

the
Pierce Report 

A Newsletter from Jason and Devan Pierce

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2 TIMOTHY 2:2

"...what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men."

School Year One Is in the Books!!

It is hard to believe, but we have already been in Fiji for nine months! That means that we have already been here long enough to complete our first academic year at the *Bible Institute at Raiwaqa*! So much has happened since our last newsletter. It has been a busy time filled with changes – most notably, moving into our new facility. But, the last term has really seen a big improvement in the energy and enthusiasm of our students. They have worked so hard, and their efforts are really paying off. As I write this, our students are preparing for their last two days of short courses, and then they will be off for the summer break! I cannot say enough just how proud we are of all of our students. We cannot wait for them to arrive back for classes next year! In the meantime, we look forward to the next three months which will be devoted to preparing class books and assignments for next year, working with the local churches, and even speaking on a workshop in Samoa over the New Year's holiday. As always, we cannot thank you enough for your support!



School News at B.I.R.

When we first began teaching courses at the Bible Institute at Raiwaqa, we were privileged to be meeting at the Raiwaqa Church of Christ’s building. They had a classroom upstairs that they allowed us to use, and they were good to make some much needed improvements to the space to make it more accommodating for the school (like installing new ceiling fans). The truth is, we could not have gotten the school started without them opening up their building to us. However, as long as we were meeting in the church building, we were limited by the small space – meaning we could not offer certain necessary resources (like a computer lab and library). But, during the break between the second and third terms, God provided us with a place of our own to rent that offers us the space that we need for the school! It is amazing how much having our own space has improved the excitement and energy of our students. We have plenty of space for our students to study and eat meals. Plus, we have space for a library with a computer lab, an office for the instructors, and two rooms to be used for visiting speakers (which we have already put to good use). Since moving into the new place, it is not uncommon for students to stay around after classes fellowshiping together and studying for their assignments. We thank everyone who made moving into this new facility possible!

In other news, we have completed our final term of the school year! During the third term, we had a total of nine students take at least one class, and seven students completed all six classes in the regular term. During the term, I taught three classes: *English Comp II* (a class focusing mainly on using technology in ministry), *Old Testament History II*, and *The Book of Hebrews*. Dad taught classes on *The Christian Home*, *Scheme of Redemption*, and *The Prison Epistles*. Unfortunately, our plans for our regular evangelism campaign fell through just six days before it was scheduled to begin (due to the host congregation needing to back out). However, our students really came through and asked that we spend a day out in the city handing out tracts. In total, we handed out over 400 tracts (both in English and Fijian)! While we were unable to conduct the campaign we had hoped for, our students made sure that we still made an effort to reach out to our own community here in Suva. Lord willing, we will be able to have other more successful efforts next year!



Visit from BVBI Coordinator



In September, we were privileged to have a visit from Mark and Mindy Reynolds. Mark is our new Regional Coordinator from Bear Valley Bible Institute International. Mark has a great deal of experience doing overseas mission work – especially in India. But, this was his first time to Fiji. It was such a joy to have Mark and Mindy with us! They both brought a positive attitude and energy that really boosted everyone’s spirits! Mark taught several lessons at the school and preached at the Raiwaqa Church of Christ. Mindy conducted a ladies’ day at Raiwaqa. Both of them did an outstanding job! It was such a joy to have them with us, and we hope to have them join us in Fiji again soon!

Short Courses

Currently, we are finishing up our two weeks of short courses. This term, we are privileged to have Tony and Cathy Duncan from Brushy, Tennessee visiting with us. Tony came and taught a class for us last year. This year, Tony is teaching a class on *1-2 Thessalonians*. He is doing an outstanding job, and the students are enjoying his classes – even though he is giving them a test every day! Additionally, Tony has been teaching a series of lessons introducing the book of Revelation at the Raiwaqa Church of Christ on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights. Cathy also conducted a ladies’ class on Saturday in which she gave a workshop on how to prepare a children’s Bible class. The women all had a blast!

Our second short course is being taught by John Jones. John serves with his family as a missionary in New Zealand. While his primary focus is on local church work, John has also taught classes at the Bear Valley Bible Institute New Zealand. John is teaching a class on *Introduction to the Hebrew Language*. He has done an outstanding job of giving an introduction to the Hebrew alphabet and various Hebrew words and names. John also brought with him a student from BVBINZ – Daniel Jensen. In addition to the Hebrew Language class, John and Daniel have been involved in going out into the city and handing out tracts and trying to set up Bible studies. John also preached during both services on Sunday at the Raiwaqa Church of Christ. We are so grateful for all of the hard work that Tony, Cathy, John, and Daniel have done while they have been here! They have all worked tirelessly and without complaint, and they have all been a great encouragement to the school, the local church, and to us!



