



Greetings Church Family,

We are thankful to God for another year that we get to live and do the work that He has put before us. This coming year, Lord willing, we will be busy with teaching the PIBC classes in many of your local congregations.

We all have been in the United States from September to December. Robert, Stacy, and Nathaniel have been reporting to all the wonderful congregations that support the PIBC. We are thankful to them for making it possible for us to go to you and teach.



The church in Labasa, Fiji

This past year of 2022 has been wonderful. God blessed us to be able to travel more and more as the year continued. Lord willing this year, 2023, will see even more of the Nations in the Pacific. We know some of you are still experiencing restrictions due to the virus and we will continue to keep you in our prayers. As Jesus taught his disciples in **Luke 18:1**, *“Then He spoke a parable to them, that men always ought to pray and not lose heart,”* Continue in prayer and God will bless you according to his will.

Looking at the past year we are so grateful to all of you for the work in God’s Kingdom. The Church has continued to grow in many places in the pacific because of your hard work. We thank you, and God will bless you **Colossians 3:23-24** *“And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, [24] knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.”*

In other news we wanted to let everyone know about some of the accomplishments of your fellow students in the PIBC. Cobus Anthony, a student from South Africa, is very close to

completing all the PIBC courses. He is currently working through the course on Revelation. He has done excellent work on all the courses.

Jone William Wuia in the Solomon Islands is also very close to completing all the PIBC courses. Since we have not been able to send packages to the Solomon Islands this year, we have been emailing the textbooks and tests to him. He scans his completed tests and sends them to us by way of email. He is also doing very good work on his studies. He is currently working on the Biblical Background course. These student have worked diligently and we are proud of both.

We wanted to encourage you with a short devotional in this newsletter. Perhaps this can be used in a bible class or a sermon:

We often face hardships, disappointments, and loss. Perhaps being laid off from work, losing a close friend or loved one. These types of life events can often be devastating to our mental health, lives, and faith. However, christians have One to whom they can go to help them through life's dark days. That One is God.

One of the most encouraging passages of Scripture is **1 Corinthians 1:3** where Paul wrote, *"Blessed be the God and Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort"* (ESV). The God we serve is able to comfort us no matter the situation in which we may find ourselves.

Consider who penned these words. The apostle Paul suffered tremendous loss for his faith and obedience to Christ. Later in this book he accounts many of the things he had to suffer (2 Corinthians 11:16-28). He certain-

ly understood first hand that God is able to bring us through trials and tribulations.

Paul also goes on to give us the reason for which God comforts us. Notice 2 Corinthians 1:4, "who comforts us in all our affliction, so



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that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God."

God comforts us so that we might be able to comfort others. When we endure a trial, we gain strength, wisdom, and patience (James 1:2-4, Romans 5:3-5). This then enables us to share that wisdom, and use our strength to aide someone who is facing it as well.

When we are suffering loss and difficulties, we must always remember to turn to God for He is the only one that can truly comfort us. Then, use that comfort to help others.

- Renn Ferguson