

Do you not know? Have you not heard?

The LORD is the everlasting God, the Creator of the ends of the earth. He will not grow tired or weary, and his understanding no one can fathom. He gives strength to the weary and increases the power of the weak. Even youths grow tired and weary, and young men stumble and fall; 31 but those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.

Isaiah 40: 28-31 (NIV)

We are pilgrims, journeying through life. The story of a prophesied Messiah born in Bethlehem is the most beautiful and the greatest story ever told, the story of God's visitation in human form. Just imagine what the shepherds be thinking as they tried to raise perfect lambs and yet finding the Lamb of God living amongst them. Can you imagine the wise kings who studied the stars pointing to the One who made them and was the King of all kings. Imagine Simeon, who had



waited all his life for the Messiah, holding in his arms He who would soon be carrying Simeon in His own. Imagine Mary, fearing the sword that would pierce through her heart, finding out that the child she was destined to raise was the redeemer of every heart that came to Him, the great I AM. Imagine Joseph the carpenter, who risked all to "save" this child from Herod's slaughter, finding the very creator of heaven and earth saving him from his sin.

As we look around and see the chaos and the scourge of evil and sin upon the human race, the Message of Christmas starts to resound like hoofs far pounding, that God Incarnate; Immanuel God in human form walketh the earth to save the sinners that none should perish. This world would be a different place if only humanity understood what that message meant.

Thank you for helping us carry God's message across Fiji and into the Pacific. We at the Bible Society of the South Pacific wish you all a Blessed Christmas and a Joyous New Year.

Geoffrey Miller

Join Us as a Bible Society Ministry Partner in 2020!

The Bible Society of the South Pacific is looking for potential donors to help finance these two unsupported but very important Projects in 2020 and beyond:

1. Healing the Wounds of Trauma in the Pacific: To enable BSSP in continuing his scripture-based Trauma Healing program in Fiji and the Pacific.

2. Life Tract: To repackage and publish scripture selections (tracts) based on current life issues targeting our children, teenagers and youth across the Pacific for free distribution.

Please pray about this seriously. And if God is prompting your heart to be a Bible Society Mission Partner (BSMP), kindly send us your response as soon as possible to bib-soc@bible.org.fj or visit the Mission Team at the Bible House, 8-10 Luke Street, Nabua, Fiji - Telephone (679) 3383988.

You can also send any urgent prayer needs to your Bible Society Mission Team (captained by Mr Solomon Civanilakeba) who prays regularly during their lunch hour. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the LORD together with you and your family!

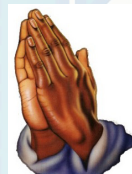
PRAYER POINTS

Please remember the ministry in your prayers.

MISSION & PROJECTS:

Typeset of the following Bible:

- Solomon Islands Pijin Bible Mission Line
- Fijian Study Bible
- Fiji David I Comic
- Vanuatu David I Comic
- Solomon Islands Elijah Comic
- Re-typeset Solomon Islands Pijin Bible luxury edition



Printing Stages:

- Hano New Testament
- Vanuatu

Fiji Mission visits the Yasawa Island Group

It is by grace alone that we were able to make a second trip to the Yasawa's this year, 2019. The team consists of; Mr. Solomon Cinavilakeba (Fiji Mission Coordinator), Mrs. Iva Teilai (Sunday School Teacher Training facilitator) and Ms. Teupola Waqainabete (Fiji Mission Administration Officer).

Bible Society of the South Pacific engaged with churches where the Assemblies of God, Methodist Church and Catholics are the major Christian denominations of those islands. Catholic churches are in specific areas like Vuaki Island and Nacula Island.



Mrs. Iva Teilai handing Mrs. Siteri Dikoro of Nasoqo, Naviti, their certificates and Sunday School materials.

The team travelled to the Yasawa group of islands to equip the Sunday school teachers through training and supplying them with Sunday School materials. Bible Society of the South Pacific, specifically the Fiji Mission sees this opportunity to meet the needs of the communities by inviting a guest facilitator like Mrs. Teilai to deliver a one and a half days program in three venues, speaking to Sunday school teachers from all Christian denominations.

The first part of the trip was a follow-up trip to the already visited Naviti Island and Nacula, to distribute the certificates of those teachers who were trained in our first visit in May. Also on the agenda was to deliver some



Teachers trained at Bukama.

Teachers trained at Teci.



Teachers trained at Tamusua.

of their resource materials to help them teach their Sunday school classes.

The first visit in May allowed us to train 19 Sunday School teachers from Naviti & Nacula island before we continued the journey to Yasawa island to conduct trainings in Bukama, Teci and Tamusua village.

We were able to train 17 teachers from Bukama village, 13 teachers from Teci village and 11 from Tamusua village.

Final Preparation of the Hano New Testament in Vanuatu



The Hano language speakers from North Pentecost in Vanuatu are eagerly waiting to receive the Word of God (New Testament) in their mother-tongue once the final preparation of the scripture is completed. The printing of this scripture is

scheduled for this December and the expected date of arrival is March/April 2020. The Hano translation team had been working very hard on both the translation and typesetting of this project in Port Vila over two solid weeks between 16-27 September. The BSSP Translation Adviser Rev Apenisa Lewatoro joined them in the first week while the Senior Typesetting Officer Mrs Mere Katonivere arrived the following week to supervise the typesetting of this scripture. The wonderful contribution and great effort given by the Hano Team, which comprises of the main translator Kolinette, Father John Bani and his wife, and Ms Annie Roslyn, is commended.



