

# Ministry Update from the Fiji Islands

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Dear Friends,

March/April 2013

On Friday March 29, 2013, our local TV station broadcasted at 14:02 an **Easter Movie Special**. I am sure a lot of Christians must have tuned in to see this special production – I mean it is “Good Friday” in Fiji! Later that same day, my mother-in-law calls Sharmila and reports that at 14.02 pm, the Easter Movie Special featured an Islamic Cleric “trashing Christianity.” This viewing sent shockwaves across the nation, since never before in the **history of Fiji** has someone shown such boldness in ridiculing the person and work of Christ in front of the whole of Fiji. Well, an apology was later made by the TV company, but was it sufficient!

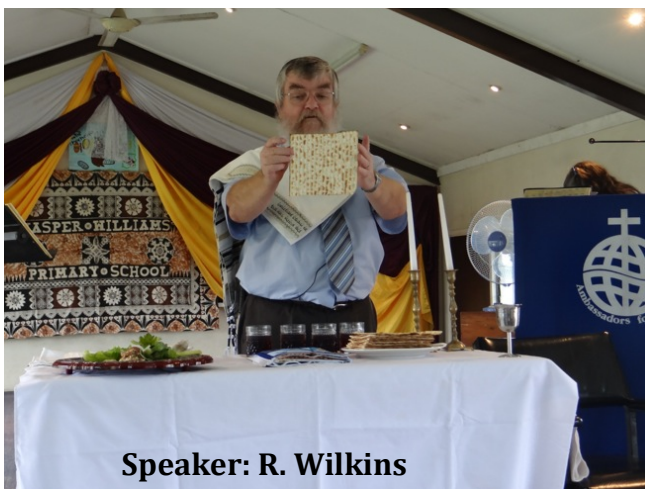
What is interesting is that the 25-minute long video neither stated the cleric's name nor the denomination he represented. It surfaced later on that there could be a conspiracy by some Head of Department government officials to destroy the Christian faith in Fiji and promote radical Islamic agenda. Below is a script from the cleric's speech that reveals **Islam's take on Christianity**:

*“Muslims do not believe that Jesus is God nor they believe that God ever chose to come down to earth in a form of a man to die for your sins. According to Islam, Jesus never died on the cross nor ever wanted to die on the cross. He never died for anyone's sins.”*

Since the **arrival of Christianity**, Fiji has enjoyed full freedom in preaching the gospel. Now with this turn of events, God knows what lies ahead. My hope is that the churches recognize that a **new enemy** is in our backyard. I am saddened by the turn of events but I am not surprised. Scripture forewarns us of this reality (2 Peter 2:1; Jude 4). Its great initiator is none other than Satan (2 Cor. 11:13–15).

Please pray that in the wake of this new enemy and amidst any opposition, the churches in Fiji would both defend and disseminate the doctrines of true Christian faith. Already some students from our Bible College sensing the threat are addressing members in their congregations. How wonderful to know that **“in all these things we overwhelmingly conquer through Him who loved us”** (Romans 8:37).

On another note, 5 of our Bible churches gathered for a **4-Day Bible Convention** in Lautoka city from March 29 to April 1. The attendance was good in spite of adverse weather and I believe the Word was well received. The speakers were Rev. Ben Dykman from New Zealand and Mr. Richard Wilkins from Australia. Rev. Dykman expounded John 18 and 19, while Mr. Wilkins demonstrated the Jewish Passover and spoke on the feast associated with that. The whole demonstration was intriguing. How wonderful it is that a millennium and a half later, Paul would remind believers in Corinth that Christ Jesus, our Passover Lamb, was sacrificed for us, inaugurating a new covenant (1 Cor. 5:7; 11:25). Praise God for His Lamb! Praise God that He still passes over those who are secured by the blood of His Lamb!



Speaker: R. Wilkins



Speaker: Ben Dykman

## Convention Pictures Continued




There were four sessions each day. Abigail and these young boys from our church enjoy the refreshments at recess.



Every day, we had group discussions that was well participated. Charlene enjoyed her class taught by Mrs. Dykman.

**Beloved, there is so much more to share about what the Lord is doing here . . . To sum up, ministry for us is both challenging and rewarding. I concur with Apostle Paul that, "we have this ministry, as we received mercy, we do not lose heart" (2 Cor. 4:1). Thank God for His Grace! In fact, we would not have arrived at this juncture without your faithful prayers and support. Your partnership is precious to us. We would be much encouraged if you could please pray with us for the following:**

1. On-going passion for the College of Theology and Evangelism Fiji to continue. Dr. Nair's son, Jonathan and I am learning to share the workload in the area of administration and academics as we go through the transition of changing leadership in years ahead.
2. Accreditation of the College with the Fiji Higher Education.
3. The students preparing for their exams.
4. Pastors Conference and Leader's Continuing Education Seminar in early June.
5. Completion of my dissertation.
6. A transport for our family. A SUV type vehicle will be ideal since the road to College is rocky and flood prone. See pictures 



**By God's Grace,  
Premend, Sharmila, Charlene and Abigail.**