

Missionary Journeys

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to the Pacific
"go into all the world" Mk. 16:15

Stacy & Kathy Ferguson



Truth Thought

Greetings to you in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. When Jesus saw all the people like sheep having no shepherd, he made this statement to the disciples, *"The harvest truly is plenteous, but the laborers are few; Pray ye therefore the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest (Mat. 9:37-38)."* Workers are needed in the Pacific. The Lord said to pray for laborers. Kathy and I did just that. Many prayers were offered up before the throne of God for the right people to assist us in an evangelistic campaign in Funafuti, Tuvalu. The Lord answered our prayers and blessed us with eight great workers from three congregations in the States.

Spreading the Gospel In Tuvalu

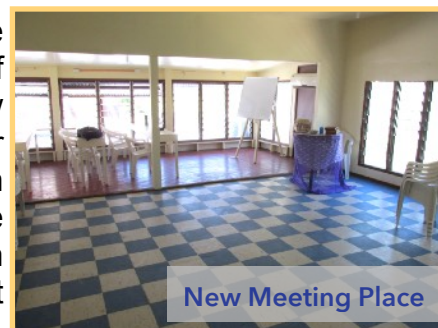
In 2017 I talked to the men in Tuvalu about having an evangelistic campaign and bringing workers from the States. They were happy to have the extra help, but they were a little skeptically about the good that might be accomplished. Many things needed to be done so Kathy and I tried to organize all we could while in Tuvalu to prepare for the campaign for the next year.

Several things needed to be done. I was wanting to have public preaching so we considered 3 locations. We checked into the cost of the facility, chairs, renting a sound system, etc.

We needed a place to meet. The brethren were worshipping in one of the brothers homes and we knew that would not be the best place for this effort and for the future growth of the church. Polau, one of the brothers, had some office space on the second floor of his business that he was willing to let the church use.

This is a great location because it is right next to the main road and has access from the main street. It needed to be renovated. We offered some suggestions on things that needed to be done. After leaving Tuvalu, they got busy with the renovation while Kathy and I got busy making other preparations.

Fast forward to 2018. Kathy and I arrived in Tuvalu a week before the campaign group. The brethren in Tuvalu did a wonderful job getting the building in order. Before Kathy and I arrived we had mailed some banners and invitations to these brethren. They hung the banners and passed out invitations about the public



New Meeting Place



preaching to many people. One brother from Fiji came up to help prepare before our arrival.

We started on Monday with preaching in a community building located in a place where we were hoping many would come. We had never tried anything like this in Tuvalu so I wasn't sure what to expect. The people are very religious, even though they are religiously wrong. I was hoping for a good turn out. Well, that did not happen. A few people did come, but

just a few. I don't say this to be negative, but just to say it was not what I had hoped and prayed for. However, one man, Tiiau, came 4 of the 5 nights.

In the mean time the group from the States arrived. When the public preaching ended no body responded. Alan Lee and I were able to set up a study with Tiiau. We basically did some review with him to see how much he understood about the church and salvation after listening to the public lessons. We studied some other things with him. Tiiau wanted to be sure he understood about baptism. Then he asked a final question. He wanted to be sure that he could be a part of another church without dishonoring his parents. After we looked at Acts 4:18-20; 5:29 and Luke 14:26, he was ready to be baptized. We thank God for giving the increase. Was the public preaching successful? I would say **Absolutely**.



Back in March when Kathy and I were in the States, the whole group met together. We had printed a lot of tracts, flyers, invitations, personal Bible study lessons, and had bought a lot of DVD's from World Video Bible



School. We distributed that material among them to bring on the trip. The mail is very unreliable in getting to Tuvalu and very expensive. We knew if the group brought the material we would most likely have it. Well, when the group arrived, all but one bag made it. Thankfully that bag made it by Tuesday of the next week.

The eight campaign workers arrived on a Thursday. These came from Austinville and Adamsville, two of our supporting congregations and Forest Park our overseeing congregation. I must say this about this group, **they came to work**. All of them did an excellent job!

(to be continued in next month's newsletter).



Left to Right -Tony Edwards, Jewel Pender, Doris and Gary Weaver, Sonia, Alan, and Logan Lee, Kathy.
Front - Tim Skelton

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