**. God has allowed both family and friends to "drop in". They were a real encouragement and joy for our family, as well as a real blessing and challenge to the church.

We are so blessed to have girls that love God and love missions here in Palau. They are such a big part of what God is doing and we thank God for His continued working in their hearts. Please continue to lift them up to the Lord for continued strength in their walk with God and protection from the evil one.

We are so thankful for you and your continued partnership with us.

In His Strength,

John & Jamie

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