

the  
**Pierce Report**   
 A Newsletter from Jason and Devan Pierce

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## BULA FROM SUVA, FIJI!

- 1 It is hard to believe that as I am writing this, we are beginning our
- 2 final week of living and working here in Suva, Fiji. Lord willing, on
- 2 Tuesday, April 8, Devan, Nathan, and I will be boarding a flight
- 3 headed back to the United States. Mom (Debbie) is already back in
- 3 the U.S., and Dad (Rocco) will be returning to the U.S. later in April,
- 4 where he will continue preparations for his next work serving the
- 4 Lord in the South Pacific.

We began this journey a little over ten years ago, and for the last eight+ years we have called Suva our home. The last couple of months have been a flurry of chaos as we have begun the process of packing, selling furniture, and doing all of the tasks that go into preparing to move overseas, all while we have continued our work with the churches here in Fiji. It is going to be so difficult for us to say goodbye and leave this work behind!

As we look to the future, our plans are to fly back to the U.S. on April 8. We will then spend May, June, and July reporting to our supporters. Sometime during that time, we will be relocating to Henderson, Tennessee. Beginning in August, I will be serving as the Missionary-in-Residence at Freed-Hardeman University for one school year (two semesters). During the fall semester, I will be teaching two courses on Life of Christ and one course on Acts. I will also be working with various campus clubs and ministries dedicated to promoting missions among the student body. This is a wonderful opportunity for me to give back to a program that was such a tremendous blessing to me when I was a missions major at FHU in the 90s. During that time, Devan and I will also be focused on exploring opportunities for how we can best serve in the Lord's kingdom moving forward after our time at FHU. Please continue to remember us in your prayers as we make this transition!

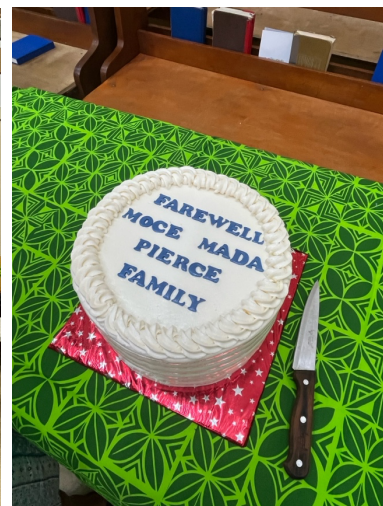


## 2 TIMOTHY 2:2

“...what you have heard  
 from me in the presence  
 of many witnesses

### RAIWAQA FAREWELL LOVO

On Friday night, March 7, the Raiwaqa congregation hosted a farewell *lovo* for the entire Pierce family. *Lovo* is the name of the earthen oven where they cook foods on hot rocks covered in banana leaves. The farewell was a very traditional and formal occasion. They had a devotional, gave speeches, and presented our family with gifts to show appreciation for the work we have done in Fiji. Then they had a big feast that included a *lovo* filled with traditional Fijian dishes. *Lovo* is the name of the earthen oven where they cook foods on hot rocks covered in banana leaves. After the meal, the whole congregation sang *Isa Lei* (the traditional Fijian farewell song). We are so grateful to the Raiwaqa congregation, which has served as our home congregation for more than eight years.



### BIR REUNION



On Saturday, March 29, I was able to experience one of the most rewarding moments of our work here in Fiji. There is an old saying in missionary circles that the goal of the missionary is to eventually work himself out of a job. One of our primary goals in this work has always been to preparing local Christians to continue teaching and training future leaders after we are gone. On Saturday, we took a big step forward toward that goal when we invited all of our Fijian graduates to meet for a reunion.

The primary purpose of the gathering was to present our past graduates with one final tool to help them in the mission of preparing to train future generations of Christian leaders. Over the last several months, Dad and I

have both been busy putting together ready-to-go course packets from our teaching materials that can be used by our graduates to prepare their own courses. These packets include teacher manuals, student workbooks, and other materials (such as PowerPoints, sample assignments, and exams). On Saturday, we presented our graduates with a thumb drive containing fifteen courses that are ready to be taught. We also presented them

with a proposal for a twelve-course curriculum (including required and elective courses) that they could set up with little cost in their own congregations. We spent time showing them how to set up a program and how to use the curriculum that we were providing. We also encouraged them to not just read our notes, but to do additional study and develop their own materials.

The event was a huge success. We had sixteen Fijian graduates who finished the full-time program and one graduate from our part-time Monday night program to attend the reunion. These students represent six different congregations from two different islands in Fiji. All them expressed excitement about the materials, and several of them were already talking about ways that they might implement the materials in their home congregations. We are also hoping to find a way to get these materials to our graduates who are working in other countries in the South Pacific.



