

FIJI DEAF MINISTRY

"It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8

Transitions

The Book of Joshua is recommended reading for anyone going through transitions. 2019 will be a year of transitions for the Fiji Deaf Ministry. The Lord's charge and promise to Joshua apply to us as well: *"Be strong and of good courage; do not be afraid, nor be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"*. Joshua 1:9. Ephesians 3:20-22 adds *"Now to him who is able to do far more abundantly than all that we ask or think, according to the power at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, forever and ever. Amen."* Words of encouragement, Words to trust.



Jim and Marilyn Cooney will step down as Director and Curriculum Director this January, 2019 after 18 years. They plan to still be involved in this great ministry, but not on a day to day basis. Jim will continue as a Trustee, and Marilyn will continue supporting teachers and staff. They are presently in Suva but Jim is facing ill health.

The Ministry is blessed with a new Director, Russell Neate from Christchurch, and his wife Sue who will



help run the office and support the hostel staff. Russell is a Trustee, and has been involved in the Ministry for many years. They plan to be in Suva early February and are currently waiting for work permits to be issued and accommodation to be finalized.

We are also happy to announce that Joneti Rocotuibau, former teacher, will rejoin our staff as Curriculum Director.



Also, this year, we have a family from Nigeria, Bola and Ruth with their 2 young daughters, coming to teach at the Deaf School. They are both Deaf and have been recommended by Matthew Adedeji an early Head Teacher at the School. We hope they can arrive soon and have been waiting for transit visas from Australia after obtaining work permits from Fiji.

The Year Past: 2018 Review

January

New school year began with 52 students.. New students include Mereoni, Elisabeth, Manasa, Iliesa and Aliti

February

Kathy and her daughter Hannah, both deaf, arrive from England to help at GSD.

April

Easter Camp featured CFD leader Mesake and Sereana and their nine children.

July

Russell Neate brings talented team of 20 from Bryndwr Chapel, Christchurch, N.Z. Among accomplishments: full medicals for students, work on vehicles, concrete steps for senior girls hostel, work in classrooms, sewing projects!

August

9th Annual Deaf Hope Golf Tourney, run by Jim’s sister Agnes and family, raised great support for Deaf Ministry.

Live and Learn group from Australia came to teach the value of hand washing. They fixed all of our outside taps and students painted murals near by.




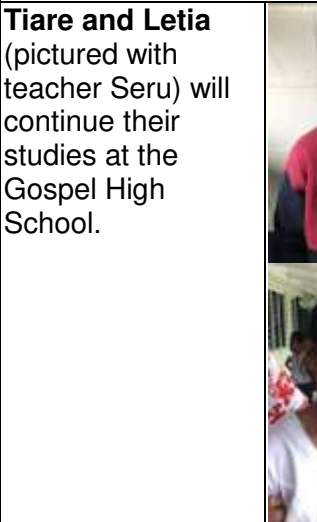
October

Melissa and Kirsty, two deaf artists arrived from England. They helped our teachers with art, and cooked some British meals for the Hostel. Volunteer Olivia, from Australia, tutored students in math. She hopes to return in 2019.

November

Petero and Apenisa won gold medals in Fiji Disabled Games.

The Year Present: Students Progressing

	<p>Maraia Bulou will be attending Fiji Technical Institute in 2019. Maraia, from Bua on Vanua Levu will study cooking</p>		<p>Seva did not begin school until he was almost 14. He has been hired by the Courts department store in Suva. Courts is partnering with us, opening up training and jobs for our deaf.</p>
	<p>Tiare and Letia (pictured with teacher Seru) will continue their studies at the Gospel High School.</p>		<p>Asesela and Bweti have both been accepted at Brown Street Vocational in Suva.</p>

Please Pray - that Our Lord will return all our students and bring us many new students. We also hope for a new student from Vanuatu (the first for many years).

If you would like to make a contribution, please make cheques out to **GC Aid** (n.b. 7.4% to a maximum of \$200 is deducted by GC Aid before sending to us). **Please do not send gifts direct to Fiji.** Alternatively, you can make an online deposit to bank account **06-0729-0522196-00** with the Reference set to **FIJI DEAF**. Either way, please **always** send the details below to GC Aid at **PO Box 744, Palmerston North, New Zealand**, or to **admin@gc3.org.nz** so we know who it is from and the purpose.

Gifts made through GCAid qualify for tax credits for NZ taxpayers.

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\$..... is Enclosed Paid Online

For the Harland Deaf Ministry Trust of Fiji to help with:

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| <input type="checkbox"/> Greatest Need | <input type="checkbox"/> Hostel Activity | <input type="checkbox"/> School for the Deaf | <input type="checkbox"/> Building Programme | <input type="checkbox"/> Teacher Scholarship |
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