

Ministry Update from the Fiji Islands

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Dear Friends,

July/August 2014

I hope this letter finds you well and encouraged by the grace of God. It is amazing to me that I have been given incredible grace to be involved in the equipping of Saints and training of future leaders in the venue of God's choosing. It is a privilege that I don't take for granted and I want to thank all of you for your prayers and support.

These past six months had brought our way an unusual spell of dry and cool climate. Despite no rain since April, the larger trees on the College grounds remain richly green and fruit-bearing. I wondered why when the ground is so dry and grass dead! Then someone told me that a tree's root systems could extend across as much as three times the canopy of the tree. I had no idea! You see we often overlook roots because we can't see them; they are beneath the surface. But, roots are essential to what's going on above the surface. We admire the fruit, which is seen, but seldom admire the root, which is unseen. Likewise one would expect to find the spiritual life alive and flourishing if nourished by the word of the LORD. May we be that tree whose roots tap into an endless supply of nourishment. A tree planted along the riverbank, bearing fruit each season without fail (Psalm 1:3).



Church Plant in Johnson Village

Johnson Rd Bible Church is a church plant that began ten years ago under the leadership of Lovu Bible Church. Johnson village is in a rural setting whose residents are mainly casual workers and farmers. Our church's mission is both to the indigenous and the Indian community living there. For many years now one of the greatest hurdles faced was a meeting hall. The Lord has graciously provided us a place of worship. The dedication of this worship center happened last month. Dr. Bob Kerr, a pastor from Nashville, TN did the dedication and preaching. Please pray for God's provision of a suitable person to lead this ministry. Meanwhile, the elders of Lovu Bible Church is giving oversight to the ministry. We are thankful to the Lord for Shalend a graduate of the Fiji Bible College, who has come forward to assist us until we find someone more permanently. Shalend presently helps with administration and lecturing at the College.



Setting: This Chapel can seat 60 people. It is approximately 20 minutes drive from Lovu Bible Church, where we are.



Practical: Our College students voluntarily helped during the construction of this hall. They came after their classes.



Providence: The College owns 39 acres of freehold land. A block was donated for the Chapel construction.

Chapel Dedication: Aug 3rd, 2014.
Guest Speaker: Dr. Bob Kerr



Worship Service: Sept 7th, 2014. Amit and Shalend assist me at the Lord's Table.



Mr. Shalend Chand
(B.Div.'10)

THE USE OF PSALM 110 IN THE EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS

Psalm 110:3 – An Exposition

Verse 3 *Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power; In Holy array, from the womb of the dawn, Your youth are to You as the dew.*"

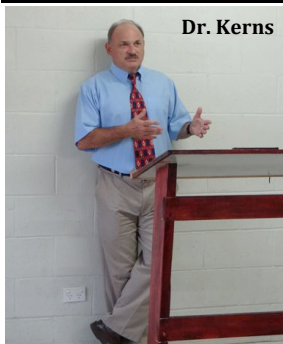
This verse is often characterized as the most obscure in the entire book of Psalms. Almost every word of this verse is rendered differently in different translations, but the general picture emerges. **Noted below are prophecies of the Messiah's Battle days:**

- ⊙ "Your people will volunteer freely in the day of Your power." The first line is literally, "Your people will be free will offerings in the day of your strength." What Messiah's people will do is not defined in this psalm. Understandably, they're not the focus—He is! The implication is they will gladly do whatever He wants. The question that we must answer today is, "Will we do whatever King Jesus wants?"
- ⊙ "In holy array, from the womb of the dawn." Literally, "the splendors of holiness." Many commentators connect this phrase with the people volunteering, saying, that holiness will characterize those who serve the Messiah (Rev. 19:14). It seems best to see here the Messiah who is clothed in layers of holiness. It means his warfare and reign are purely righteous. Now, unlike so many leaders born in our fallen world, this King-Priest Warrior's birth is contrasted so out of this world by this phrase, "from the womb [i.e., "birth"] of the dawn." It refers to sunrise, hence, suggesting the glories of a new day, the day of His power that's birthed forth when he comes.
- ⊙ "Your youth are to You as the dew." The point of the metaphor is not entirely clear. The *dew* may refer to his army of numerous strong and youthful warriors or, more likely it may symbolize the king's youthful vitality. Both this picture the concept of Yahweh's dew as the life-giving "dew of light" (cf. Isa 26:19) seem to have been in the psalmist's mind (Note also Ps 72:5-6, 15).

It seems that king David's emphasis in verse 3 is more on the content than place. It is a priestly people which he leads forth to holy battle. The thought that it is a priestly people leads over to verse 4. The king who leads this priestly people is, as we hear in verse 4, **himself a priest.**

More on Psalm 110 next time, notably an exposition of verse 4.

Master of Arts in Biblical Studies Program – Aug 4-15



Dr. Kerns



There were eight registered for this year's class. Students were from Fiji, Vanuatu, Australia, and States. In the first week, Dr. Bob Kerr taught NT Introduction and Exegesis. In the second week, Dr. Michael Kerns took Evangelism and Church Growth.

The College is very grateful for Dr. Kerns' role as the Dean of the MABS program since its institution some 25 years ago. His voluntary service and exceptional teaching has left a profound impact on many, including me.

Praise and Prayer

Update:

- ⇒ A Bible church in California graciously helped raise funds for a Bible project and a College student sponsorship. What a blessing!
- ⇒ Roma's condition has improved much. She longs for the day to be able to walk again.

Forthcoming:

- ⇒ Fiji 2014 **General Election** - 17 September. Please pray for peace and stability.
- ⇒ **Celebration:** 40 years of God's faithfulness at College of Theology and Evangelism Fiji.

Family:

Our family is doing well. Charlene returned to school last week for her final and third quarter. The picture on your right was taken during Johnson Rd Bible Church dedication.



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

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