

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Mark and Kim Gardner

Christ's Burning Bushes For The Pacific

February 2019



Moving From Tonga to Fiji



Leaving Tonga was very difficult for us because of the amazing move of the Holy Spirit taking place. We were casting vision for children's ministry that involves kids being filled with the Spirit, used in the gifts of the Spirit, and plugged into ministry. The word was embraced by leadership, parents, and kids. This picture shows the way the Spirit was moving – you see even the children responding so earnestly in the altar calls.

Why do I have a huge smile on my face?

Because when our container arrived at the house, it was accompanied by 2 Customs Officers, who said that we needed to empty the container so they could inspect everything. I shared my situation with a local pastor and he said he would "send a few youth."

My prayers took a desperate tone. These young guys showed up and emptied our forty foot shipping container filled with household goods and ministry equipment, carrying the stuff into the house and the downstairs apartment - In 4 1/2 hours.

They worked like you wouldn't believe! When we treated them to dinner afterwards, we found that they also eat like you wouldn't believe. Thanks so much for your missions giving this month!



Vision Casting and Training

Here I am seated next to Pastor Jone Sogovale, the General Secretary of the Fijian Assemblies of God. Around me are his Sunday School leaders. These guys put the "A" in Awesome!

Challenging these guys that the most important thing in Childrens' Ministry is not the curriculum, but an anointed, Spirit filled teacher. Look what David did with just a rock!

For us to have kids who walk in the supernatural power of God, we must climb the mountain, get with God, find out what needs to come off, and go.



Amongst the Hindus

Well, you prayed and God answered, and now we have a place to stay, living on a street where the neighbours have small candy cane coloured shrines in their yards where they go to burn incense to their gods.

Praise the Lord, we are having a great time getting to know them,

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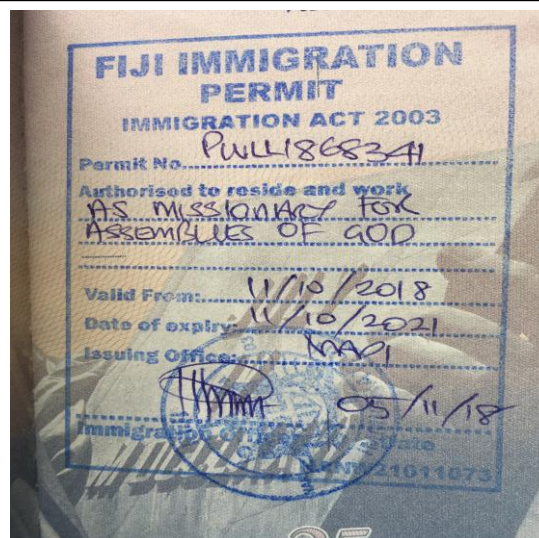


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visiting them in their houses, and inviting them to ours. In the 2 pictures, you can see one of the shrines in the yard across the street, and in the other, a grandmother and grand-daughter in our house, teaching Kim how to make Naan.

Did you know that Fijians of Indian origin (like the ones in the picture in our house) are the largest non-Christian community in the Pacific? These are wonderful people who the Lord loves very much. They need Jesus and are open to the gospel.

Thanks for praying with us regarding finding a house, and let's continue to pray for God's kingdom to come and His will be done here in our neighborhood.



A Huge "Vinaka Vakalevu!"

(Thank-you very much) to everyone who was praying for us regarding work permits for Fiji. As you can see we received 3 year!

Praise The Lord!!!



We are embarking on an initiative that could have worldwide impact. I wouldn't call it "Reinventing Sunday School," but more like,

"SUNDAY SCHOOL BORN AGAIN."

When I met with the National Sunday School Director of Fiji he shared with me of the disinterest and decline of Sunday School in Fiji. During our time of prayer and fasting in January I took this to the Lord, and between what I read in Becky Fischer's "Redefining Children's Ministry in the 21st Century," and what the Holy Spirit was speaking to me personally, I perceived that as an evangelistic endeavor, Sunday School was a great success; however, as a discipleship tool for children it's failing because it has strayed from the Biblical model of discipling children.

According to *Psalm 78* parents have to be directly involved in discipleship, or it's not Biblical.

So, we are working on a **new model of Sunday School** that:

- 1) Puts a parent into the Sunday School class of one of their children once a month to assist the teacher. And...
- 2) Incorporates a Monday night family devotional that is linked to the teaching of Sunday morning. It's easy to use, interactive, and doesn't take a lot of time. Some kids never see their mom or dad open the Bible at home, or lead in worship or prayer at home, unless it's time to eat.

Regardless of public or Christian School attendance, statistics show in homes where the parent is not directly involved with discipleship, only 1 out of every 4 children stay involved in the church after growing up.

This has to change, we're wanting to start here, and we know that prayer is essential for any endeavor that impacts eternal destiny.

So please pray for power, love, and a sound mind to surround us & this initiative!

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