

FIJI DEAF MINISTRY

"... sound advice is a beacon, good teaching is a light, moral discipline is a life path." Proverbs 6:23
[The Message]

Happenings in the school and hostels

Our Head Teacher, Mrs. Mudaliar, is on medical leave for this term, spending time in California with her son and family. She reported that her treatment has gone well, and she plans to be back at GSD for third term in August. Again, thanks for your prayers on her behalf. In her absence, head teacher responsibilities will be covered by an administrative team led by Teacher Salote Babitu, with Teachers Felicity Ali and Tomasi Bou. Please keep them in your prayers as they take on added responsibilities.



A new school bus has been donated by the Japanese Embassy this year, and a carport is being built to protect it from the hot sun and heavy rains of Fiji. The kids occasionally help to push the bus out of the mud. As you can see, a carport is definitely needed! And perhaps a few loads of gravel for the muddy driveway as well!

This year we hired two new deaf staff members:

§ Asena (A-say-na), a young deaf woman from our Christian Deaf Fellowship, joined the staff as a teacher aide in Class 1.

Asena has completed her program at Gospel High School



§ Asenaca (A-sen-a-the), a former student at GSD, and wonderful deaf role model, recently came on board as a worker in the main hostel. After attending GSD, Asenaca completed a child care program at Marist Champagnat, and is certified as a preschool and kindergarten teacher. As you can see, she is already well loved by the children!

Three of our deaf teachers, Seru, Sanjesh, and Mela recently had the opportunity to go to Australia with the Fiji Deaf Rugby Team. Seru was the team captain, Sanjesh a player, and Mela the team manager. Seru teaches computer at GSD, Sanjesh teaches Class 7, and Mela is our librarian. The games were held during the two week term break from school. Deaf teams from New Zealand, England, South Africa, Australia, and several other countries participated. Fiji Deaf placed third in the games, and had a great time. Well done Fiji Deaf!

Teacher Tomasi, a deaf teacher, is also our Athletic Director. He continues to coach Table Tennis, training eight of our students. They practice twice each week, and compete on Saturdays. Philip, a former GSD student, is a Fiji National Table Tennis Champion, and competes internationally. He was trained by Tomasi, and has competed in Australia and New Zealand.



Our newest students are all adjusted and doing great at GSD, after only one term in school! Elizabeth (right), who just turned five, is already beginning to read. The youngsters in this class are very bright, and eager to learn. They recently had their hearing tested, and have been given new hearing aids. They are off to a great start!



Mereoni came to school this year for the first time at age ten. She is also doing well, and catching up fast. She is a delightful young girl, sweet as can be, with an infectious smile. She always greets us with big hugs, and brightens our day! We are thankful for all of our deaf kids! Each one has a story.

Over the years, we have grown from about 12 to 53 students in our school, with several others in high school and other vocational programmes. They all have bright futures, having been given the opportunity for an education, along with Bible teaching, in a deaf community. Several of our graduates now work for us at GSD. A big 'vinaka vaka levu' (thank you) for all who support and pray regularly for these deaf young people!

A New Director for 2019

The selection of a new Director was the main item on the 2018 Fiji Deaf Ministry AGM agenda with Jim and Marilyn Cooney retiring in December. The Search Committee recommended Russell Neate. Russell has been a Board member since 2014. He has impressed Jim, the ministry staff and the board members with his Christ-like humility in working both as a team member and as a leader.



Russell carefully and kindly sees what needs doing and gets the job done. Howard Politini, the Board Chairman, spoke of Russell being the "best person for the job". Russell's wife, Sue, will also be well suited for working with Russell in this role. She is already loved by the staff. The Board gave thanks for all that Jim and Marilyn brought to the ministry and thank Russell and Sue for making themselves available for this self-sacrificial work. Please pray for the Neates as they prepare themselves for this major new step in their lives.

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.

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