



# MISSION SOUTH PACIFIC

DWIGHT & BRENDA WHITSETT  
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## **Dearly loved and valued partners,**

A funny thing happened on my way to American Samoa:

**It's enough to make you superstitious!** It seems that I attract trouble when I fly! My flight from Abilene to DFW was uneventful and I arrived in plenty of time to make my connection to Hawaii. Then the difficulties began. First they began delaying our flight. Then they announced that they were going to have to change aircraft because of some electrical problems. Finally, the other aircraft arrived and they loaded us on the plane but we just sat there...waiting. Finally, the captain said that we had to change a flat tire. Then he said they had to take a tire off another plane. Then he said it was the wrong size and they had to find another one. An hour passed, then another hour. Finally we began to move out to the runway but a storm stopped all flights. So we taxied out to get behind about a thousand other planes also delayed by the weather. Another hour passed. Somehow our captain finagled a way to get in front of some other planes and we finally took off...*eight hours late!* When I finally got to bed in Honolulu it was midnight. Guess what? I woke up at three AM! Thankfully, the five-hour flight from Hawaii to Pago Pago was great and I am now enjoying the hospitality of my brothers and sisters on this beautiful Island.

**It is winter here in American Samoa,** but that doesn't mean that it is cold. The temperature and humidity are the same as always but the trade winds are blowing and it keeps the perspiration passable. This is a beautiful place filled with beautiful people. Here is what I see out the back window of the Ashley place where I'm staying (right). I wish a picture could do it justice and you could see the mountains come down to the sea and the huge surf crashing in the distance. We drove down to Pago Pago (pronounced "pango pango") Thursday for sushi and passed some remarkable scenery including Flowerpot Rock (below) sitting just off shore on the highway.



**David and Dana Willis** along with elders, **Lynn Ashley** and **Tia Misa**, are doing a wonderful job working with the growing Tafuna church. **Philip and Jaime Murphy** do a great job (voluntarily) with the youth (see picture of the youth group on next page). They have good relations with the all-Samoan congregation, Nu'uuli church of Christ. In fact, the lectureship will be held at their facilities...a beautiful new building they have erected debt-free with their own hands. I will send pictures in future reports.

I appreciate so much the hospitality of the **Ashleys**. **Lynn** and I are “batching it” since his wife, **Mara** is visiting her mom, **Joyce Hardin** (one of our favorite people), in the States. **David** and **Dana** (also the daughter of **Joyce** and the late **Dan Hardin** and children live on the lower level of the big house pictured below.



The Ashley Home in the village of Ilili – I am staying upstairs



The Tafuna Youth Group



Danielle, Dillon, Dana and Lynn around the Willis dinner table

I am preaching for the Tafuna church Sunday morning and then will join David Carr, Ainsley Pillinger (from Queensland), and others speaking and teaching in the South Pacific Lectures. Your prayers will certainly be appreciated. Pray that we will boldly and clearly proclaim the truth that redeems and reconciles men and women to the glory of God the Father through the Lord, Jesus Christ.

Brenda and I are filled with thanksgiving for your partnership as we seek to be of service to the churches in the South Pacific.



David Willis grilling fish for dinner