

# FIJI DEAF MINISTRY

## Visitors

Four members of the Wainuiomata Youth Group recently visited Fiji, with two of their leaders. They had fund-raised in their church and community to come, and they came with pre-prepared stories and crafts. At the main hostel they made new friends and learnt a few basic signs. They adjusted to the challenges of the heat and new foods.

In the following photos this group:  
-decorates pillowslips with the Senior Girls



teaches the younger ones a Bible story



-organises games and a presentation for the Deaf Youth Group.



Thank you for your visit!

*"If any of you is lacking in wisdom, ask God, who gives to all generously and ungrudgingly, and it will be given you." James 1:5*

## Planning ahead

At the recent AGM there were many things to celebrate. There is an increasing number of deaf children learning to communicate and flourishing in the school, and there is also growth in the membership of the Christian Fellowship for Deaf. In addition, we gave thanks for how well the new director - Russell Neate - and his wife Sue are adjusting to their new roles. And as the rain came down we heard from Tema Toaisi - hostel leader - that builders from NZ have stopped the leaks in the main hostel and made the fence strong.

There were also, however, long debates. The two most pressing matters follow.

The main hostel is bursting at the seams. The building of a new hostel is still pending the Suva City Council putting in promised sewerage. Housing options are being reviewed in the context of the immediate need for more hostel accommodation and for a home for Russell and Sue.

Adult Deaf have many pastoral needs that are not being met. Two areas need particular focus at the moment: one is employment for the Deaf, and the other relates to the extra



Deaf Michael, who came from Vanuatu, in June, has adjusted well to hostel life. Edikiel, the teacher who came with him, is rapidly learning to sign. The GSD is in discussion with a Vanuatu school about introducing sign-medium education in that country.

sexual challenges some Deaf face as a consequence of the rejection many of them experience in their families and communities. The CFD leaders do the best they can, but they are also busy with work and family. Board-member Tai Tavakaturaga has made it a priority, since his retirement, to support the CFD leadership, and this has been an important help, but more is needed.

Following discussion two plans were made: to seek government and NGO funding for a full-time vocational worker to help deaf adults find work and to help deaf employees to deal with workplace problems; and a visit to be organised (it will happen later this month) of a couple skilled in working with sexually troubled people.

Discussions were long, but considerable progress was made.



A water game at the Main Hostel. The Trust Board brainstorms.

### Key Matters for Thanksgiving and Petition

Thank you so much for your prayers and support!

- Thanksgiving:**
- \* For our new director, and how well he and his wife are settling in.
  - \*For many committed and hard working staff in the hostels and the school, and for the pastoral care of the CFD leaders.
  - \*For good health in the hostels this last term despite overcrowding.
  - \*For how well the two from Vanuatu are fitting in and learning sign-language.
  - \*For visitors who helped in the hostels, and for the builders who have worked on the main hostel.
- Petition:**
- \*For the visit of the couple to work with the Deaf leaders, as the ministry seeks to enhance love and truth in its approach to sexual challenges.
  - \*For a vocational worker motivated by pastoral care, and skilled in employment matters and in working with the Deaf.
  - ...And for funding for this position.
  - \*For good options, and the wisdom to choose the best way to provide a home for everyone.
  - \*For the visit of Jim and Marilyn Cooney, for two weeks in November.

If you would like to make a contribution, please send donations to **GCAid** (Note: GCAid's handling charge is 7.4%). **Please do not send gifts direct to Fiji.**

Funds sent via GCAid qualify for Donation Tax Credits within New Zealand.

Cheques can be posted to GCAid at **PO Box 744 Palmerston North New Zealand.**

Online deposits can be made through the **GCAid** web page: <https://www.gc3.org.nz/donate>.

*With your donation please indicate where you want the money to go. The form below can be included in an envelope, or these details can be added when you donate online.*

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\$.....is enclosed for the **Fiji Deaf Ministry** to help with:

Greatest need

Hostel activity

School for the Deaf

Building Programme

Teacher Scholarship