

# BULA-KAUNCHI HOWE

The Official Missions Newsletter of the Gann Family and the Int'l COGOP in the Fiji Islands

## Church List

Please continue to pray for our churches, missions, and members! We now have active iTaukei and Indian branches.

### Active Churches:

- ✦ International COGOP, Ba - Indian Branch
- ✦ International COGOP, Cuvu, Sigatoka - Indian Branch
- ✦ International COGOP, Nadawa, Suva - iTaukei Branch
- ✦ Lighthouse International Church, Sewani, Lautoka - Indian/iTaukei
- ✦ Manoca Lighthouse, Nausori - Indian Branch
- ✦ Sigatoka International Church - iTaukei Branch
- ✦ Zion Pentecostal Assembly, Suva - Indian Branch

### Fiji Missions:

Ba, Nailaga - iTaukei  
Lautoka - Indian  
Navua - iTaukei  
Nadi - Indian  
Nadi - iTaukei  
Suva - Gaji - Indian  
Suva - Nadawa Indian  
Tailevu - Indian

## Vinaka Vakalevu

In this letter I want to start with "Thank You Very Much!" We recently returned from the US. This trip was three months for me and included Doctoral Graduation, Harvest Partner Visits, and attendance at the International Assembly. My wife and son were able to join me for the last three weeks and attend the Assembly. We had such a blessed and wonderful time.



We faced some very difficult challenges this year and for the first time ever...I thought to come back to the US. As you can see, my son severely broke his arm. He broke it on a Saturday and the only emergency treatment available was a half cast. We had to insist to be seen at the ER and they never gave him any pain reliever. Two days later he was put to sleep and fitted with a proper cast. But due to the location of the break, they would not reset the bone.



We are giving praise to God that the bone has now healed and is only slightly crooked. We have been informed that it will continue to straighten in time. This is just one small price of living in what many call paradise.



## Updates

Thank you so much to those who have sent funds for our Church building projects. After the strongest recorded cyclone in recorded history hit Fiji, we are transitioning out of building simple sheds. You can Google “Cyclone Winston, Fiji” and see the devastation on our island. One of our locations was beyond repair and another was



damaged. The photos in this paragraph show one of our church sheds in Ba and one of our member’s homes in another community where we have a mission.



## New Congregation

We organized Lighthouse International COGOP on Sunday, August 25th with 23 initial covenant members. Some were absent and will officially join later. We are currently averaging between 30 and 40 in attendance. One exciting side note is that one of the members is an older student from the Solomon



Islands. He is also a Deacon in Training. There are also other students from the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu who attend. That means we will get to train these members and later send them back to their countries as missionaries of the Fiji COGOP.

## New Land and Development

We also learned that we need to focus on owning, or having a legal long term lease, on our land lots first. We had several locations offered to us to use for “free,” but that old saying “ain’t nothin’ free” has come to be a fact. Land ownership in Fiji is very difficult and impossible on a limited budget.

However, it is possible to lease land directly from the government for up to 99 years. We then receive a “lease title,” which is different than a lease you might have on a home. We basically have the same freedom as an owner, but no mineral rights, and after 99 years the lease is re-evaluated.

There are freehold title (like USA ownership) options available, but only about 5% of the land in Fiji falls into this category. That makes the cost more expensive than most can afford. We are praying that one day we might be able to accomplish this. But for now we are focusing on the long term, legal leases that can be obtained from the Gov’t. And we have one sub-lease from an individual. A sub-lease is more like long-term renting.

After many years of effort, and many hard lessons, we have finally been able to legally lease 1.33 acres of land in Saweni, Lautoka. This is the same community in which we organized Lighthouse Int’l COGOP. We have our official 50 year lease agreement in hand. However, I’ve been told that we have 2 years to get the land privately surveyed in order to



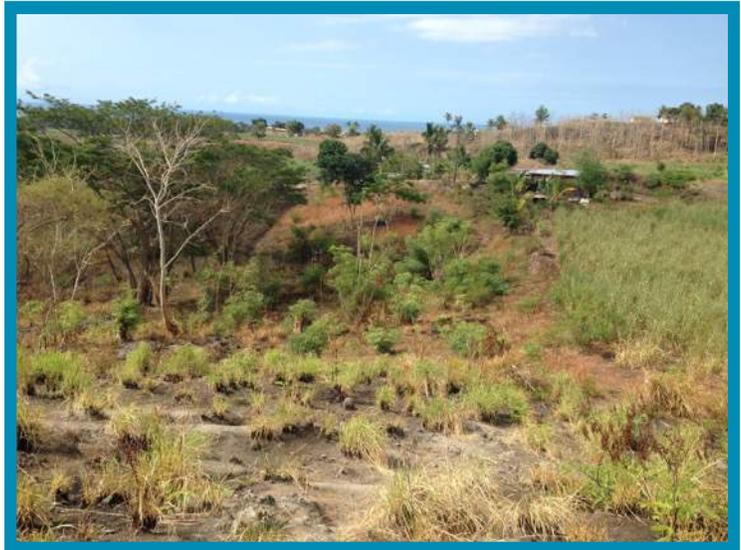
finalize the 99 year government lease. I have done a bit of research and the finances to get the land surveyed is going to be approx. \$3500 USD. We have to pay half of this upfront in order to start the process. We will need fencing too. I'm projecting this at \$1500 USD.