A second purpose of the reunion was to give us a chance to say our final goodbyes to our former students. It was also an opportunity for us to give them one last boost of encouragement to continue their good works after we are gone. It was so wonderful to see all of our graduates together and to be able to fellowship with them one last time.

We concluded the event with a catered tea (a big part of island culture) where we were able to sit and eat together in Christian fellowship. After spending the last eight years teaching and working with these men and women on a daily basis, they have become my family. We have laughed and cried together. We have prayed together, studied together, and eaten together. Having so many of them all together for one last tea was a very special moment for us.

## PREACHING AND TEACHING

Even in the midst of preparing for the move back to the U.S., we have continued to be involved in the work in Fiji (and plan to be until the very end). On the first weekend in March, the whole family traveled to Nadi. It took a few extra hours to get there after our vehicle broke down in the middle of nowhere. Thankfully, our landlord was able to arrange for a tow truck to take our vehicle back to Nadi, part of us were able to load up with Mom and Dad, and the rest of us were able to hire a taxi to complete the journey. During the weekend, we were able to close down the apartment in Nadi which has served as our base for our work on the western side of the island. On Sunday, we were able to all worship one last time with the Nadi congregation. I was asked to teach the Bible class, and Dad presented the sermon. In addition to that trip, the Nadi congregation invited Nathan to come and preach on Sunday, February 23.

In February, I was scheduled to preach at the Southern congregation in Suva. However, due to a bad case of the flu, I had to cancel at the last minute. Dad graciously volunteered to take my place. I was able to reschedule my visit for March 23. The majority of the work at the Southern congregation is being done by two of our graduates, Peter and Moira Lee. The congregation is currently meeting in their home.

Nathan and I have both continued to be a part of the preaching rotation at Raiwaqa. Nathan preached his final sermon at Raiwaqa on Sunday night, March 23. He did an amazing job. It has been wonderful to see how much

he has grown and matured spiritually over the last several months. Lord willing, I will be preaching my final lesson at Raiwaqa on Sunday, April 6.

Devan has also continued to be involved in the work. She has been helping Sister Jacinta to teach the Tabitha class, training the young girls in the congregation for Christian service. She will also be teaching one last ladies class during the afternoon on Sunday, April 6.



### THANKSGIVING



As I conclude this report, let me please express to you our heartfelt gratitude for your interest in the work in Fiji and the South Pacific. This work would not have been possible without you! Your prayers, support, and encouraging messages through the year have kept this work going strong. You have supported us through the good moments (teaching classes, graduations, baptisms, etc.) and through the challenging ones (cyclones, Covid, my parents' cancer battles, etc.). You have helped to keep us strong when we were weak, and you have shared our joys when things were going well. It has truly been a blessing for us to be a part of this work and to share it with you through the years. Words cannot begin to share the depth of gratitude that we hold in our hearts for you. I want to express a special thanks to the Killen (AL) Church of Christ, who served as our overseeing congregation for two years during the fund-raising process, and to the Henderson (TN) Church of Christ, who has served as overseeing congregation

for the last eight+ years while we were on the field. Thank you for believing in me enough to take on oversight of our work. To all of our financial supporters over the last ten years, thank you for making our dream of training Christian leaders in Fiji and the South Pacific a reality. You all have a share in the fruits of our labors! It is my prayer that God will bless you as abundantly as you have blessed us.

Additionally, I want to thank those of our supporters who have committed to continuing our support for the next year as I serve as Missionary-in-Residence at Freed-Hardeman University. As a student and missions major at FHU, I was privileged to know and learn from four different men who served in that role. All of them had a major impact in helping to shape and prepare me for service on the mission field. Their efforts are still bearing fruit today through the work that I and others are doing throughout the world. I feel truly honored to have an opportunity to give back to that program and help prepare a future generation of Christian servants for the mission field.

I want to thank my parents, Rocco and Debbie Pierce. This work began with their vision, and I feel truly honored to have been a part of it. They have dedicated over twenty years to the work in the South Pacific, and they continue to find new ways to serve the work here. Being able to work with them in Fiji has been a true privilege. The most difficult challenge we faced during our work here was over the last couple of years during Mom's cancer battle when they could not be here for long stretches at a time. Their absence was strongly felt, and the work was lacking something with them not here. Thank you for giving me an opportunity to share in your labors.

Finally, I want to thank Devan, Austin, Cory, Caleb, and Nathan. They made this work better. From beginning to end, they were an essential part of the work here. I often suspect that their impacts on the work through quiet, humble service, may be far more reaching and enduring than my own. This one thing I know – any success that I have achieved here was only accomplished because I had them here supporting the work.