



Mary Craig Ministries, Inc.

June 18, 2013

World Missions: The American Samoa and Oceania Report

This mission marked 80 nations, a milestone as we celebrate 20 years of MCM. Curiosity prompts many people to ask how these missions come about and how God leads through the whole process. So, I will respond because this, especially, is a God story.

Key Word: SURPRISE

As early as 2010, *60 Minutes* did a segment on American Samoa and football. Here's the link.

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=A69Z8fCpuAI> American Samoa and Football. That's when the "burden of the LORD" came upon me for American Samoa. As yet there was no specific call to go there, just to pray for the people and for what God wanted to do.

I became aware of some of the issues of American Samoa, like the plight of the tuna workers in 2009, the high suicide rate among those 18-25 years old, the low wages, the impact of tsunamis and other natural disasters when they strike, etc. I happened to catch TV stories about Samoan football players having committed suicide, like Junior Seau.

In researching suicide in the region, I discovered that it has been epidemic since the 1970's. Theories that have emerged to explain this include: 1. a change in family and loss of traditional family functions; 2. structural changes in the family with a shift to adding new responsibilities commensurate with a shift from a collective family structure to a nuclear family structure, leaving no "safety net" for young people; 3. blocked opportunity leading to altruistic suicide ("Death is better than shame." Samoan proverb); 4. limited opportunity for upward mobility and out-migration leading to "retreated anger" known as *musu* in Samoan; 5. changes in social structures and goals of teens, higher expectations leading to demands from parents to youth and from youth to parents; 6. increase in alcohol and drug use, peer pressure, population, modernization, and frustration; and 7. failure to protect and maintain family honor at all costs, leading to personal (*ma* or *maasiasi*) and/or community disgrace (*luma*), a strong cultural norm.

The burden to pray for the people of American Samoa and Samoa increased. Then on May 25, 2012, I received the call to go there.

6/26/2013

*I am the LORD your God. I am He who formed you in the womb and made you for My glory, to glorify Me in spirit and in flesh. I am calling you to **American Samoa**; for I will bring correction to their doctrines, to what they believe to be true. I am sending you to the region, to the isles, to take their beliefs and counter/compare them with truth. For I have many in the region but perversion arises, whoredoms and errors, the work of Satan to pervert truth to destroy and discourage Mine. There are things hiding behind the smiling. Truth is masked. Truth must enter the inward parts, the inside of the cup cleansed as well as the outside. You will go as **My messenger** under **My** dictates. **I will tell you.***

This confirmed a call Betty P. had received October 13, 2011: *I will take you to the far west. The times, the seasons, the north, south, east, and west: claim all these things for me--my ownership, My territory, My domain, not Satan's territory. Mark My territory with stones of remembrance, because I remember My covenant with My people, and I will honor My covenant with My people. I am going forth over the land to prepare it for the great and terrible battles which are to come. I will go forth. I will prepare. Prepare, read My word, watch, listen, seek, know, stand, be strong and firm and courageous. I know what is coming and I am watching and waiting. Amen and Amen.*

The call continued to be confirmed, with God giving, in addition to the commission, commandments (assignments for our obedience) and His commitment ("I will" statements). The Holy Spirit began preparing us. People at MCM in addition to the two of us began doing research on the region of Oceania, generating lists of pertinent Scriptures to pray and declare out over the region, praying scripture, doing what the LORD would ask them to do as part of the "home team."

For example, on October 12, 2012, I received: *You will **go to American Samoa** and wherever you walk you will break the barriers of religious bondage. You will "visit" them in the power of My Spirit. **Do not offend; seek not to offend.** They live on rocky soil. **Declare** the parable of the soils over the land. [Matthew 13; Mark 4; Luke 8] **Plant** the Word of God into the soil. **Say**, Let this Word planted be nurtured and grow to be given to those who will bear the fruit of righteousness in the kingdom of God. **Go to an island of French Polynesia** and do the same. **Say**, Make way for the Living God for He comes to you. **Declare** the Desire of All Nations. [Haggai 2:7] **Pray for the Lost. Cover your feet. Anoint your head with oil.** You will live and not die, for I am with you wherever you go. I will make My Name known among the nations.*

The heart of God was, and is, to break the yoke of slavery to sin, to paganism, and things anti-Christ. I heard, ***Break the yoke of suicide over the islands, for I hold the keys of death and hell. Release the joy of the LORD over the region. Declare "rejoice" scriptures over the region. They smile but inside they are dying in self-condemnation, self-hatred. Declare Romans 8. Do not enter their pain, their depression. You must overcome.***

With this and much more received by Betty and myself, we set out on this very long trip on June 5, 2013. We arrived in Pago Pago, American Samoa, on June 6, Thursday night. We were looking for a church to attend, hopefully, Friday night. We rented a car and Betty drove in the direction we were given by folks wanting to be helpful to us. Ending up back at our hotel, we went here and there the other direction before spotting the Word of Life Church, a Women's Aglow office, and the 3:16 Christian Bookstore.



In the bookstore, Martha called her "spiritual mother," Pastor Amy Tavai. Pastor Amy graciously came to the store. We sat around a table in the back room, telling about MCM and how

we got there and such. At first Pastor Amy thought we were representatives of Mary Craig Ministries. When I told her that I was Dr. Mary Craig, she was astounded. She had heard of us and follows our ministry online. She jumped up and gave me a welcoming hug.