We also need to build a structure for the congregation with anticipation of 75 members/attendees. This structure will also house our Ministry Training Center. There are several concrete masons/carpenters who are members of the church. They are going to do the labor which will all be at a very reduced and sometimes free rate. They are also working to come up with what ever materials they can to assist. We have begun the planning for our own local fundraising to assist with this project.

We are hoping to start with a pavilion. Since we have transitioned out of building simple sheds, the estimated/projected cost of this structure would be \$10,000 USD as we need to build it strong enough to withstand Cyclones. The lumber to start this project has been quoted at \$1800 USD. We currently have enough on hand to install the temporary power pole and meter. We also have enough on hand to have the water installed.

We also need to build a parsonage on this land with office space. It would immediately serve as our overseer housing/national office and later as a pastoral parsonage. The estimated/projected budget for this is \$35,000 USD. We are still working on the breakdown totals for this. We hope to have it in upcoming newsletters.

The total projected budget for everything is approx. \$50,000 USD. This budget would provide us with what I believe are the minimum necessities to finally establish our Church in Fiji on a more permanent basis. As already noted, the local church members are willing to do what they can. We have local carpenters who are members. They will provide labor either free or at a discount. I have also been a subcontractor before and will contribute as much labor as I am physically able.



Some have asked me: what about local funding? The local minimum wage is only \$2.80 FJD an hour. Good wages are \$5.00 an hour. So even with faithful givers our tithe/offering is usually around \$30.00-50.00 FJD on a Sunday. But we are going to do our best with local fundraising efforts.



Now for the miracle in all of this. Our church has 5400 square meters and the current going price for a surveyed 1000 square meter block in this area is \$100,000 FJD or \$50,000 USD. That means that our \$4,500 USD investment will be worth approx. \$250,000 USD after the surveys are complete (but its not for sale)...just a testimony of God's provision!

There are several steps ongoing right now. We were just informed we will need a temporary electric installation by a licensed electrical contractor. This is figured into the larger budget, but it would be one of several first steps. Then there is water and restrooms to consider. I have learned that we can carry on with initial steps and even start construction while the survey is processing. So here is a brief outline of my first steps.

Total Fundraising Budget \$50,000 USD. (all numbers USD)     **(HP Project Lautoka, Fiji)**

1. Fiji Electric Authority - Powerline, Power poles, and Power Meter installed on land - \$1200 (on-hand)
2. Water Authority of Fiji - Water line ran from main road to property - \$750 (on-hand)

Remaining need = \$48,050

Needed ASAP     **(HP Project Lautoka, Fiji)**

3. Land Survey - 50% upfront - \$1750
4. Restroom facilities and septic - \$1200
5. Lumber for Pavillion - \$1800
6. Roofing for Pavillion - \$750
7. Foundation/Floor cement and iron - \$1000
8. Wiring / Lighting / Fans - \$1550

Total Immediate Need = \$10,000.00 minus on-hand funds =  
\$8050.00

It will be my hope that different partners might take on separate portions of the project. We as the national body and local church will also be participating in these efforts. Most of our effort will be in labor. However, this is currently our primary project. Therefore, we will also be doing fundraising in Fiji and totals will be updated as the funds are raised and received.

## Personal Needs

As many of you know, we are in a unique situation for our church. I am from the US and serve as an appointed Overseer in Fiji. But what most do not know is that when we came to Fiji, we came with 65% of our monthly budget in the form of “self-support.” We were well aware of what we were agreeing too. Fiji has faced a lot of struggles and when we came we basically started over with only a



couple of loyal congregations. Even as we are growing in number, the national finance has not increased much. We are a developing nation and the minimum wage is equivalent to \$1.50 USD. Additionally, my wife and I are restricted from working outside of the church due to immigration.

In recent months our financial situation has changed and it has become necessary for those personal “self-supporting funds” to be redirected. We are now looking to raise \$1500.00 a month through business and private sponsors. \$290.00 a month has been pledged with \$1210.00 monthly need remaining. We are looking for those business and private sponsors who might feel a burden for the missions nature of our ministry and pledge monthly support in any amount starting at \$5.

As we are in a unique situation, this is completely separate from the Harvest Partners Ministry support that is raised through 2nd Sunday offerings. This support would come through Harvest Partner Project Giving (formerly HPL2) or Helping Hand Ministries and be designated on the check memo as “Ministry Support, Daniel Gann - Fiji.” This is the only way that we can legally receive funds that are receipted and tax deductible. Please keep this need in your prayers and make all donations payable to the COGOP and mail to Global Missions Ministries COGOP - PO Box 2910 Cleveland, TN 37320.

## Moce

Moce means Good-bye in Fiji and is pronounced “*Mothay*.” Until next time, we want to thank each of you, our church family, and partners in ministry, for your steadfast love, prayers, and financial support. We could not do what we do with you! Please look us up on Facebook or email!

### Stay Connected!

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All gifts are tax deductible and 100% of your gift is applied to the need you specify



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helping hand

