



THE GRAY FAMILY

Missionaries to the People of the Fiji Islands, South Pacific



JUNE/JULY 2014

II Corinthians 9:8 - "And God is able to make all grace abound toward you; that ye, always having all sufficiency in all things, may abound to every good work."

Dear Pastor and Praying Friends,

Greetings from the Grays, your missionaries to the people of the Fiji Islands since November, 1999! I felt it fitting to put II Cor. 9:8 at the top of this letter, since the Lord used that verse to direct us to Fiji many years ago.



L to R: Missionary Dan Case, Bro. Peni (charter member), Pastor Josefa, Missionary Ryan Gray

Since first coming to Fiji it has been our prayer and heart's desire to have a national man to pastor the church, and we praise the Lord that this has come to pass.

Pastor Josefa Kolinibaravi was ordained to the gospel ministry at Victory Baptist Church on Sunday, May 18th. He became the pastor of the church by a unanimous vote the next week.

Our people are excited and several of our men have told me that they could sense God's hand leading in this direction even before I made mention of it publicly. Pastor Josefa is a good, solid, stable man who loves the Lord. His preaching is powerful.....from the Bible and from his heart! I know that the Lord is going to use him to lead the church to greater heights for God's glory.

Several years ago while on a lengthy medical furlough for my wife, our pastor asked me to begin praying about returning to our home church to work with him in the ministry after we had finished our work at Victory Baptist Church in Suva, Fiji. We kept this matter private, but after prayer and seeking God's direction for some time, the Lord confirmed this to be His will and His timing for this

significant change of ministry. With a national pastor in place at VBC, we knew our work had come to an end. It was time for us to step aside so that the people would look to Pr. Josefa for leadership, counsel, and direction.

Acts 14:27 speaks of the conclusion of Paul and Silas' first missionary journey and says, "And thence sailed to Antioch from whence they had been recommended to the grace of God for the work which they fulfilled."

We have now returned to our "Antioch," our home church in Fairbanks, Alaska, having departed from Fiji on June 10th. Leaving Fiji was the most difficult step of our lives to date. There were many tears and hugs. How do you say goodbye to those whom you've led to Christ, taught and loved for so many years? It put the book of Acts in a whole new perspective, (21:5-6) "And when we had accomplished those days, we departed and went our way...and when we had taken our leave one of another, we took ship; and they returned home again." (For the record, we DO hope to return to Fiji and visit the church and "see how they do" at some point in the future!)

Words cannot express our gratitude to the many churches and individuals that have supported us for these many years, some since the very beginning of our work in Fiji back in 1999 and others who have joined us along the way, making us part of your world mission program. We cannot thank you enough for faithfully holding the ropes of prayer and financial support, for encouraging, and helping us to fulfill the work that God had called us to do. THANK YOU, and may you rejoice in the hope that the good work accomplished in Fiji is fruit that abounds to your account in heaven.

For example, let me share with you what Pr. Josefa told me in a phone call just the other day. Our dear friend and song leader, Bro. Ovini Racakau, whom I personally led to Christ some 14 years ago while visiting his home, would have been 50 years old this July. While working, he collapsed of an apparent heart attack and was ushered to glory. Because of your faithful support, Bro. Ovini is in heaven today. We will meet again, my brother!

If you would have liberty from the Lord to do so, we would appreciate it if your support would continue through the summer as we seek to get settled in to our new life in America, endeavoring to buy a home, vehicle, and other necessities.

If you would like to continue supporting a missionary on the field in Fiji, I would highly recommend Bro. Dan Case (pictured above at the ordination). He is a good man, a faithful friend and fellow laborer also sent out of our home church in Fairbanks, Alaska. I know that he could use more monthly support, and would use it wisely and to the honor of the Lord. You could continue sending it to our home church address, simply designate it to Missionary Dan Case.



Bro. Ovini and his wife Vilisi

For the Glory of God,
Ryan, Anita, Dalton, Caleb, Kyle and Silas
The Ryan Gray Family

SENDING CHURCH/SUPPORT:
Bible Baptist Church – Pastor Doug Duffett
32 Adak Ave., Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-452-1407 • FAX: 907-452-8055