

# The Mears Family

## Missionaries to Fiji & the South Pacific

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Dear Friends,

Greetings from Fiji!

If you read our last prayer letter, you will see that it has been a very busy year for us. We are finally slowing down and trying to catch our breath.

The *South Pacific Fellowship of Independent Baptist Pastors* was a such a blessing. The fellowship, preaching and encouragement from missionaries and pastors from around the Pacific was such a blessing. Our members at Nausori Baptist worked so hard to provide meals, homes and encouragement to God's workers. Thank you for the prayers for this fellowship.

A couple of weeks ago I baptized a young man named Henry. He had been a student in our Christian school over 7 years ago. He had received the Lord and committed his life to Christ, but once he left our school we lost contact with him. But now as a young professional, the principles that were placed in his heart as a young man in our school are now bearing fruit. He found his way back to church, entered discipleship, followed in baptism and joined the church. It was wonderful to hear him testify to our church how the teachings instilled in him through the school continued to guide him as a young adult and eventually lead him to find his way to church again.

The new work in Savusavu is now in its third month. Bro. Jonathan has been able to regather about three families from the church that had closed down and they are now meeting every Sunday. There are a few new visitors coming and a few who have been saved and are preparing for baptism. Please continue to pray for Bro. Jonathan.



*Lighthouse Baptist, Savusavu*

Last month I was invited to take part in a 'workshop' on sustainable development. One of our deacons, Bro. Leone, is a lecturer/researcher at the University of the South Pacific. They have been doing development projects in 13 villages around Fiji. This workshop was a follow-up to the projects as we have been told that 80% of all development projects in Fijian villages fail. The chief's and village head-men from the 13 villages along with 2 other elders each attended the workshop. Most of the speakers were government officials and NGO's. But Leone asked me to bring the lessons from a biblical context. It was the first opportunity ever to preach to village chief's and leaders. Most of them were amazed to find out that all of the social, financial and development problems they are facing in the villages are addressed in the Bible with biblical principles.

One particular village head-man was from the village of Barotu where we have had a church for many years. This head-man has always despised us and our church because we don't drink kava or participate in some ceremonial traditions that violate the Bible. On the first night, he wouldn't even look at me. But, by the fourth day, he was taking notes fast and furious and his countenance totally changed to me. He went back to the village and shared how great the preaching was and I have found him to have become a new 'friend'. In addition I have been invited by chiefs to come and have more Bible studies with them and to feel free to

come and preach in their villages. Thank God for this new open door. As I have mentioned, we have for years been praying for open doors in our villages and rural areas, and this is another way the Lord has been working.

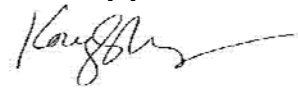
The Fiji Bible project is moving ahead! BIMBI has now raised \$217,371. They need \$250,000 to start the first round of printing \$175,000 Bibles for secondary students. Thank you so much to those who have contributed specifically to this project.

As for the 'termite' invaders I mentioned in our last letter, we are almost settled. We moved out of our house about three weeks ago and moved in with my mother-in-law (yes, I am surviving). Wendy spent a couple of weeks all day long bleaching everything we owned as we were told that is the only way to ensure there are no termites. We were later told (by the same pest-control company) that they can do limited fumigation. They can't do the whole house, but can put a bunch of things in one-room under a tarp and fumigate that. So I built a pyramid of 'stuff' in our living room, covered it and it is under fumigation process. We open it up on Thursday, have a garage sale on Saturday, and then store the rest of our things for a while. It has been a real nasty process, one which we will be glad is finished. My mother-in-law is returning to the states in a couple of weeks so we will stay in her house for a while and save rent while deciding what to do for the future.

Our second eldest daughter Tabitha was bit by a centipede while climbing a tree in our back yard. Centipede's are the only poisonous creature in Fiji (other than degue fever carrying mosquito's) and Tabby is the first of our kids to be bit, though we have killed many of them in our house. Though it was painful, she is doing fine. We took her to the hospital for an antibiotic and pain meds and it sort of heals itself.

Thanks again for your prayers for our family and ministry in Fiji and the Pacific and your financial support. You are a blessing.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kory Mears', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kory Mears & Family