



FIJI EVANGELIST

Training Preachers, Bible Teachers, & Church Leaders In The Pacific Islands

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Cyclone Relief Update ⁶²

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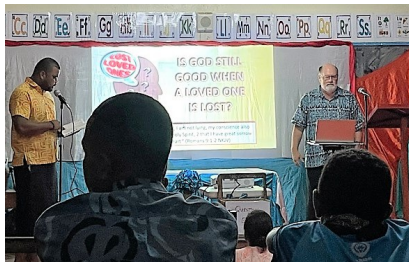


12 April 2021

Savusavu Workshop

2-4 April 2021

One of the activities that we look forward to every year is the All Fiji Workshop where congregations of the Churches of Christ get together to encourage and strengthen one another. This workshop takes place on Easter weekend and rotates between congregations on the islands of Viti Levu and Vanua Levu. Due to the covid19 pandemic, assemblies of this nature were banned by the Fiji government so the workshop was cancelled in 2020.



While we were doing cyclone relief in Vanua Levu, the brethren at the Buca Church of Christ in Savusavu wanted to host the workshop and asked the Bible Institute at Raiwaqa to plan the theme and provide some of the speakers. Since the nation still is under some restrictions about the size of assemblies, they decided to limit the invitation to the five congregations on the north island.

The theme that was decided upon was, "God is Still Good When Things Go Bad." This harmonized well with the damage and loss from Cyclones Yasa, Ana, and Bina. The subjects were:

- God is Still Good When I Lose Everything – Job 1:13-22
- God is Still Good When My Faith Grows Weak – Psalms 73:1-5, 15-18
- God is Still Good When I am Criticized – Psalms 41:5-11
- God is Still Good When A Family Member is Lost – Romans 9:1-5; 10:1-3
- God is Still Good When I Suffer Illness – 2 Corinthians 12:7-10
- God is Still Good When the End is Near – 2 Timothy 4:6-8; Psalms 116:15
- God is Still Good When I Feel Alone – 1 Kings 19:9-18
- God is Still Good When A Loved One Dies – John 11:21-22
- God is Still Good When the Waves Roll High – Mark 4:35-41
- God is Still Good When We Mess Up – Psalms 103:8-13
- God is Still Good When the Storm Rages – Psalms 107:23-32

We had attendees from all five congregations: Labasa, Vatudamu, Buca, Nabouwalu, and Navere. We had over 150 people who assembled on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. The schedule went all day on Friday and Saturday. We had Bible class, morning worship, and a 2:00 service on Sunday. 5 precious souls were added to the Lord's church on Saturday afternoon, 4 following the Sunday morning worship, and one following the 2:00 service.



The brethren were uplifted and very encouraged by the workshop and were already planning for next year's event.



Foundation laid for 5000 liter water tank

Cyclone Relief Update

Debbie and I took the Patterson Ferry north to Vanua Levu on January 6 to visit with the congregations effected by Cyclone Yasa and to help with the distribution of relief to six locations hit by that storm: Labasa, Vatudamu, Buca, Nabouwalu, Navere, and Tavea Island. This effort was able to assist with the repairs to over 50 roofs and food for 103 families.

While we were in Labasa, our return to Suva was delayed by a second cyclone that flooded the town. Boats were going up and down main street in front of our hotel room. Cyclone Ana was followed closely by Cyclone Bina. There was little wind damage from these twin cyclones, but a lot of water damage to the homes and businesses in Labasa. Another by-product of the storm was that it washed out the main road going to the wharf in Nabouwalu. After an extra week, we were able to make the trip back to the wharf to board the ferry back to Suva on the 5th of February.

Our second wave of relief effort began the 1st of March. We were able to deliver the rest of the roofing irons that we had ordered from the factory. Samuela, the preacher for the 10 Miles Church of Christ, and an alumni of the school took off work to make two trips to the north to oversee distribution.

We also were able to purchase three water tanks to help with clean drinking water in the event of future disasters. These were installed in Vatudamu, Buca, and Nabouwalu. We still have plans to install two more tanks, one in Labasa, and the other in Navere.

Just before the workshop, we were able to make a final distribution of food to 105 families. We had a similar list to our first distribution: each family received 22 pounds of Flour, 22 pounds of rice, 7 pounds of sugar, ½ gallon of oil, 7 pound bucket of breakfast crackers, and 12 cans of mackerel.

Usually the host congregation provides food for the workshop. But because of the damage to local crops, we were able to also provide food for 150 people for three days during the workshop.



With the exception of the two water tanks to be installed, this will finish up our relief efforts to the North. The people were so very grateful for your generosity and have repeatedly asked us to tell you how thankful they are to you for your generous gifts in their time of trouble. May God richly repay your kindness!



Thank you from the Chief of Tavea Island

One of the great things that came out of this effort was the restoration of the church in Navere. With the death of their preacher four years ago, the church had simply quit meeting. The church is meeting together again with six families in attendance. Three of the baptisms at the workshop were from Navere. Emosi has been invited to conduct a workshop in Navere and plans to do so the first part of May.