BSSP Re-establishes Contact with Nauru



NCC Council Chairman, Rev'd Dennet Roger Mwareow

A five-day courteous visit to Nauru by the BSSP Translation Advisor at the end of September has given rise to some renewed contacts with the Churches in Nauru. The key objective of this visit was to discuss the proofreading of the scanned Nauru Bible for its entry into the Digital Bible Library with the Nauru Congregational Church Council. This

would result in the Nauru Bible to be freely available and accessible through smart phones, tablets, and computers for the community in Nauru and abroad.



NCC Council Members at the first meeting on Friday 27/9/19



Newly elected President of Nauru, Mr Lionel Aingimea, receives a Bible gift presented on behalf of the Bible Society by Mrs Mariana Tukana on Sunday 6/10/19.

Through the leadership of the NCC Council led by the Secretary, Rev'd Dennet Roger Mwareow, the Council then reported at the last day of meeting that the Church still feels that it needed more time to process this move by the Bible Society on their Nauru Bible. However, the visit helped to reconnect BSSP back to the local Churches in Nauru. Rev Apenisa Lewatoro has recommended that BSSP continues to work together

with NCC Council and other Churches in Nauru in the lead up to BSSP's future Bible Advocacy and Engagement programs in the Pacific region. The Nauru Congregational Church was very supportive and hospitable to their BSSP guest throughout. A return trip is highly



With the Senior Pastor and flanked by two Fijian members of the AOG House of Judah Church, Mrs Tukana (left) and Mrs Lenati (right).

possible once the NCC Council affirms their decision to go ahead with the digitalization of the Nauru Bible. A visit to express support to the newly elected President of Nauru, Mr Lionel Aingimea, was also arranged but took place the following Sunday after Rev Lewatoro had left the republic on the first day of October.

Niue Church Supports the Digitization of their Bible



EKN Execs & Church Leaders at the meeting in Alofi

The Ekelesia Kelisiano Niue is very supportive of the idea of putting their Bible under the United Bible Societies' Digital Bible Library program so that the Word of God in the Niue language can be easily available and accessible through the people's smart phones, tablets, and computers wherever they are located. Once the Bible is made available electronically, this opens the door to the development of further scripture products such as the Scripture-Audio Bible and Bible products in different formats (compact, large print, pulpit-size, etc.). The digitization process begins with the scanning of the Niue Bible and followed by the proofreading of the scanned Bible by the Church to remove any typo error that might be on the scanned version. This partnership with the Bible Society was reconfirmed by the EKN Executives led by the



Proofreading exercise by the Vice President Rev. Nukanuka Tauevihi and his wife, Rev. Taimond Talagi Tauevihi.

Church President Rev'd Vili Viviani and Church Secretary Rev'd Holo Tafea after their meeting with the BSSP Translation Advisor Rev'd Apenisa Lewatoro during his visit to Alofi between 8-12 July of this year. Former BSSP General Secretary Mr Solomon Duru has made the last visit to Niue in 2017. Work on the proofreading is ongoing under the supervision of the Deputy President Rev'd Nukanuka Tauevihi and his wife Rev'd Taimond Talagi Tauevihi.

Sunday School Teacher Training in Visama, Nakelo.



Visama village is part of the Nakelo district in the province of Tailevu and is 5.5km from Nausori Town. It is predominantly Methodist and is part of the Nakelo Circuit of Bau Division.

The Sunday school teachers training was held on October and the day started with a devotion by the catechist, Mr. Waisea Narema. The program was then handed to Mrs. Iva Teilai whose core message for the workshop was to empower the teachers to become more efficient as they have a big impact on the lives of their students.

The workshop trained fourteen teachers from the villages of Visama, Waikete, Vunivaivai & Nakaulevu. They were also equipped with resources such as flip charts for the younger classes and were also taught on how to create them. Most of its participants found the workshop very empowering and has given them a boost to continue their work.

Final Proof-reading of the Fijian Study Bible.

by Ratu Marika Waqanivalu



When I came into BSSP 2005 as a volunteer, the Fijian Study Bible Cyclopedic index review was already an ongoing task carried out twice a week by a team of reviewers. How far back the work started and those involved in translating the encyclopedic index, I do not know. But work on this material continues down the years till this year. They were some untranslated pages and some missing pages that had to be translated or retranslated by the late Pastor Mosese Waseiyaroi and retired school teacher Tevita Lala.

Plans to final proofread both the bible text and the study materials that will make this bible a study bible took place at Coral coast Christian camp on the 19th of November to the 22nd. Thirty five readers from different age groups, denominations, and backgrounds took part in this 3 days & 3 nights of proof reading camp.

We proofread the whole bible text and finished about 84 per cent of the study materials. The 35 participants of this exercise expressed great joy and enthusiasm participating in this part of the process and talked about the how fortunate they were and how beneficial the exercise was to their own understanding and spiritual life.



**Bible Society of the South Pacific
looks after 16 island nations.**

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