



Cook Islands Christian Church

Newsletter

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Since 2005



The "Mission House" CICC Head Office, Takamoa, Rarotonga



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS ISSUE

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Gospel Day on Rarotonga, Monday 26/10/20, Takamoa. Sports field on left, Ruatoka Hall on right.

(Photo by Nga Mataio)

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CICC NUTILETA 80

1. AKATOMO'ANGA

Kia orana e te iti tangata tapu no te Atua i te au ngai katoatoa; to te Kuki Airani nei, tei noo ki Nutireni, Autireria, Tahiti, e te vai atura te au ngai tei taeia e teia karere akakitekite. E tau ia tatou kia akameitaki i te mana katoatoa koia tei oronga mai i teia tikaanga manea kia aravei akaou tatou na roto i teia pepa akakitekite numero 80 tei akamataia i te mataiti 2005. Ko te nutileta openga teia no teia mataiti 2020.

E Kiritimiti teia e akavaitata mai nei, no reira ko to tatou tuanga akaaravei kua akamouia ki runga i ta Mataio i tata: *“..... i na kua mama maira tetai angela a te Atu, kua akairimoe maira iaia, kua na ko maira, E Iosepha te tamaiti a Davida ra, auraka koe e mataku i te arataki mai i to vaine ia Maria ki o ou ra: no te Vaerua Tapu i nui ei aia. E tamaiti tana e anau, e ko Iesu te ingoa taau e tapa nona: e akaora oki aia i tona au tangata i ta ratou ara.”* (Mataio 1. 20,21).

Na kotou e akatotoa atu i teia karere ki to kotou au taeake kia kite katoa ratou i te au mea e tupu nei i roto i te taokotaianga o te kopu tangata CICC, e pera tetai au nuti no vao mai penei ka riro ei pumaanaanga kia tatauia. Ko kotou kare i kite ana i te au nutireta i mua atu e kua anoano kotou kia kite, aravei atu i te Orometua me kore Tekeretere o taau Ekalesia me kore akakite mai ki Takamoia nei; ka rauka oki te reira au nutireta i te tuku ia atu na runga i te imere. Tei runga katoa ratou i te website a te CICC, koia te www.cicc.net.ck, ka rauka ia kotou i te copy mai ka print atu ei me anoanoia.

Kia meitaki e kia mataora ta kotou tatauanga i tei tataia ki roto i teia peapa.

2. NUKU DAY ON RAROTONGA

Ko te teata no te akakoroanga o te Nuku i Rarotonga nei i teia mataiti, kua peke ia ki te au Mama. I roto i te porokaramu angaanga a te Rarotonga Konitara Ekalesia tei tukuia mai e te akatere konitara no teia mataiti 2020 – koia te Ekalesia Avarua – i roto ia Peperuare, kua tamanakoia e kua arikiia e kia riro te au Nuku o teia mataiti i Rarotonga nei i te akatinamouia ki runga i tetai o te au tavini vaine o te Atua tei taikuia ki roto i te Bibilia. Ko teia ireira ta nga Ekalesia i orongaia e i akatutu mai no runga i te oraanga o teia au Mama: Avarua – SHEBA, Nikao – SARA, Arorangi – DEBORA, Titikaveka – RUTA, Ngatangia – ESETERA, Matavera – DELILA.

Kia oti te tuanga mua o te porokaramu – koia te akatueraanga – kua akamata te Nuku kia Avarua, takapini ake ei te enua e taopenga ki ta Matavera. Eaa te turanga o te au angaanga tei raveia mai; i roto i te reo porenā, how did it go? Teia ia taku paunu marie anga i raro nei:

- **Set-up, akanoonoanga i te taua/field;** kie/marquees no te au Ekalesia tatakaitai, nooanga/chairs, kaingakai/tables, apinga akatangi/sound system, au pute aao tita/rubbish bags, ngai paka'anga/parking spaces – na te Ekalesia Avarua teia i rave mai i raro ake i tona pare akatere i te Rarotonga Konitara Ekalesia no teia mataiti. Verdict (tukuanga tika): mako e te manea – too good, no complaints.



