



TESTIMONIES FROM FIJI ISLANDS - PRASAD'S UPDATE

Dearest family

As I look back at the last five months of happening's I am amaze at how fast the time has flown. I also want to thank you for the many prayers and emails that we have received during this time. We also thank you for your continued support and love that we receive from you always.

Many things have happened and I would like to highlight a few major happenings in the last 4 months.

Sunday and Tuesdays-Preaching, Teaching and prayer nights

Emosi Tabu and I continue to rotate the pulpit duties. In the last 4 months, I have taught Second Peter, James and the kingdom series. It has been encouraging. We also changed our Sunday service structure a bit. Now we have the lesson and break into small groups to discuss its applications both theologically and in practical sense. At the same time we pray. We have divided the members in small clusters and they remain same so that the members become prayer partners also. Aunty Martha, who cannot read English at all and only speaks syllabus when you ask her questions has a special group for her. Two of the Indian sisters-Pranita and Komal join her where the lesson is explained to her in Hindi language. She does not feel left out. Afterwards, Nilu prepares tea and we get together to fellowship. We also now begin at 10am instead of the 11 am that we used to have. Even with this, our fellowship now breaks at almost 2 pm at times.

Our trip to Australia



Nilu and I had never been to Australia. We went for 19 days. Nilu marvelled at all she saw there. Things were so big and it was the first time for her to be in a train. We went to attend a couple of seminars for which we had been saving for at least 2 years. It was all worth it. In Fiji; we give and give spiritually with basically no time to take in, so this was a spiritual refilling time for us. Nilu also attended the "Come before Winter" program to which she is thankful for.

Sometimes in the daily life of her work, family and my work, she gets frustrated and this was a good spiritual refilling time where she was ministered to on various facets of her life. While she was in Brisbane, I was left in Sydney to reenergise and refuel myself too. There were a couple of days when I never left the hotel room but stayed in and just relished in the word of God.

We fellowshipped with The Point Church of Christ in Brisbane and we felt right at home at the Point. The brothers and sisters were full of love. We fellowshipped over lunch at one of the church members house. Gwen, a sweet lady was our hostess. God Bless her-she showed us most of Brisbane. It was here that we saw the Sunday service was different from all that we had attended in the past and

decided to try it at Capital City and it has been good so far. It was also a blessing to be invited into homes where people are actually making plans to help mission work. God Be Praised for all this.

Capital City Retreat

Before we left for Australia, we had planned a retreat for the members and upon our return; we took the church for the Retreat. It was great. We focused on being firmly rooted. We studied Matthew 13 and prayed with members. It was a re-commitment time. Members went away refreshed and refuelled.

Losing of Members

In the last 6 (Dec08 onwards) months, we have lost 50 percent of our membership. It is sad that on a given Sunday, we have only 20 people in attendance and if it is a good Sunday, then we can count 30.

The **Pusineli family** (comprising of 7) has moved back to Tuvalu. **Isireli** and his family (3) have relocated to a new house and have started fellowshipping with the Makoi Church. **Dallas** also joined them.

Semi and Susana also left. This couple was having some marital problems and though we took them for counselling and prayed with them, it did not work out and they separated. A total of 6 people used to come from this family. When Satan attacked their marriage, the children were given to Semis parents and Susana went to the west side of the island. The church continued to pray for them and as I write this report, Semi and Susana have just started coming back to the fellowship and though they are still staying apart, Susana has asked Nilu if they could come back for counselling. God works miraculously. We also lost the **Tukana family**(8 of them). Lusi, the oldest of the girls got pregnant and the family is ashamed to come to church. We have visited time and again and assured them of Gods love but they have not come back. Only Max, their youngest son comes to church. **Marika** , their older son just lost a baby girl of 2 years. She was anaemic. We visited with them. The church was there to give their love and support. The sad bit is that in this they saw the wrath of God. I talked to them about God's love and how he cares for us and heals us. They are still in our prayers and we continue to visit with them. **Please lift these families in prayer**. Another young family that Satan is attaching is **Nanise's and Vula's family**. These 2 were part of our singles group and got married. They had a disagreement and separated. We started working with the wife a couple of months ago when we got to know their situation. The wife has moved back to Vulas home and we continue to lift them up in our prayers. Nilu and I can see a pattern in this and that Satan is attacking the families of this church. In total we lost 28 members-lost in a sense not to the world. They have not shun from the Lord or have abandon believe in God but have taken things into their own hands. They know the truth and yet they have decided to do things their own ways. So on Tuesday nights, our main focus in on these people.

