

"I can do all things through Christ because he gives me strength." Philipians 4:13

This is Petero's favourite memory verse.

Sporting Successes



Petero, 14 years, has qualified to go into the regional athletics competition for the 800m and the

1500m.



Seva, 17yrs, has also qualified for the 800m race, in his age group.



Tall Philip, now a deaf High School student, is off to Japan to sharpen his table

tennis and coaching skills. Philip has won several national titles in Fiji. He started playing table tennis at the GSD, with teacher Tomasi (on the right) as coach.

Audiologist

An Australian audiologist is currently visiting the school to test the children and start the process of sorting out hearing aids for those who can use them. Ongoing, regular audiology visits are needed. We are very grateful for this visit.



Two of the 11 new deaf students



Plodding on

The excitement of the start of the new year has settled down and now it is the day by day plodding on. New children are adjusting to life in the hostel and to new school routines, and to learning language. There has been an outbreak of dengue fever, and Tema (Hostels Director) is visiting the doctor most days. In addition, we now need new "parents" for the Senior Boys' Hostel while Tony and Tema are filling the gap in the meantime. Sometimes I think one of the greatest miracles God does is giving people courage for the everyday grind. And many of the Deaf Ministry staff are remarkable, doing the next thing as required without complaint, whether it is taking over a new hostel at short notice, being up overnight with a sick child, or looking after children through the holidays because no one comes to collect them.

News from the USA

Jim and Marilyn are currently in the USA until 22 March, to be with their daughter whose first child has just been born (on 13 March). Marilyn was to speak at the Womens' Missionary Conference at Claremont Chapel, in California. She has been unwell (with a bad dose of the flu) and Jim took her place. He was warmly welcomed, and the presentation went well. A highlight for him was meeting 96yr old Marie, she and her husband had been in Ecuador, in 1956, when five missionaries were killed there.

Trust Board AGM

There have been several Skype calls and emails of late, between Fiji, America, and New Zealand. Preparation is underway for the coming AGM. We are working on many matters. First is the Operational Audit Report which highlights administration and governance issues requiring attention. The report has been very helpful and will assist forward planning for the ministry.

Buildings and Plans

Repairs and Modifications: At the beginning of December Jarod and Katy from MMM Fiji came and fixed the badly leaking shower at our Senior Girls’ Hostel. Not only was it leaking but the floor was rotting and the flow of water was eroding the earth around some of the piles. Jarod worked hard to construct a new shower enclosure and replace the floor in that area, leaving it all ship-shape and waterproof.

Also planned for the forthcoming school holidays (end of April) is a reconstruction of much of the termite infected and rotting floor in the main hostel along with construction of new showers, toilets and laundry space. MMM are putting together a team of professionals from NZ, led by Jarod, to do this in the short time that the students are away on holiday. Find out more at www.mmm.org.nz

New Hostel: the initial new hostel-building-plan is nearing completion and will be discussed at our AGM. It is an exciting time as well as a very busy time for many people.



In the photo, discussions are underway at the site for the new hostel. As you can see the section overlooks the sports grounds at the Gospel High School. The Gospel School for Deaf is just behind the High School. The section is at an ideal location. At the same time it presents challenges, it is narrow and sloping.

MMM: is a mission based organisation that specialises in building work at other Christian ministries using teams of volunteers. They have helped the Deaf Ministry many times over the years and have made a valuable contribution.

Update/Matters for Prayer

Students: Eleven new students have started school, there is much to learn and adjust to. There is a dengue fever outbreak at the moment.

Staff: We need new Senior Boys’ Hostel staff. Tony and Tema need strength and wisdom as they care for the boys and Tema carries out her other duties. The training of school teachers in the requirements of teaching the Deaf is an ongoing priority. There is one new teacher in the preschool class.

Parent Support Group: This is continuing to meet, and working well.

Robert and Eileen Wilson have had to put on hold any move to Fiji. Eileen has contracted leptospirosis and is very unwell. A big disappointment to us but God’s timing is perfect. We are grateful for their ongoing interest.

AGM Planning: There is much to be done, and a lot of wisdom needed.

MMM: Thanks and praise for the people at MMM Fiji and MMM NZ who are supporting the Deaf Ministry

Sponsorships

We have a sponsorship scheme whereby you can support an individual student and take a direct interest in them during the years that they are at School or in the Hostels. If this interests you, then please contact us using the email or postal address above.

If you would like to make a general contribution, please make cheques out to **Global Connections in Mission** (n.b. 7.4% to a maximum of \$200 is deducted by GCiM before sending to us). **Please do not send gifts direct to Fiji.** Alternatively, you can make an online deposit to bank account **06 – 0729 – 0336879 – 00** with the Reference set to **FIJI DEAF**. Either way, please **always** send the details below to GCiM 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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Greatest need Hostel activity School for the Deaf Building Programme Teacher Scholarship