We followed Pastor Amy to her home, where we met Bishop Elia Tavai and some of their family. Bishop Elia had been an Assemblies of God pastor for some 12 years in California before being called back to American Samoa. He now has Alofa Tu Noa Ministries, Grace Life Bible College, and radio broadcasting. www.alofatunoaministries.com <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ngv1D8yJh-E>



After praying for Bishop Elia and Pastor Amy, we learned of some personal things the Bishop was going through. I had brought along the originals of what I believe I had received from the LORD. In it was the following about one of our cats, Marmee. I had received it personally in the same “word” that called me to American Samoa.

There remains among My people much resentment towards My ways. The desire for personal freedom carries into “the walk” so that these are self-directed and not directed by the Holy Spirit. [Galatians 5]

Religious spirits hinder the flow of the Breath of the Almighty. People choke, cough, and cannot breathe because the freshness of the Breath is lacking. There is not enough to breathe well; only to labor, as Marmee is laboring now.



[Marmee was one of our older cats.]

Marmee's trachea is bent out because of a tumorous cancer just as the cancer in My Church blocks and impedes a pure flow of My Spirit. Marmee's heart is displaced, just as the hearts of My people are displaced. Marmee's health wanes not because her heart has disease or because her lungs are "bad," but because a cancer is present, bringing a death. She labors as My Church is laboring now, to breathe. She struggles to stay clean. She struggles to eat and can only eat the softest of foods...so also My people.

As the Spirit is impeded, so life wanes. The Spirit gives life; the Law does not give life—only showing the boundaries of life and death. The Law has no power to give life; only the Spirit. [John 6:63; 2 Corinthians 3:6; Romans 8:2-10; Galatians 3:21, 22]

Where are the People of the Spirit, the People of My Spirit? Where are those born of the Spirit? And if born, how will they live apart from My Spirit?

Cancer is rooted in rebellion, and Mine rebel in seeking to direct their own steps. They want life their way. But My Spirit gives life His way. His is the way of love, of offering, of giving, of light, of truth.

My people want only for the yoke of consequences, the pressure of correction, and rebuking lifted. They do not desire the spirit of sonship, though some do. [Romans 8:15]

Receive life in the Spirit. The flesh profits nothing. The flesh is weak.

This "word" greatly encouraged Bishop Tavai. It was strong confirmation to him, together with the "word" I received for him that day as to what the LORD was doing in his life now.

We saw their beautiful church and then joined Pastor Leone Forsgrem, who graciously treated us to lunch. We learned more about some of the difficulties, and God's faithfulness. The next morning, the Tavai family treated us to breakfast. We met Pastor Chris and Helen Pena of New Hope Center, Bishop Elia's sons, Heinrich and Elijah, Heinrich's wife Adriana, and grandchildren, Judah, Amyelia, and Abigail. Pastor Amy covered several of MCM's expenses for this mission, for which we bless them and for which we express our great gratitude. Elijah Tavai has a beautiful worship song; here's the link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=C9WcprG2MGM>

Surprise No. 1: God leading us to the Tavai's ministry. Spiritual warfare missions are not as unusual today as they were 20 years ago when God called me into this kind of ministry. Here in American Samoa, God led us to pastors who were in complete accord with what we were there to do. Their enthusiasm encouraged us in the LORD; and their open and willing hearts demonstrated their humble service to Him. How surprised we were that they follow our ministry online!

Surprise No. 2: Holes



Okay, this needs some explanation. One of the assignments was to plant a Bible into the soil. I had not brought a shovel for this. Bishop Elia and Pastor Amy excitedly wanted us to do this at their church. Likewise, Betty was to set stones of



remembrance. It was all captured on video and pictures.

We did the same in Apia, Samoa. While scoping out a proper place, I noticed that God had provided holes. The ground had these holes in them; and yes, you had to be very careful when walking because no telling whether there was a sinkhole under there or not. The same thing happened in Tahiti, French Polynesia.

God is good, folks. When He gives a command, He supplies the grace and the means to fulfill it.

Surprise No. 3: TAPA cloth

This one is personal. Growing up, there was a huge 8 foot by 10 foot cloth glued to the foyer entrance of our house. The foyer went up two stories. We all knew that it was Tapa cloth, but no one ever knew where it came from. My family bought the house furnished. The Tapa cloth was on the front panels of this buffet and on other pieces in the house. The drapes were jungle-like and the furniture was all this very large and heavy rattan.



We were in the Pago Pago, American Samoan airport. This store was closed, but there in the window was an article with the words TAPA cloth. I couldn't believe it.

Back growing up, it wasn't like you could go to the computer and just "google®" something. No one knew; it was a mystery all these years (from 1954). Here is where TAPA cloth came from. It's made from the mulberry tree and is

pounded bark. The designs vary. God surprised me with a personal mystery solved!



We wrapped up our mission in Tahiti, French Polynesia. Both in Samoa and in Tahiti, Betty took these beautiful pictures of sunsets.



Samoa sunset



Tahiti sunset

It takes the faithfulness of God primarily and many people working together to bring a mission to a successful end. To everyone who contributed time, talents, and gifts small and great, we give glory to God and a heartfelt “thanks” to you.

Just the messenger,

Mary Craig, D.P.M.

www.marycraig.org

www.tffr.zxq.net

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