Google images

- **Set-up o te marquee o te VIPs e ta ratou marquee no te katikati/refreshments**, turanga o te katikati a te VIPs – Verdict: akaieie, kaore atu.
- **Aruanga i te akakotingaanga tuatau/timing** of the Nuku from start to finish – Verdict: spot on, sumaringa ke.
- **Karere i roto i te au akatutuanga**, koia oki me kua aru i tei akatakaia i roto i te Bibilia – Verdict: mauruuru generally. Noatu tetai au peu e kare i taikuia i roto i te tata’anga, kua apai mai ra te au Ekalesia ei akameitaki me kore akareka atu i te akatutuanga, kare te reira au peu i apai mamao roa i te tereanga o te tua no te reira Mama, no reira akore akaapaanga matutu.
- **Reva/weather** – kia akara au i te akakiteanga o te reva i runga i aku mobile i te ra i mua ake e pera i te popongi o te Nuku, teia ta te aronga akara reva i aaki mai, a mau teia ra, a ua, are paa e aere a mako teia ngai angaanga o te Nuku. Teia ireira te manako i o mai i roto i tau ngakau, ok, a tapapa tatou me oai a tano, me o te aronga kakaro reva, me oia i akanoo i teia ra noona. Aaaaeee, mei te popongi mai e tae uatu i te ora 2.00pm, te ora i akamutu ei te Nuku, tamarumaru te tumu rangi, aore ra i ua ana. Akaraia ana ra, puapinga-kore atura ta te aronga akara reva i tamanako mai e a ua. Kare tatou e ekoko i te tuatua anga e kua akara aroa mai te Atua i tona ra e kua oronga mai i te reva manea no tona akakoroanga. Teia te mea umere, late afternoon and throughout the night, rain rain rain! Amazing, kia akameitakiia te mana katoatoa. No reira, Verdict: perfect!
- **Kua peke ireira te re o te au akatutuanga Nuku ia ai?** Mama ua te pauanga, all 6 Ekalesias came 1st, no 2nd or 3rd or 4th or 5th or last; another amazing ka tano ki konei!

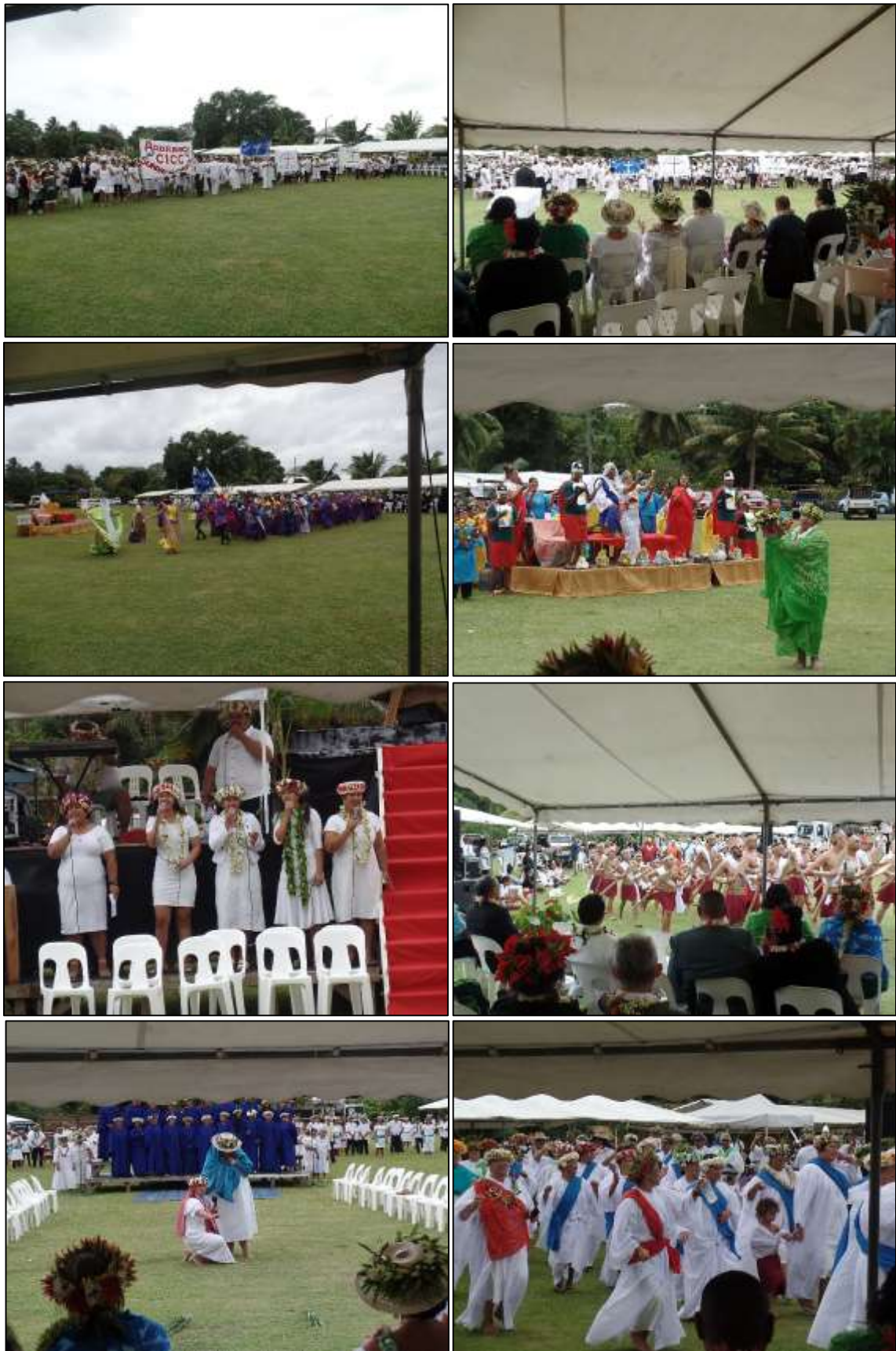
Kakaro iatu ra te au tutu Nuku i raro nei.

