

THE UNCHANGING WORD

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Life for All

Meet the New BSSP General Secretary



Name: Geoffrey Miller

Place of Birth: Lomaloma, Vanuabalavu, Lau (Fiji)

DOB: September 20, 1978

Family: Married (with a teenage son)

Qualifications:

- Bachelor of Arts (Biblical Studies) Honors
- Master of Tropical Urban & Regional Planning
- Diploma in Missions & Ministry

Work Experience:

- Leadership & Development Director (Dec 2015-Jan 2017) - Salvation Army, Fiji
- Leadership & Development Officer (Jan 2013-Dec 2015) - Salvation Army, Suva, Fiji.
- Assistant Registrar & Lecturer (Feb 2008 - Jan 2009) - South Pacific Bible College, Suva, Fiji.
- Assistant Manager (Jan 2001-Jan 2004) - Yamagata Centre, Kaibu Island Resort, Fiji.

2019 - A Year of Important Changes

Upon reflecting on the past seven months of the year, so much change has transpired in the ministry. The Bible Society of the South Pacific (BSSP) welcomed its new General Secretary in January 2019, Mr Geoffrey Miller, who took over the helm of leadership from Mr Solomon Duru, the Society's longest serving leader (1987-2018). Mr Miller worked as the GS designate alongside Mr Duru for a couple of months before Mr Duru retired on December 31, 2018. In addition, the Society has adopted its new vision this year, "Life for All," and is re-working on its strategic plans and operational structure accordingly. The year 2019 has also seen changes in the staff team as some have moved on (Mrs Mere Tikoduadua Fonmoa, Ms Vilomena Dautei and Mr Neilesh Prasad) and new staff joining in (Ms Miliana Kanasalusalu and Mr Viliame Mavo). The Society continues to work on new changes and most of which are quite significant making 2019 as a year of important changes.



Staff farewell for Mr Solomon Duru and Mrs Mere Tikoduadua Fonmoa. Sitting (from left): Mr Geoffrey Miller, Mr Duru, Mrs Mere Fonmoa, Mr Viliamesa Nareki (Fiji Mission Board Chairman)

PRAYER POINTS:

Please remember the ministry in your prayers.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

- Fiji Mission Donors Dinner: 25th October, 2019.
- Pacific Bible Forum: 13th - 15th November, 2019.

MISSION & PROJECTS:

Retypeset of the following Bible:

- Solomon Island Pidgin Bible
- Hano New Testament (Vanuatu)
- Cook Island Bible
- Nguna Togou Bible (Vanuatu)

Typeset of the following:

- David I Comic - iTaukei
- David I Comic - Vanuatu
- Elijah Comic - Solomon
- In His Presence

Digitization of the following:

- Futuna Catholic Bible
- Tuvalu Revised Bible
- Havai New Testament (Vanuatu)
- Maumi New Testament (Fiji)
- Havakinau New Testament (Vanuatu)

**Heaven and earth shall pass away,
but my words shall not pass away.
Matthew 24: 35 (KJV)**

Fiji Mission Team Outreach in the Yasawa Island Group



Group discussions at the Trauma Healing workshop in Nacula village.

A BSSP Fiji Mission awareness and scripture distribution program was successfully carried out in the main islands of the Yasawa Group (Naviti, Nacula and Yasawa-i-rara) on 12-24 May, 2019. Five staff and two volunteers formed this outreach team which was led by the Mission Coordinator, Mr Solomon Cinavilakeba. They spent an average of three days in one location talking about the role of the Bible Society, distributing scriptures, running the Bible Society Trauma Healing program, conducting Sunday School Teachers training, providing opportunities to increase the people's knowledge and interest in the Bible and fostering good relationships with the people in both the church and community at large. The LORD is to be praised as the Society continues to receive the many positive feedback from this mission trip.



Taking Your Pain to the Cross at the Trauma Healing workshop at Bukama village.

