

FIRE ON THE MOUNTAIN

Mark and Kim Gardner

Christ's Burning Bushes For The Pacific

March 2024



BGMC helping to Plant and Grow Churches

Fiji is approximately 40% Indian with the largest percentage being Hindus. Nawaicoba is a rural farming community, predominantly made up of Fijians of Indian descent - Hindus and Muslims. There's quite a price to be paid when reaching out into places like Nawaicoba.

One of the churches we partner with, Abundant Life AOG in Nkurakura had a pastor who had been to India, was fluent in Hindi, and was seeing many turn from idols and turn to Christ. Suddenly, one day he died - completely unexpected. The associate pastor took over the church and it still continued to grow. However, within a year she also passed away, and sadly the church struggled along with a slow attrition due to not having a regular pastor, but only visiting preachers.

When the church was down to less than a half dozen people, our good friends Pastor Sosi Manulevu and his wife Radini Sala stepped in to pastor the church. Being from an Itaukei background they didn't speak Hindi, but they love these people from the Nawaicoba community and it hurt to see them scattered like sheep without a shepherd, and so they started doing services again at the makeshift structure and visiting folks in their homes, and the people started coming to church again.

In reaching out to this community The Manulevus have also experienced loss, losing three of their children in three years. Two boys and a girl (in their teens and 20s). While at the Manulevu's younger son's funeral, I was touched by their willingness to sacrifice and by the impact that they are making, so Kim and I have come alongside to partner with them. Aside from ministering at their church, we have provided

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Nawaicoba Outreach - Partnering with our Fijian Church and Children's Ministry Team to reach a rural community for Christ

Airport Deliverance

I just have to testify of the goodness of God and thank everyone who has been praying for us, because we not only dodged a financial bullet, but were able to get an open door for a huge ministry opportunity in New Zealand.

Kim and I had flown to the USA using airlines points we had accrued, and were on our way back to Fiji when I was stopped in San Francisco. The airways representative told me that I couldn't continue on without a written waiver from the Fijian department of Immigration because of a passport issue.

This was after 5pm (Fiji time) on Friday and Fiji immigration had just closed. Check in was closing, and the plane was going

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Teen Challenge

I watched out my window last week as a young man with a backpack pulled a packet out of the backpack and walked up to the garbageman who was picking up my trash, and tried to sell it to him.

Drugs. Right in front of my house in broad daylight. You may have read about the 1 billion U.S. dollar drug bust that recently went down in Fiji, but you probably didn't know that it was in right here in Votualevu, on the island where we live - over 3 tons of Meth.

The sad thing is that many of the young people who are getting caught up in the use and trade, and who are ending up in prison, were kids that grew up in church. Kids who heard Bible stories and memory verses but were never challenged to repent and be filled with the Holy Spirit - because they were kids.

We are here with a vision to change that dynamic, but love compels us to not overlook those older ones who have strayed; the ones caught in the

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Pastor Hemraj Mangal the Director of Teen Challenge Fiji, with his daughter and wife, and Missionaries Mark and Kim Gardner. As a missionary who recognizes the need for the church to respond to the huge drug problem in Fiji I also am part of the Teen Challenge board and want to be part of the solution.

Thanks for praying for us and Teen Challenge, and for giving. Perhaps the Lord would speak to your heart to come over for a 2 week, 2 month, or 2 year trip to join with us and rescue those in darkness. Jesus died for every addiction, and with that death comes the release of the power to free those in bondage. Perhaps He would like to release that power through you.

Don't Miss The Backpage!!!

THE BACKPAGE

Airport Deliverance Continued...

to leave in 45 minutes. Kim's passport was okay, and she was cleared to go, so I told her to go on to the gate, and I called a Fijian pastor friend to explain the situation and ask for help. He told me that he would see what he could do, and to call him back later.

The ticketing agent then told me that check-in was now closed and that he couldn't help me anymore. Somewhat deflated, I sat down as the realization started setting in of what this was going to cost me.

I was going to lose tens of thousands of points for not cancelling my flight sooner, I would have to get a hotel for a few nights until immigration opened the next week in Fiji and things could be processed, and I would have to pay for the flight to Fiji. It was going to cost well over \$1500.00 and what was a blessed family visit on points was becoming a very expensive trip.

As I was sitting there thinking, "Lord, what's am I going to do?!!" the phone suddenly rang. It was the Fijian pastor.

"**Mark, when you** called there were two young ladies here with me and the call was on speaker phone. They heard what was happening and one of them said, 'Why don't you call my Mom, she works for immigration?'"

