

# FELLOWSHIP UNTO THE FURTHERANCE OF THE GOSPEL IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

27 April 2024

To the churches in Australia, New Zealand and the South Pacific:

Dear brothers,

We thank the Lord for all the churches' prayers and continued participation in the furtherance of the gospel in the Solomon Islands. Here are the recent updates on the Lord's move in the Solomon Islands.

## **I. BLESSINGS RECEIVED FROM THE LORD**

We continue to witness the Lord's blessing on His move in the Solomon Islands in the following ways since our last letter in January.

### **A. Seminars**

Six seminars were held from January to March 2024. An average of 40 new contacts attended each seminar, and many attended several times. The attendees thoroughly enjoyed the truth and fellowship and look forward to attending future seminars.

### **B. Labouring to Meet With Contacts**

- Six saints (three full-timers and three community saints) have been actively coordinating with the full-timers to have appointments with the contacts met during the Pacific Games Bible Distribution.
- Since the Pacific Games, the saints have visited 130 people, and about 40% of them have been visited multiple times.
- There are 20-30 such appointments weekly (on top of the regular campus appointments).
- Four home meetings have been established with new contacts.

### **C. Baptisms and Contacts Entering Into the Church Life**

- A total of eight new ones have been baptised after these five seminars.
- Six of these have started to join the various group meetings and church meetings.
- Another sister who the saints have been visiting has also been enjoying the ministry, joining the church meetings, and bringing her friend with her.
- Attendance at the Lord's Day meeting has increased from 15-20 to 25-30, which brings freshness to the church.

### **D. Full-time training and fieldwork**

- One sister from Honiara is currently in Full-Time Training in Hamilton, New Zealand, and will finish in mid-2025. Three more young people desire to attend Full-Time Training after completing their studies.
- Six trainees from Hamilton, New Zealand, will do their fieldwork in Honiara in mid-May, which will be such encouragement and blessing to the church.
- This will also be an opportunity to:
  - encourage and stir up the young people in their desire to be trained
  - inspire the saints to pursue the truth
  - set up tables on the university campus and endeavour to gain more young people

### **E. New Facilities**

The church in Honiara is now renting a new meeting place and accommodation to help facilitate the need for the work. This has been very beneficial for:

- Accessibility - Close to the main road for saints to get public transport.
- Capacity - Accommodating more people for meetings and seminars
- Children - Having a separate meeting space for children next door
- Appointments - Providing more space for appointments with new contacts
- Storage - Providing space for storage of Bibles and ministry books

## **F. Coordination**

A group of brothers from Australia, New Zealand, and Fiji participate in prayer and coordination for the work in the South Pacific once every two months, with a smaller group coordinating regularly for the direction of the work in the Solomon Islands. This coordination has brought blessings in providing the need for prayer, manpower, finance, and direction for the work. Moreover, it caused the brothers involved to be blended and strengthened the one accord for the Lord to bless His move in these areas.

## **II. CURRENT NEED**

At this point in the development of the Lord's move in the Solomon Islands, we would like to bring your attention to the current needs:

### **A. More local saints are to be raised up to labour with the saints in Honiara.**

- The participation of many of the local saints is also limited by their struggle to provide for their families.
- Many contacts also live in difficult-to-reach places, which makes the labour time-consuming.
- The constitution of many of the local saints is also quite limited, so there is a need for more pursuing and perfecting.

### **B. Overseas workers to visit the saints regularly to perfect the saints to carry out the work and conduct the Bible seminars.**

### **C. Continual financial support for work in Honiara**

- There is a need to support three local full-timers, the church's operational expenses in Honiara, and overseas workers to perfect local saints through training and assisting in Bible Seminars.
- The annual total support needed is approximately AUD\$102,000 (Based on an exchange rate of AUD1 to SBD5.5)

### **D. Strengthening the leadership in Honiara.**

### **E. Establishing the Lord's Table meeting in Honiara by 2025.**

We are looking to the Lord to support the Lord's move in the Solomon Islands until the church in Honiara can be raised up in a healthy way to support the work themselves. Please pray and fellowship concerning these needs of the Lord's move in the Solomon Islands. If any church has a feeling to offer to the Lord's work here, please refer to the instructions on the next page.

May the Lord continue to advance in His move in the Solomon Islands through the prayer and fellowship of the Body.

The coordinating brothers for the Lord's Work in the Solomon Islands

## **INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE FINANCIAL OFFERING TO THE LORD'S MOVE TO SOLOMON ISLANDS**

### For saints in Australia:

Bank: Westpac

Account Name: Local Church in Sydney Ltd

BSB: 032282

Account No: 393434

Reference: "Solomon Islands"

### For saints in New Zealand:

Account Name: New Zealand Training Centre

Account Number: 04 2021 0072010 93

Please use the word "Honiara" in all three reference fields.

