

# God's Work in Fiji

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Dear Friends,

Warm greetings to you in the most glorious name of our King-Priest Messiah! Trust that you are encouraged in your walk with our risen Lord and Savior. My heartfelt gratitude to each of you for your prayers, support, and encouragement during this short sabbatical study leave.

It has been a wonderful homecoming after spending six profitable weeks finishing my Th.M. dissertation work. I am thankful to the Lord for allowing me to finish this last leg of research and writing. As soon as the editorial work is completed, I will turn in my first draft to The Master's Seminary's Bible Exposition Dept.

Upon returning, I have been attending to a backlog of work at the college and the church. It has been challenging because of many responsibilities: office administration, teaching five classes, preaching regularly, and doing pastoral visitation. But with the Lord's help, I hope to get back on track in a week or two. At home, Abby had an infected toenail, for which the doctor has prescribed penicillin and ointment. It has been hot and humid here. It seems that wearing enclosed school sandals with socks had been the cause. Thankfully, so far she has been able to go to school. Charlene, on the other hand, has been doing exams this week. On April 6<sup>th</sup>, we celebrated her 18<sup>th</sup> birthday in the Youth Group Fellowship. We thank God for the blessing and the joy Charlene is to us.

For those of you who have ever visited Fiji, you probably noticed that Fiji is a very distinct mission field. When driving through many villages in Fiji, one cannot help noticing poles with red flags in people's yards. While this may seem strange to foreigners visiting our country, the locals are fully aware that these red flags in people's compounds show their allegiance to the Hindu religion. Today over 30 percent of Fiji's population are those of the Hindu faith. On April 5<sup>th</sup>, a major Hindu festival called *Ram Naumi* was observed throughout the nation. Devotees missed work and school to mark this special day with great pomp and enjoyment. The Hindus believe that *Ram Naumi* is the day on which Lord Rama, the seventh incarnation of Lord Vishnu, came down to earth to battle the invincible Ravana. Unconquerable not only because this demon king had 10 heads and 20 arms, but Lord Brahma had granted Ravana so many boons, he could not be killed by a god. But Ravana had become so overconfident that he would never expect an attack from a human being. It was said that Ravana was so arrogant, egoistic, greedy, and lustful that even his touch was enough to make humans animals. The story goes that Lord Rama was able to conquer this demon king. For Hindu devotees, *Ram Naumi* calls upon the people to choose good over evil and righteousness over sin. You may say what a bizarre story and unrealistic ideology!

Yet today over one billion people on this planet earth believe such a thing. **2 Corinthians 4:4** reminds us, ". . .in whom the god of this world (Satan) has blinded the minds of them which believe not . . ." At one time my wife and I were in that number. Growing up, I had always celebrated *Ram Naumi* with my family and the village people. It was not until a Hindu convert to Christianity pursued us with the Gospel that everything changed! Twenty-five years has elapsed since that day. Later God by His grace rescued three more family members from this false ideology. Now at least 20 families from my village and those nearby have the same story to tell. The Gospel work in my village takes my breath away! What magnificent testimony of God's saving grace and power (**Romans 1:16**).

As we draw closer to Easter holidays here in Fiji, the government has designated a four-day public holiday. This is a special time for believers to reflect on the death, burial, and resurrection of their King-Priest Messiah. Unlike the Lord Rama, who killed the demon king, the Bible tells us that the Lord Jesus Christ "was killed." How different! If the Lord Rama had killed a demon king, what good did he ever do to his people? Nothing! As far as the story goes,

Lord Rama died at the age of 11,000, walking deep into the Sarayu River and disappearing. Note the descent! Our Lord after His resurrection, ascended to His glory above witnessed by so many. The Bible repetitively resounds that Jesus' death was undergone in our place because He was securing remission of sins for us so that He could reconcile us to God. Easter, therefore, reminds us that final victory over sin, death, and Satan have been achieved by our King Jesus. No such thing ever took place in the Hindu religion. The devotees are left on their own to rescue their souls. They delude themselves by merely observing festivities like *Ram Naumi* year after year, hoping for divine blessings. And, even when one expires, several days of prayers and rituals are performed for the soul to rest in peace. What helplessness and hopelessness!

Not so what the King-Priest Messiah of the Bible has accomplished. His death, burial, crucifixion, and ascension changes everything for the person who places his/her trust in Him. No wonder even a dark Friday at Calvary is regarded by Christians as Good Friday. The reason where we are and the reason what we do is because Christ is our sacrifice. The cross is our altar. And the shed blood of Jesus Christ is the only solution for our sins. We go to no other altar. We repeat no other sacrifice. We kiss no fabricated crosses. The writer to the Hebrews puts it beautifully in **Hebrews 10:10-14**.

Thanks be to God that the work of Jesus in redemption is immediate, complete, and permanently successful. How wonderful it is to know all of our sins and all of our lawless deeds have been cast into the "sea of God's forgetfulness." No further offering for sin or the carrying out of any ritual is never necessary! What no religion or ideology could do, Christ's three most golden words uttered at Calvary, "It is finished!" changes everything.

This Easter may we who know Him ponder the immensity of His love toward us and the intensity of His grief and suffering on our behalf. With confidence that Jesus has dealt with sin once and for all, let us draw near to Him in faith, holding fast to the promise of His presence and encouraging one another in hope (**Hebrews 10:19**).

## Upcoming Events

### Bible Church Easter Convention

- A Four-Day Bible Conference will take place at Lautoka Church.
- Six Bible churches from Fiji will be attending this conference.
- Keynote Speakers are:
  - (1) Pastor Scott Bashoor, *USA*
  - (2) Pastor Keith Stevenson, *Aust.*
  - (3) Pastor Narayan Nair, *Fiji*

## Courses I Teach

### Diploma in Theology Class

- ✓ Fundamentals of Faith – 2<sup>nd</sup> Years

### Bachelor of Divinity Class

- ✓ Prayer Class – 3<sup>rd</sup> Years
- ✓ Exposition of Hebrews – 3<sup>rd</sup> Years
- ✓ Exposition of Genesis – 4<sup>th</sup> Years
- ✓ Worship – 4<sup>th</sup> Years

## Prayer Requests

- ❖ Nandini is a cancer patient. She is facing family and financial setbacks.
- ❖ Mohini lost her husband to a heart-attack. We are counseling her once a week.
- ❖ Boldness in Gospel sharing.
- ❖ Charlene's college education.
- ❖ Abby's toe-nail recovery.
- ❖ Youth Camp in June.



**2017 CTEF FAMILY**



## The Choy's

Premend, Ashwin, Charlene, Abby

- ✓ THEOLOGICAL TRAINING
- ✓ CHURCH PLANTING
- ✓ CHURCH STRENGTHENING

*Serving in Lautoka, Fiji  
Reaching Oceania & Beyond*

Beloved, pray for us as we take heed to the ministry which we have received in the Lord, that we may fulfill it (**Colossians 4:17**)