Hope came alive in me as the pastor continued, "And so I called and spoke with the mother who works with the Director of Immigration and then spoke also with the Director herself to explain the situation, and she responded in writing to allow you to proceed!"

The pastor sent me a pic of the Director's message and immediately I called Kim. She was getting ready to board the plane, spoke with the manager at the gate, and check-in was re-opened for me. As the agent handed me my boarding pass he said, "Y'know, I work here but I'm also a pastor and I've been praying for you the whole time." I did the 400 yard dash to the gate and made the flight.

And the huge open door for ministry? It took me over another month to resolve the issue with my passport, and so several days after arriving in Fiji when Fiji immigration contacted me to ask if I still needed "The waiver." As crazy as it sounds, I told them, "YES, please!"

You see, I had just been contacted by Children's Min. leaders from the New Zealand Assemblies of God and they were looking at using the School of Supernatural Children's Ministry as a training program for all of their Children's Ministry Leaders. They wanted me to travel there and share personally about how effective it has been here in Polynesia! If I did not have that waiver I would not have been able to travel. Wow! What looked like a huge mess turned out to be a huge bless!

Nawaicoba Outreach Continued...

children's ministry resources, a small structure for their Sunday School to meet under, and we are committed to continue helping these dear people as they reach out into Hindu and Muslim farming communities to share the gospel.

Your prayer and support enables us to do this. In fact, after Covid regulations were suspended we were able to spend over \$40,000 USD in helping to build structures for children's church and Sunday Schools throughout the islands. All with BGMC funds. God is moving in these islands, people are getting saved and there is a need to build more churches.

In the Northern islands of Fiji, people like Sosi and Sala Manulevu are stepping out in faith and we would like to help them plant churches in difficult places. At this point in time their biggest need is for tools.

We would like to ask you during this time of preparation for resurrection Easter celebrations if you would help us to purchase these tools - \$24,000 USD worth. With these tools we will partner with our Fijian brothers to build 26 churches in the Northern islands of Fiji by 2026.

The land is purchased, the villagers are ready and waiting, willing to pitch in and help, but need the tools. When contributing, please designate funds to "Project #6000" The name of the project is: "Tools for Construction in Fiji" (lists of tools or other info is available upon request)

- OUR VISION -

BRING KIDS into an **ENCOUNTER** with the **HOLY SPIRIT**
So they can **KNOW THE GRACE** of our **LORD JESUS CHRIST,**
and
BEING thus **EMPOWERED** can **MINISTER TO OTHERS.**



FUJIAN IMMIGRATION DEPARTMENT

PASSPORT VALIDITY WAIVER

PASSPORT HOLDER:	SURNAME: GARDNER	
	FIRST NAME(S): MAK ANDREW	
D.O.B.:	10.05.1964	
PASSPORT #:	505641199	
PASSPORT EXPIRY DATE:	18.05.2024	
NATIONALITY:	UNITED STATES OF AMERICA	
DATE OF ARRIVAL:	07.02.2024	FLIGHT #: NZ 953 (AKL/NAN)
DATE OF DEPARTURE:	12.02.2024	FLIGHT #: FJ 410 (NAN/AKL)

REMARKS

PASSENGER DETAILS VERIFIED AND UPDATED IN THE SYSTEM.

OK TO BOARD



While in New Zealand I happened upon a famous, "hole in the ground."

Any guesses where this would be?

Teen Challenge Continued...

snare of addiction and destined to its endless circle of slavery.

We are looking for people to come over and be part of the solution. Both short and long term commitments.

A borehole for water to drink and for washing is also needed for the guys of the Teen Challenge Center, and the cost for that is only \$6000 USD. Please, if you'd like to give to that, make sure that you designate your giving to Project #5991, Teen Challenge Borehole Fiji.

Prayer Corner

Only the anointing breaks the yoke. Please pray for a revelation or recognition of a lifestyle that lacks true representation of New Testament living, that out of a brokenness thereof that there would be a fresh outpouring of the Spirit which would result in people in Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, and the other islands out here being delivered from false religion, addictions, and a form of Christianity that is abundant in rules and form, but lacking in power.

Mark and Kim Gardner
P.O. Box 11049
Nadi Airport
Republic of Fiji

MAILING ADDRESS

Contact Information

EMAIL

revmarkgardner@gmail.com

WEBSITE

www.gardnermissions.com

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ELECTRONIC

A/G World Missions,
Gardner acct. #2493930
1445 N. Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802-1894



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