UBS Round Table Meeting in Athens, Greece

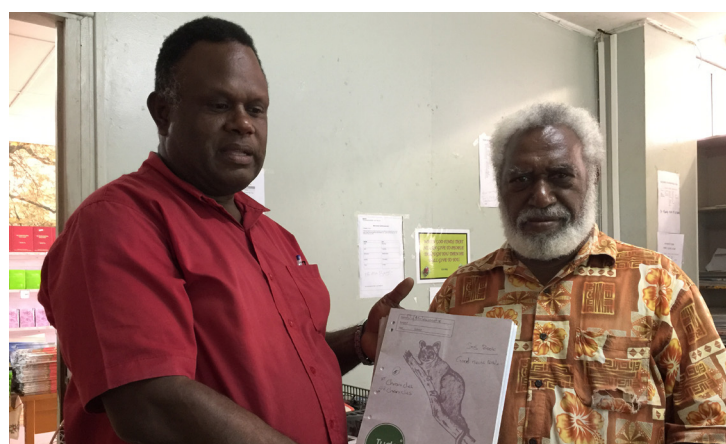
BSSP Manager Operations, Mrs Ledua Turaganivalu attended the United Bible Societies Round Table meeting in Athens on 17-21 June, 2019. She said, "I enjoyed meeting the UBS staff and sharing about our projects in terms of our context and challenges. I also loved hear-

ing about their challenges and the ways they have discovered solutions to these challenges. Since the meeting proper focused on Leadership and Human Resources, it was a great opportunity to listen to speakers like Mr Eugene Harbecker and from other General Secretaries who shared from their own practical experiences. I think the sharing of information at this platform was the best thing for me about the 2019 Roundtable Meeting, particularly on hearing about how various programs on Bible Advocacy and Engagement were effectively carried out."



*Table 14 on the first day of the Round Table Meeting.
L-R: Perry Cartera, Matthew Punnoose, Ledua Turaganivalu, Neels van Rensburg, Efua Ghartey & Liz Martin.*

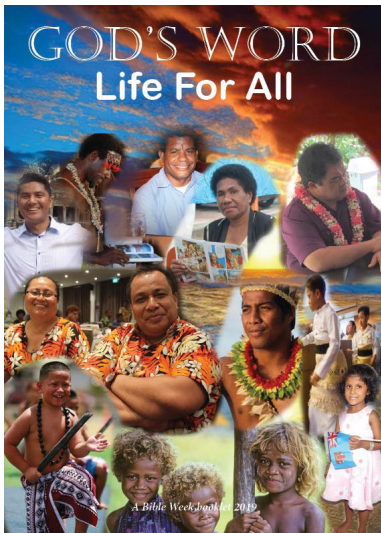
Ongoing Translation Work in Vanuatu



L-R: Elder Kalmaire & Elder Jack Reuben

Most translation works under the Bible Society of the South Pacific is happening in Vanuatu. Translation Advisors Dr Ma'afu Palu and Rev Apenisa Lewatoro both visited their respective projects early this year. Dr Ma'afu first visited the Tasiriki community in Santo together with Pastor Bernard Yalimayau (translation coordinator in Vanuatu) before running a workshop in Malakula islands on the Ahamb New Testament project. On their return, they visited the Mele New Testament project near Port Vila before meeting with the Ngunes Bible Revision coordinator and translator, Elder Kalmaire. The final checking of the Hano New Testament project of North Pentecost was also carried out by Rev Apenisa together with the two Hano speakers and translators, Kolinete Sibo and Annie Gaviga -- all in the month of March 2019.

Celebrating the National Bible Week (30th June – 7th July, 2019)



Bible Week 2019 - English booklet cover.

A total of 4,000 Bible study booklets (in English and Fijian) on the Bible Week theme “Gods Word: Life for All” was distributed to churches throughout Fiji to be used during the National Bible Week this year. The study was written and translated by a strong supporter of the ministry, Pastor Manasa Kolivuso, who is currently the Senior Pastor of the Christian Mission

Fellowship in Nausori. While the study was also made available to various countries in the Pacific region, a good number of people managed to download the Bible Week Bible Study materials from the Bible Society website and use them in their homes, workplace, churches and for personal Bible study. The Society is very grateful to all churches and individuals who have responded to the Bible Week request in praying for the needs of the Bible Society and for sending in their Bible Week donations. The Bible Week donation is still welcomed at the Bible House office in Suva.

Bible Week in Labasa: Trauma Healing Facilitators' Training

The BSSP General Secretary, Mr Geoffry Miller travelled to Labasa for his first ever Bible Week engagement since joining the Society. He visited some leaders and talked in some churches that week, was in attendance of some evangelistic meetings, and played a key role in the training of the Trauma Healing facilitators for Church leaders and counsellors based in Labasa and Savusavu. Mr Miller was accompanied by the Mission Coordinator, Mr Solomon Cina-vi and the Director Translations, Rev. Apenisa Lewatoro. Twenty-one participants attended the



Mr. Geoffry Miller facilitating a workshop in Labasa.

