



We are thankful for the opportunity to write to you again. Our prayer is that the light of God's grace is showing through all of you throughout the world. "Let us therefore

follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." [Romans 14:19]. May we try our best to share the love, salvation, and hope that is in Christ.

Devotional: *God Commands Love*

We would like to take the opportunity to give some words of encouragement and instruction from the Holy Scriptures. Looking to 1 John 4:20, which reads, "if anyone says, 'I love God,' and hates his brother, he is a liar, for he who does not love his brother whom he has seen cannot love God whom he has not seen." [ESV translation]. It is true we have faith, which is belief in God though we do not see him. As the Apostle Paul states in 2 Corinthians 5:7, "for we walk by faith, not by sight;" Also in 1 Pet.

1:8 it reads, "...though you do not now see him, you believe in him." In 1 John 4:20 John asks the question, how can we love God, who we do not see if we cannot love those before us whom we can see with our own eyes? John is speaking of our family, our friends, our people. If we say we love God but we do not love those we see around us, how can we love a God whom we have never met? John is making plain the importance of loving others.

Furthermore in 1 John 4:21 he writes, "And this commandment we have from him: whoever loves God must also love his brother." Examine the word, "Brother" in this passage. This is a word that in Greek means, all people, not men exclusively. John commands we should love everyone! Also, 1 John 3:16, "by this we know love, that he laid down his life for us and we ought to lay down our lives for the brothers." Christ showed us love, in giving his life for us. God commands us to love in the same way that Christ loves. Christ loves everyone, so we must love everyone. Yes, that includes our enemies, see Matthew 5:43-44.

This is more than simply saying, "I love you". This is a love that includes action. Which begs the ques-

tion, how do we show love? Read 1 John 3:17, “But if anyone has the world’s goods and sees his brother in need yet closes his heart against him, how does God’s love abide in him?” John asks another important question. How can we say we love others, if we see others with needs but we do not help them? Answer, we do not truly love others! To show love is to give, share, help those who are in need. Christ often spent time with, ate with, and held the sinner, sick, and outcast, see Luke 15:1-2.

Finally, in 1 John 4:7 we read, “Beloved, let us love one another, for love is from God, and whoever loves has been born of God and knows God.” Do we know God? There is a way to know him: According to 1 John 2:5 which states, “but whoever keeps his word in him truly the love of God is perfected.” Keep God’s word is how we know him. He commands us to love others, that is what we must do!

Islands to American Samoa. We are always adding other countries and locations. We are in 28 locations in the Pacific Islands but also have students in 7 other countries of the world, including the USA. In January, I awarded two diplomas in Saipan to a mother and her grown daughter; a first time in thirty years of the college. We usually average 3 graduates a year, but this year we have already had 6 to graduate. As of May of this year, we hit a milestone in the college; we went over 100 graduates.

In July, I awarded 2 more PIBC diplomas in Suva, Fiji. Three of us are full-time in Pacific Islands Bible College: Robert H. Martin; director and instructor. Stacy Ferguson; assistant director and instructor. Nathaniel Ferguson; facility and instructor.

We have 5 other instructors: Dan McLeod, Aaron Baker, Randy English, Steve Vice, and David Decker. Rachel Ferguson is the PIBC secretary. Mary and I are

greatly blessed to have all those who work with PIBC. All of us at PIBC want to thank all the congregations and Christians throughout the Pacific who make possible the work of PIBC.”

In Christ,
PIBC Team



A Message From
Robert Martin

**The PIBC
Continues
To Grow!**

“We thank the Lord that PIBC continues to grow and serve the Lord’s church throughout the Pacific Islands. We now have more than 3,000 students listed and taking courses. From New Zealand to the Northern Mariana Islands, from the Solomon