Men's Prayer Breakfast



On Saturday, October 7, we hosted a men's prayer breakfast at our new facility. The primary purpose of the breakfast was to invite men from the various local congregations to come and see our new facility and learn about our program. We want them to see what our program is all about so that in the future they will encourage their home congregations to send students to the program.



We were very excited with the turn-out. We had a total of 26 men representing 6 different congregations come to the breakfast. Many of them were not familiar with our program. We served them a large breakfast, gave an introduction to the school, and had a devotional and prayer service for the school. Our students did a great job in leading the devotional service. Brother Peter Lee led the singing, and Brother Etika Mesulama brought us a devotional message. Both of them did a good job. It was a great time of fellowship and praise!

Local Work

Devan and I have continued to remain involved in the local work of the church. I am continuing to teach through the gospel of Mark in the auditorium class on Sunday mornings. I am also continuing to teach a class on Christian Evidences to the youth (which includes kids who are junior high, high school, and college ages). Our attendance has unfortunately dropped in recent weeks, but we continue to have 6-10 youths coming each week. They continue to remain engaged in the studies.

I was also able to visit the Naila congregation in the month of October. Naila is a village located about a thirty minute drive from Suva. I have visited the village a few times, but I had never been able to worship with the congregation there. I had been asked by brother Kiti (a former student who had to drop out of the school due to work) to come and preach one Sunday morning. It was good to be able to worship with the brethren there. I was especially glad to see one of our current students, brother Semi, teaching a young children's class! When I arrived, some of the members had questions about the role of the Holy Spirit. I ended up being asked on the spot to address the Bible class on the topic of the Holy Spirit! It seemed to go well, and afterwards I was able to answer some questions that were asked by individual members, as well. All in all, it was a great visit, and I was blessed to be able to worship with the brethren there!

During the school break, I am hopeful that I will have the opportunity to visit some of the other congregations in Fiji to try to be an encouragement to them. We love worshipping with the Raiwaqa congregation, but we also want to be able to serve other congregations, as well. Please pray that God will open up doors for us to be able to do this.



Prayer Request

We would like to ask you to please say a special prayer for some friends of ours, the Parkers. Wayne and Kristi Parker are fellow missionaries in the Pacific. They moved with their four children to Pohnpei, Micronesia at the same time we moved to Fiji. We have remained in close contact with them. Recently, Kristi began having some health problems that required treatment. Since they were unable to do the treatment in Pohnpei, they told her that she needed to go off-island to get immediate help. They chose to come to Fiji, because the medical care here is better. They knew that they had a place to stay with us. Unfortunately, after their arrival, the Fijian doctors told her that it was a very serious medical condition, but was not deemed a “medical emergency” – meaning that she would have to wait between three months and a year to have the necessary surgery! They were forced to return home and seek treatment elsewhere. In the meantime, one of their sons has begun having a serious issue with his blood. Again, the doctors in Pohnpei have been unable to treat it (or, this time, even to diagnose it). At this time, the whole family has been sent to Bangkok, Thailand to get treatment for both Kristi (which will likely mean surgery) and their son (for further tests to diagnose the problem). As can be imagined, this has been a very difficult time for this family. Please remember them in your prayers!

While they were in Fiji, they didn't let their time go to waste! Wayne taught a section on the book of Ezra for our *OT History II* class. He did an outstanding job giving a survey of the book. On Wednesday night, Wayne also taught the auditorium Bible class. We are so thankful for this family's servant heart!



Your Continued Support is Appreciated

We recognize that this is the time of year when congregations begin looking at their budgets for the coming year. Devan and I have been blessed to have great supporters for the year 2017. We cannot do this work without you! As you look to your budgets for 2018, we would kindly ask that you please continue to support our work. After just nine months, we are already beginning to see great fruit being produced by the school. We have been given every reason to expect great things from our current students, and we look forward to teaching them and others in the years to come. We truly hope that you will continue to be a part of supporting our efforts to train Christian leaders, teachers, and evangelists in the South Pacific!

Due to the great expense of traveling for a family of six, Devan and I have made the decision not to return to the U.S. during the break this year. Lord willing, we plan on coming home to report in November 2018. But, if you have any questions or would like to learn more about our work, please feel free to contact us! We can be reached by phone at (931) 230-7577 (which is a Hohenwald, Tennessee number that rings here in Fiji), or we can be reached by e-mail at jhpierce.bvbio@gmail.com. For Facebook users, you can text us through the Facebook Messenger App, or you can follow our Facebook missions page – The Pierces: Missionaries to Fiji. We would love to hear from you!