## **TESTIMONIES**

Praise the Lord for the one-on-one shepherding. Madadlleine is one of the contacts who initially received a Recovery Version during the Bible distribution. We then visited her during the first week of follow-up. In four of our appointments with her, her uncle, a pastor of their group, joined us. Then, her friend Elizabeth also joined us. But in later appointments, we only had it with her. And that's when she started opening up to us and even asked us a few questions. We shared a bit of our testimony about how we came into contact with the ministry. She was encouraged and curious about us. So, the next step we took was to invite her to a home meeting. She enjoyed it, and that's when she started coming to our meetings. Since then, we have seen her often. She comes to our prayer meetings, Lord's Day meetings, and she also attended the online blending conference for the Easter weekend. She brought her two children to the children's meeting as well. And now, she is also shepherding her friend Elizabeth. And she brought her friend along with her daughter to the home meeting and to the Lord's Day meeting. Since then, she has been enjoying reading the ministry books. She started with *The Basic Elements of the Christian Life* Vol. 1, then continued with Volumes 2 & 3. She also pursued the HWMR with the church, and prophesies in the meeting. Currently, she is enjoying the *Topics for New Believers* Vol. 1. It was such an encouraging situation and experience. So refreshing. Praise the Lord. - *Joyce, the church in Honiara*

After all these seminars, we've encountered several regular seeking ones who are warm and very open to the word of God. I got to know Edith, one of the contacts who received a copy of the New Testament Recovery during the Bible distribution. She attended all the seminars and then got baptised through us. We started visiting her after the first seminar at Capital Park, and eventually, she had a burden to open up her home for home meetings. This was my first time having a home meeting at a newcomer's home. It was so encouraging to see her dad and some of her siblings appreciate the ministry and always being eager to speak from the ministry after our readings.

Despite facing some challenges, like her siblings who had religious concepts that deterred them from joining our meetings, we are thankful to the Lord; He's always real to us and richly blesses us with Himself as life in all our meetings. The ones who were initially opposed started to see something and softened. They began to be drawn by the singing and were attracted through the sharing of the word, simply by being with them in their home.

This home meeting also encouraged some student saints, especially the sisters, to join regularly. It helped them to exercise their spirit by sharing and provided an opportunity to share their enjoyment in this particular

meeting. It really strengthened us and motivated us to exercise our spirit more, taking up the burden for His testimony in this home.

May the Lord continue to enable us to love Him more and gain Him more for His desire. And may we be strengthened in our inner man for His expression. Praise Him for His mercy and His inner working in us that causes us to go on in Him for His increase. - *Alison, the church in Honiara*

In all the Bible seminar invitations, hundreds of contacts, and visitations we have had, I can see the Lord's blessing. He is working to gain His seekers. Out of hundreds of invitations sent out and the contacts we have made, there were some who are sons of peace. One of these ones is Peter.

Peter had no idea about the Bible Seminars or Bible distributions that were going on but somehow, the Lord drew him to where we had the Bible Seminar. He was just going to pass by, but by the Lord's mercy, he was captivated by our banner, which says, "FREE STUDY BIBLE". He asked, "What is going on here?" I told him that we are having a Free Bible Seminar and if you are interested in knowing the truth, you can come in and we will give you a free Recovery Version New Testament Study Bible. Without saying much, he simply said, "OK" and walked straight in and joined the Seminar.

He was captivated by the Lord's speaking regarding Life's Regenerating and realized his need to receive the life of God. He willingly offered himself to pray to receive the Lord and got baptised along with 5 others. That evening, he was the happiest person in the room, and we all rejoiced together with him and the others. A few days after his baptism, he was the first one to arrive for the prayer meeting. Since then, he has been joining our home meetings, young people's meeting, and Lord's day meeting. Even though he did not speak or pray much, I can see him being delighted and open to the Lord's speaking. In our one-on-one appointments, he is very responsive and learning to pray and speak. I am so refreshed and encouraged to see him enjoying the Word and the ministry. He even joins me in visitations and appointments with other new ones.

Apart from Peter, there are others who we are still contacting and visiting who are very hungry for the truth but are held back by their religious concepts and being attached to other Christian groups. We pray that the Lord will release and lead us to more young people like Peter who are unattached and are not set, settled, and preoccupied with religious concepts. I also realised that we still need to keep feeding them, giving them proper food at the proper time. Oh Lord, gain us to minister you as food to these hungry ones, that You would operate in their being. Amen. - *Lonsdale, the church in Honiara*