Christina

After we came back from the camp, Christina moved in with us for a while. She was homeless and had made some wrong decisions. She found a new place to live and moved out. We prayed and counselled her for a while and just last week she has started at a new work place. She is happy knowing that the Lord never forgets her. She is always on HIS mind.

Anne

Thank you for praying for Anne. After working with her for the last 1 year or so, she is showing signs of recovery both spiritually and physically. She continues to recover after her surgery. Normally she

would call everyday and talk for hours to Nilu but for the last 2 weeks her calls have been less frequent. We have advised her that the amount of time she spends on calling other people and talking should be spent talking to God. She has taken the advice. Not that we don't want her to connect with people but she must learn to trust in God and what he is saying and doing that instead of just talking, as the word tells us 'mere talk only leads to poverty'.

Youth/Singles Ministry



Capital City now has a monthly get together with the Nadera church of Christ youth. The 1st one was held at Nadera church in July. It was encouraging to see youth and singles learning and sharing together. The second was hosted at Capital City with a pot of palau- an Indian dish of rice and chicken.

Also, I might have mentioned to you about an American Christian family have a villa in Pacific Harbour some 50Kms from Suva. This is touristy spot and has nice beaches and is a quite area. They've been very supportive of the work and been instrumental in helping to setup a website. One of things they like doing is helping us organize family retreats. Being married for over 50 years they bring invaluable spiritual insight to our young Christian families. This year we could not arrange for a family retreat, nonetheless, we managed to get our youth and singles together for 2 nights sleepover. It was an exciting time for the youths. Many good things came out of this retreat, especially when we found out that one of the youth was contemplating suicide. He really wanted to talk with someone and at this retreat he found an outlet, to confide with one of the team leaders. We also dealt with pregnancy issues and one of the girls (Lusi) confessed that she just found out that morning that she is pregnant. Obviously these are not 'good news' but via this retreat we were able to identify problems the teens are facing or situations they are going through with, and be able to administer our love for them and assurance.

Bible Studies

I am having bible studies with several individuals. Some of them are already in the church but needs that extra help in the word. I have studies on Thursdays every week with them. On Wednesday I have a study with James and Avinash. One of them is an architect and the other works as a bailiff for a large appliance store. During lunch hours they spend time studying the Bible with me. This has been such a wonderful time for me as well. I really enjoy doing this. Seeing people grow in the kingdom knowledge simply thrills my heart.

There is a community some 20kms from where we are, it is more like a squatter settlement. I have been knocking and asking for One-on-One Bible study. Two families have shown interest and I should be able to start a Bible study in that neighbourhood soon.

Indian Cell Group

Our fortnightly Hindi cell group continues and brings much joy to worship and learn things in the context of our own language. We have a good size gathering. In almost, all our cell meetings we have visitors attending. Last night we had it at our home. Nilu prepared Chicken curry for us which we all enjoyed after the meeting.



Transport for the church

In August, after about 2 years of fundraising, we were able to buy an 11 seater van for the church transportation. It is much easier for the members now to travel to and fro. In these hard economic times, it is a help to the members also. I want to thank you for contributing towards this transport. We'll use only \$2500 for this and the reminder \$3000 we plan to keep it (it is with Mike Austin in NZ) towards buying a piece of land most probably in the near future for the church to have a permanent place for meeting together.

This is a brief description of the work of the Lord in the Fiji Islands. The second part of the report will be reaching you shortly. We are thankful to Jesus for choosing us to be part of his kingdom work, it is a privilege for Nilu, my kids and I to serve God. Thank you for allowing it to be possible through your support and prayers and all the encouragement we receive via emails.

We love you all,

Bimlesh, Nilu, Matthew and Vashni.