

Blessed is the one who trusts in the Lord, whose confidence is in him. They will be like a tree planted by the water that sends out its roots by the stream. It does not fear when heat comes; its leaves are always green. It has no worries in a year of drought and never fails to bear fruit." Jeremiah 17:7-8

New School Year 2018

This newsletter was mostly prepared by Marilyn Cooney although she and Jim were delayed from returning to Suva through health issues. They are now back there and this is a report from them. Many thanks to all who have been praying for Jim's health.

The school year in Fiji began on 15 January this year. Although Jim and Marilyn were not able to return to Fiji for the start of the new school year in January, Mrs. Mudaliar, our Head Teacher, graciously agreed to hold the fort until they were able to return. We are especially thankful for this because Mrs Mudaliar wanted to step down at the end of last year and so we have a prayer item for someone who can take over as Head Teacher going forward. The students are growing and learning daily, because of your generosity as supporters of the Ministry.

The new school year is off to a good start, with 7 new students, making a total of 52 in GSD, with another 3 in Gospel High School with sign language interpreters, and several others out in vocational programs, or recently placed in jobs.

Here are three of our new students: (left to right) Manasa, Aliti, and Iliesa (aren't they the cutest?) .



The word is spreading about a school that is just for deaf children. We are happy to report that we are now enrolling students at much younger ages, which gives them an advantage in receiving a better education. This is such a commitment and responsibility of trust from their parents when we have children as young as 3 staying in our hostel. We would love to be able to start schools for young ones (from play centre and kindergarten age) in other locations of Fiji so that little children can learn language without leaving their families to stay in our hostel.



Christian Fellowship for the Deaf

CFD (adult) is growing as well, under the leadership of Tuliana. Over 30 adults are coming to the hostel on Thursday evenings for Bible study, led by Mesake. Mesake was the first deaf boy found by Vivian Harland when she began the ministry in the 1990s. Mesake is now a respected leader, with his own fellowship group in the west part of the main island of Fiji (Viti Levu). He works as a carpenter in Suva during the week, and also helps out with the ministry here, whilst returning to Lautoka to his family and church on the weekends.

Volunteers

Growth is not just in numbers. Donna Carkeet, an audiologist from Australia with EARS Inc., has been working with Hilton Special School. She has been testing hearing throughout Fiji and the South Pacific. She began testing our kids last year, and most students now have hearing aids. We've had hearing aids donated over the years, but there were no audiologists in Fiji to calibrate them, or to make ear molds in recent years. Donna is an answer to our prayers. Donna provides training for both staff and students in caring for the aids, and checks on the students each term. What a gift Donna has been to our program!



Our volunteer program continues to grow. Hannah Whaley and her mother Kathy, both deaf, are volunteers from England, helping out in both School and Hostels. Here, Hannah is helping Class 1 students with an art project, as part of their unit of study. Class 1 will study children and families around the world this year. More volunteers are scheduled to come throughout the year. Our web site has led to an increased level of interest from around the world to help and/or visit the School.

A New Bus!!

The Japanese Government through its Embassy in Suva money has recently given funds for a badly needed new school bus. The Embassy requires that we build a garage or bus port for protection, and we are looking into that now.

New Hostel

Housing volunteers becomes a challenge as we get more and more students who attend the School but need to stay in one of our hostels. However, the good news is that the concept plans for the new hostel are now complete, thanks to trustee Russell Neate and architect Geoff Tune from New Zealand, who have worked tirelessly with input from the Board of Trustees and some professionals in Fiji on this project. With God's help to obtain a building permit based on detailed plans still to be prepared (including any engineering inputs) and of course the necessary funding, we hope to begin building in the near future.



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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