Prior to start of Nuku





Its Nuku show-time!





Tataia e Nga Mataio. Neneia: Veena Aperau (prior to start of Nuku photos) e N. Mataio (Nuku photos)

3. TTC GRADUATION & ORDINATION



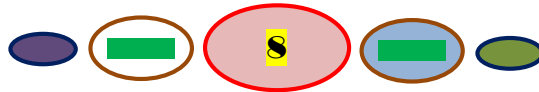
ecclesiastes 12:1 *Remember your Creator in the days of your youth, before the days of trouble come and the years' approach when you will say, I find no pleasure in them".*

Some thought of it as a day that they had been waiting for a long time, to be the best day of their lives, and others waited for the day that they would be free. These were the thoughts running through our minds before stepping out into the big world. Dr. Seuss quotes, *Fantasy is a necessary ingredient in living.* This is possible for those that put their minds to it, now, in this case this was an ingredient of serving our Lord. Choosing to serve our Lord for the rest of our lives was the best choice that we could make.

Preparations for the graduation were full of mixed emotions. The thoughts going through our minds were, who will be there? will I look good? what dress should I wear? and many more. The main thing that went through our minds was the desire of our loved ones from overseas to be there with us. However, even after all the restrictions from the COVID-19 and all, this was not going to stop us from moving forward with the plans of the graduation. This was the time we could really feel, as a student body, bonding and coming together as one. For the last graduation in Takamoa that took place in February/March, we found it was much easier because we had the man-power. However, this drove us remaining students in Takamoa to ask God to help us on our special day. We know that our God is a God of provision and miracles. He saw that we really needed help especially on the side of the food and He gave us help through many Churches, families and friends as well as our brothers and sisters in the Fijian Methodist Church here in Rarotonga. We thank them for their tremendous support through all the preparations, and serving of the food, the choir item, and even through their prayers.

Over 700 people came to witness our special day. From being in a classroom to stepping on that stage, in our gown and cap with the coloured sash, receiving our Certificates and for some Diplomas, it was a great moment and a great accomplishment. Some of us had never graduated before, some of us had never received a certificate before. This was the day that we could say that 'we made it' to the end of this part and the beginning of knowing who God really is. All the assignments, the group work, presentations, and even the countless hours of being in a classroom had all paid off. We are encouraged in the classrooms by our lecturers to read, read and read. Dr. Seuss tells us that the more that you read, the more things you will know, the more that you learn the more places you will go. The day of our graduation has given us an eye opener and changed most of our lives thinking that this is what we want for our children as they get an education.





The day of the ordination came and we were full of awe in God knowing that today was the day that we would be anointed and announced as servants and a leader for God; we will be the ones who people will look up to, we will be the ones who others will seek help from, and even to be the ones that people will learn the true meaning of God's love. On this day all we could do was thank God for the strength He had given to us to make it through. From leaving the gates as students (Apianga) to walking back in as Reverends (Orometua) felt like a whole weight had just been thrown off our shoulders. No more tears and stress over the countless assignments that we have to do, sleepless nights and the struggles we had gone through to learn the things that we had learnt.