Trauma Healing Facilitators training and were certified as ‘Apprentice Facilitators’ during the Bible Week.



Graduate Apprentice Facilitators from the Labasa Trauma Healing Facilitators Training.

Faith Comes By Hearing: Bible Week in Nasolo

Each family household in the village of Nasolo in Ba received a copy of the Fijian New Version New Testament at the closing of the Bible Week on 7th July. The request came during the Bible Society consultation meeting with the Church leaders from the West that was held in Nailaga on the 29th of March this year. The resident Nasolo Methodist Circuit Minister, the Reverend Lisala Tuivuya, had expressed the need for Bibles, after the flooding waters from the nearby Ba River had literally covered the whole village which led to the damage of Bibles and hymn books. After distributing the scriptures to the families, Reverend Tuivuya then organized the reading of the whole scriptures (from Genesis to Revelation) in an organized

manner from the church with the use of the sound system. The idea was for the community to read God's Word and people at home or working in the garden to hear as faith comes by hearing the Word of God (Romans 10.17). This was indeed a Bible Week with a difference for Nasolo village.



L-R: Mr. Solomon Cinavilakeba handing over some scriptures to Rev Lisala Tuivuya of Nasolo Methodist Circuit to help the family in his circuit who have lost their belongings during floods, as Nasolo is a flood prone area in Ba.

Good Progress in Samoa Contemporary Old Testament Project



A total of nine books under the Book of the Twelve (Minor Prophets) had been completely drafted after the follow-up translation workshop was conducted at the Le Alaimoana Hotel in Apia on 9-12 April, 2019. The first workshop was held at the same venue last November. The twelve participants (see photo) who were selected from their various Churches have decided to continue working as translators and each has been allocated a new book to draft. Some computer (Paratext) training and sessions on how to review translations were led by the Global Translation Adviser, Dr Ma'afu Palu and BSSP CAP officer, Mrs Mere Katonivere. The coordinator of the project, Reverend Nu'ausala Siasosi, is happy with the progress so far and will start the review work sometimes soon. The members of the facilitation team and all the participants have also expressed their gratitude on the success of the training workshop. The Book of the Twelve is proposed to be printed as a trial edition of this wonderful project at the end of 2020.

MAUMI NEW TESTAMENT - LAUNCH

What a glorious day it was when the Bible Society of the South Pacific and the vanua of Nawakura (Maumi village, Tailevu) launched the New Testament in the Nawakura dialect. The work was the fruit of 11 years of translation work by the elders of Maumi village and the two translation coordinators of Bible Society.

Timeline of the Project: The conception of the idea began in 2007 but translation work did not start until 2009. The initial stages of the work was to, identify potential translators and reviewers; so the Translation Workshops were first on the agenda. Once translators and reviewers were identified, work on the book of James started in 2010, followed by the gospel of Mark in 2011. 2012 saw the launch of these books and translation work continued



Fiji Board Chairman, Mr. Vilikesa Nareki gifting the Tui Maumi with his very own copy of Maumi New Testament.

with the books of John, Matthew and Luke which spanned from 2013 to 2015.

After all this work, we sped up the translation process by increasing the number of trans-

lators to four which then allowed us to launch the Gospel of Matthew and Mark in 2016. All other books were translated within the next two years and by 2018, we were able to complete the final proof-reading, typeset and then printing followed after.

On the morning of Sunday the twenty seventh of January 2019, Bible Society of the South Pacific, Fiji Mission board representatives and staff, headed out to Maumi village at 9.30am to attend the launch of the newly produced New Testament. The BSSP team was headed by the Board chairman of the Fiji Mission, Mr. Vilikesa Nareki and



The New Testament in the Maumi dialect.

board member representative from the Salvation Army, Major Uraia Dravikula. The Society invited Reverend Jeremaia Waqainabete, the Deputy General Secretary of the Methodist church in Fiji to officiate the launch.



Translators & Reviewers Team after the final proof-reading session in front of the Rev. Epeli Rokowaqa Methodist Church in Maumi village.

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