



January 2025

*Vakanuinui Vinaka ni Yabaki Vou.* (Happy New Year)

This month starts another calendar year with which we are blessed to serve God here in Fiji in. We have seen the Lord do many things in the short six months we've served Him here.

## Meeting Place

We enjoyed a recent visit by our Senior Pastor from our sending church during the first two weeks in November. While here, the night before our Sunday meeting at Cannibal Country Restaurant, the owner informed me that we can no longer use the facility as a meeting place for our services. Thankfully we had pre-paid for that Sunday and were able to meet one last time at that location while Pastor Sargent was here. We had several first-time visitors as well as Pastor Sargent's son Joshua and his family in attendance as well.

Monday morning began the search for another meeting place. We drove around Navua and parked outside of an abandoned hardware store that had been closed since the COVID era. As we sat in the airconditioned car, we prayed that God's will would be done regarding the hardware store or any other building that would meet our needs. As we pulled out of the area, I decided to take a different route to our lunch destination and "happened" upon a building along the main highway with a "For Rent" sign displayed on the fence. I quickly took a picture of the sign, then headed to the lunch spot. While having lunch I called the point of contact and soon thereafter headed there to look at the building. It perfectly met our needs at a reasonable price each month. We ended up signing a one-year lease and have already made the bottom flat our own. Currently it will hold 16-20 people with the ability to break down a wall to provide double the space. We now meet here for Sunday School, AM Service, and a mid-week Bible Study and Prayer meeting. We are averaging 12-16 people each Sunday. We praise the Lord for this quick answer to prayer! The visibility along Queens Road (the main thoroughfare along the southern part of the island) has already been mentioned by people we have met around Navua and that have visited.

It was a joy to have the Sargents with us for a short while. I am glad they were there to be a support during an unforeseen change to the ministry. They encouraged us greatly!

## Meeting People

We have seen several first-time visitors through our continual presence in the town of Navua shops and marketplace. Pray for these visitors so we can recognize their spiritual need and minister to them: Mary, Liny, Debra, David, Arthur, and Caleb and his family.

Continue to pray for the Vadrawale and Burt families as they have been consistent attenders to each of our services. We're praying God would grow these families in Him. We've visited Joe the welder several times, but he has not committed to attend any services yet. Pray he will eventually attend. Henry has expressed interest in joining BBCOH to one day be a member of Riverside Baptist Church (RBC) once constituted. Felipe has expressed the same but realizes that he would need to be re-baptized.

Students here have finished the school year and many of them go away to relative's places for summer break, so our numbers may be down for a while. All the students currently attending did well on their final exams (which determines if they advance or not the next year). A certain answer to our prayers.

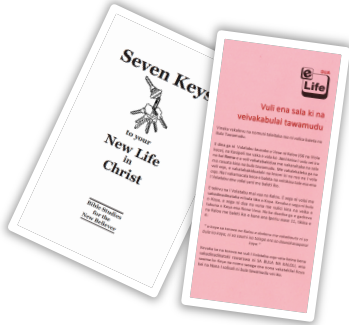


Pastor Sargent and I took a 5-day trip to Samoa to visit brethren there as he was scheduled to preach on the topic of Prophecy at Lighthouse Baptist Church in Apia. We enjoyed great fellowship with the Pastors there as well as other Samoan brethren.



### Matrimony Celebration

Tess and I were fortunate to spend a few days in December in one of Fiji's beautiful resorts, commemorating 36 years of marital happiness. We express our gratitude to the Lord for His influence in our lives both as a couple and as partners in ministry.



### Ministry Publications

We are excited our first order has been printed and delivered here in Fiji with a recent order of 50 copies of "Seven Keys to your New Life in Christ." We have completed translating the e-Life 4-part Bible Studies into Fijian. Current translation projects include "Seven Keys to your New Life in Christ" and John & Romans in Fijian. It is a blessing to provide printed materials for independent Baptist churches here in Fiji at a significantly reduced price.

### Ministry Visitors

Our youngest daughter, Rebecca, is set to visit us for a duration of ten days in January. In March, we are expecting a visit from Pastor Geist and his wife, Katie. During their stay, we will be hosting a Family Bible Conference. The emphasis on preaching and teaching about family is crucial for communities here in Fiji. The disintegration of family structures, like what has occurred in America, has resulted in numerous societal challenges for the country, such as broken homes, drug usage (currently a major issue for Fiji), unemployment, crime, and many other issues.

Should you wish to visit our work here, please inform us so that we can arrange the most suitable time for your arrival.




### Prayer Requests:

- ⇒ PRAISE - new building in great location!
- ⇒ Souls to be saved in Navua & Pacific Harbour.
- ⇒ More visitors to attend Riverside Baptist Church.
- ⇒ Families of attendees to grow in the Lord.
- ⇒ PRAISE - for the recent Christmas love offerings received. . . thank you!

*Vinaka.* (Thank you)

*Loy & Tess Hower*

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