

Ministry Update from the Fiji Islands

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Praise:

- ◆ Fiji had peaceful elections.
- ◆ The drought season is over. We have received much rain.
- ◆ God's care upon our family and ministry.
- ◆ 2 young men got baptized. One had a Hindu background.
- ◆ More than 300 Hindus and Muslims heard Gospel message preached at Roma's funeral.

Prayer:

- God's strength and provision to carry on in the ministry.
- Placements for students graduating this year.
- Termites are causing much havoc in our village.
- Provision of airfare to attend TMAI regional summit from 2-4 December in Singapore.
- Salvation of our neighbors. Sharmila and I have been engaged since the beginning of this year in a once a week Bible study in Hindu homes.

Forthcoming: November 10-15



College of Theology
& Evangelism Fiji

celebrates

40 years of God's
Faithfulness

Dear Friends,

September/October 2014

September 17 was a historic day for the people of Fiji. Nearly 600,000 Fijians had enrolled to vote in the One Day election. 20 per cent of the population voted for the first time because Fiji - a chain of 300 islands with about 900,000 people - had not held an election in almost a decade. But excitement aside, people feared the worst if there was going to be a 5th coup. It was for this reason in my last two prayer letters I had requested prayer for our nation. A month has past and we now have a democratic government in place. We thank God for His mercy!

Our College is planning 40th Year celebrations in November and any political instability would have affected it. The next 2 months are going to be a very busy time of ministry for us. We would value your prayers.

At the College, students have now completed their exams and are eagerly anticipating Graduation day. Their holiday begins in November 17 and it goes for 8 weeks. During this time, each student returns to their home and ministers in their local fellowships. It is very exciting to hear back from them the numerous opportunities they receive for evangelism and ministering to the body of Christ.



This year a few young men are graduating with Bachelor's of Divinity. One of them is from **Vanuatu**, formerly known as *New Hebrides*. I am including the story of his journey to the College of Theology & Evangelism Fiji.



Hello, my name is Richie Tabi Bule. I am 21 years of age. My desire for the Lord began when I was in Secondary School due to many questions that arose in my mind. One of the major questions that I had was, *If God is one then why are there so many teachings and denominations since we worship one God?*

For this reason I had a desire to learn more about God. God granted my wish as He allowed me to come and study here in the Fiji Islands. I have completed my final year of Bachelors studies and look forward to graduation. I enjoy learning God's Word, and CTEF has provided an excellent training ground for me. Most of my questions have been answered and my knowledge of God has been greatly developed, even my personal life has been greatly disciplined during these four years of training in this school as God's preparation ground for me.

Beyond this training, I have a vision that God is calling me to go back and serve in my country. My desire is to be a Bible teacher. With the Lord's help, I hope to start a Bible training school.

THE USE OF PSALM 110 IN THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

Psalm 110:4 – An Exposition

Verse 4 *The LORD has sworn and will not change His mind, “You are a priest forever According to the order of Melchizedek.”*

Here is the great central revelation of the Psalm. **This Messiah King will be installed as a Royal Priest.** YHWH through a divine oracle assures the king that *he will not change his mind* about the content of the oracle. Two things can be noted:

I. The Gravity in the Assurance by YHWH

- ⊙ As in verse 1 and in the second part of verse 3, the speaker here is YHWH.
- ⊙ The solemnity and significance of YHWH’s words are indicated by the introductory oath of God.
- ⊙ The speaker assures us that Yahweh’s statement is guaranteed by a declaration that is irrevocable and sworn.
- ⊙ YHWH brings Himself under oath in the context of His own immutability.
 - God the absolutely Truthful One (Num 23:19) swears. For him to break his word would require a character breakdown. To eliminate any potential doubt or objection, the author of the psalm underscores the oath of Yahweh by saying that *he will not change his mind*.
 - Delitzsch comments that this is the highest enhancement to which prophesy is capable (Amos 6:8).
- ⊙ Hence, God guarantees with His oath and backs the declaration by His majesty, holiness, and even by His very existence.

II. The Exclusivity of the Messiah’s Priestly Reign

- ⊙ We now hear the second revelation of the Father to the Son in this Psalm: *“You are priest forever.”* **“Priest!”** But He is **King!** How can He also be priest?
 - In Israel the king was to be from the House of Judah and the priest from the House of Levi. The explanation is found in the fact that the priesthood of Jesus Christ is not determined by Levitical descent among Aaron’s sons, but in an entirely nongenetic manner. He is priest in the manner of Melchizedek.
 - ⊙ Melchizedek was not the preincarnate Christ, but was similar to Christ since his priesthood was universal (Heb 7:1), royal (Heb 7:1-2), righteous (Heb 7:2), peaceful (Heb 7:2), and unending (Heb 7:3, 24-25).
 - ⊙ A substantial portion of the Book of Hebrews is given over to a development of this one verse of Psalm 110. Ps 110:4 speaks of Jesus as priest *forever*. The addition of **“forever”** is a significant clause. It is this that clinches our assurance.
 - ⊙ Jesus is the final and perfect priest, never to be succeeded by another. His sovereign appointment is eternally established, based upon the perfection of his divine person and his all-sufficient work on the cross.
 - ⊙ **King and Priest!** This is the great surprise of Jesus Christ! In the one Man the two offices meet and embrace. In the incarnate Son we have all the messianic promises of God realized.
 - **King He is** (verse 1) – at the right hand of the Father.
 - **Priest He is** (verse 4), in the manner of Melchizedek, at the right hand of the Father forever.
 - When we consider verses one and four of Psalm 110 together, may we truly be astounded!
- ⇒ **For the One Who sits at God’s right hand stands at our right hand. What could be better than this!**

Over 200 for Annual Church Picnic at one of Fiji’s most famous beaches called Natadola.



A sunny weather, right tide, and an excellent turnout. We could not have asked the Lord for more. Yet, He gave us even the opportunity to witness two high school boys obey the Lord in the water’s of Baptism. We all had a great time! Abby playing with Timote, a CTEF 4th year Tongan student.

*Beloved **thank you** for standing with us in the Gospel work.
We appreciate your prayers, encouragement and faithful giving.*

**To God be the Glory,
Premend & Sharmila**

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