

Ministry Update from the Fiji Islands

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Dear Friends,

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The words of Jeremiah in Lamentations 3:22-23 come to mind as I write this prayer letter.

*The LORD's lovingkindnesses indeed never cease, For His compassions never fail.
They are new every morning; Great is Your faithfulness.*

These two verses recap the covenant-loyal love of YHWH and His unfailing compassion. In this unit Jeremiah reflected upon God and the nature of suffering. Most scholars agree that 3:23 is the literary center of the book. That any had survived the tragedy of 586 B.C. was due to the loving kindness of God. The prophet's outlook was bleak, yet he tried the **uplook!** Here are some important lessons that could be learned from this weeping prophet:

- ⇒ Jeremiah's hope finds its restoration in the love of YHWH.
- ⇒ Jeremiah's faith is rekindled in the midst of despair.
- ⇒ Jeremiah rejoiced because YHWH was his portion.
- ⇒ Jeremiah believed in YHWH's goodness, the foundation of any man's hope.

Recently, our family has been encouraged by YHWH's goodness. These last eight months of returning to the mission field were not easy. The Lord saw fit to put us under various **trying circumstances**:

- ◆ We returned with only 19% of support.
- ◆ Sharmila's family lost their entire house in December from Cyclone Evan.
- ◆ We were without a transport for 7 months.
- ◆ It was almost impossible to make progress on my dissertation.

Nonetheless, rejoice with us for **your prayers** on our behalf have been heard. These past eight months do comprise of God's incredible faithfulness to our family! Our support level gradually grew from **19% to an astounding 51%**. Few weeks ago, **funds** came in towards our **transportation needs**. Sharmila's family has temporary **housing**. So like Jeremiah, we proclaim, "GREAT IS YHWH'S FAITHFULNESS!"

Moreover, Sharmila and I would like to **thank all of you who have made a donation last month**. We really appreciate your heart for missions and especially your desire to see the training of future church leaders in all of the South Pacific.

[ENCLOSED ARE SOME PICTURES FOR YOUR INTEREST:](#)



Last week, 350 pastors and church workers from various denominations attended a week-long Bible Conference in the capital city, Suva. The theme was "Bible Exposition." Most churches in Fiji are neo-orthodox or pentecostal.



The speakers, from left, were Dr. John Grassmick from Dallas Theological Seminary; Pastor Scott Bashoor from The Master's Seminary and Pastor Soon Yong Tan from The 'Fisherman of Christ' Fellowship, Singapore.

More Pictures of Ministry and Family



Pastor Bashoor, Pastor Tan, and Kamal a 3rd year Fiji Bible College student praying at the Conference.



Participants who attended all sessions receiving certificate and a mini-library from the speakers.



Tabea and Joel work at the conference desk as Dr. Narayan Nair and I look on. Dr. Nair has had a profound impact on my spiritual life and growth.



Mr. Scott Bashoor, pastor of the Bible Church of Buena Park and professor at The Master's Seminary expounding Romans 8 at the Lautoka Bible Church.



Since Abby was born in States, we decided to celebrate her 2nd Birthday with Lovu Bible Church.



Abby in *Salwar Kameez* – a common Indian outfit.



A Mother's Day Picture. The singles of our church put a small present for the ladies.

PRAYER REQUEST: I have returned to States for a few months to complete my Th.M. dissertation. This was unforeseen. The rest of the family remain in Lautoka, Fiji.

**By God's Grace,
Premend & Sharmila**