TTC Graduates, October 2020

1. Teurukura Meteka & Sue Tangi Meteka
2. Punatau Mataio & Tuatai Mataio
3. Nikau Mii & Mabel Mii
4. Remi Tumu & Mamamere Tumu
5. Tome Nikau & Metuakore Nikau
6. Vuya Peau & Taineroa Peau
7. Talaru Kiliuyi & Louise Kiliuyi
8. Travel Makara & Hinatea Makara
9. Maurice Hoie & Tracy Makara Hoie
10. Teava Nana & Teeiau Nanai



Takamoa is always going to be the place that we call home. For some it was more than a home, it was a sanctuary, it was a place where we made new families, it was a place where we had grown to know the attributes of God and it was also a place where we found to be put to the bottom of the pit so that we could learn a lesson or two. One thing that we can say that we learnt through this experience is that our God puts us in situations that He knows that we can handle. There is nothing too big that He will not be there to help us through, so we were encouraged to humble ourselves and be the best that we could possibly be.

We as the class of 2017-2020 would like to thank all the lecturers through the years that we come through, for your wisdom, and your support of us all to get us through to both our graduation and ordination. Our parents, Papa Principal and Mama Principal, for all the help you gave us and putting up with all of the things that we disagreed on. You have truly taught us to be patient and live on. Papa President, for all the advice and being a great mentor. The six churches here on the Island of Rarotonga for all the support and love you have shown us through the kai pupu and much more. We can truly say that it helped us and our families get by each month. Lastly, to our Father in heaven who chose us, framed us and made us to be what we are today. So to all who are reading, we thank you for taking this time to share our experience and we pray that God will bless each and every one of your hearts. Amen.





Write-up by Rev. Nikau and Mama Orometua Mii (left)
 Photos by Saungaki Rasmussen

TUATUA NO TE OROMETUA TEMERE POARU

(Profile for the Rev. Temere Poaru)

TONA TUPUANGA:

Kua anauia Temere Poaru i te ra 12 no Tepetema 1947, ki Tongareva

TONA TURANGA APII:

1. Tetautua Primary School – Pupu 1 – 5.
2. Ruamanu Primary School – Pupu 6
3. Tetautua Primary School – Pupu 6 – Pupu 7.
4. Takamoa Theological College – (1977 – 1980)

TANA NGAI ANGAANGA:

Aere mai aia ki Rarotonga nei:

1. Angaanga – Tavioni, Salote, Bodmer, Moana e Manuvai. Ko tana angaanga i runga i te pai, e kuki (Chief Cook)
2. Bakery – Atuatika, Glassie Strickland.

Oki atu aia ki Tongareva:

1. Aravei aia i tona tokorua, Mama Titera, Puaura, Kaiuru, Tearoa
2. Kua akaipoipo raua i te ra 27 no Aperira 1968 e kua anau mai ta raua au tamariki. Kua akameitaki katoa mai te Atua ia raua.
3. Akamata aia i te kimi ravenga nona rai, e tona ngutuare kia akamata aia i tetai oraanga ou nona. E meitaki katoa te moni o te poe, te parau e te kopara. Kua akatu i reira to raua toa. Kua akamata tana business e kua puapinga.

4. TONA KAPIKIANGAIA EI APIIANGA OROMETUA:

Teia te karere o te Orometua Ben Marsters i muri i tetai Uapou/Apare i te enua Tongareva. Kua tuera a Takamoa, tetai au mapu tei anoano i te aere ki Takamoa, no kotou teia kapikianga.

Kua tutuki teia tuatua ki roto i tona ngakau e kua aere atu aia i te aravei i te Orometua i te akaari i tona inangaro i te aere mai ki Takamoa nei. Kia aere mai aia i te aravei i te Orometua, teia te tuatua a te Orometua kiaia, neneva, auouo, oki ki te kainga. Katai, ka rua, e i te toru o te taime, kua kite te Orometua e, na te Atua teia kapikianga kiaia.

Kua tuku te manako ki te Ekalesia e kua ariki ratou ma te turu pakari i teia manako nei. Kua tomo mai aia i Takamoa nei i te Mataiti 1977 e kua noo aia i roto nei i te au Takamoa mei te mataiti 1977 e tae ua atu ki te tuatau i tae mai ei tona kapikianga mua no te tiaki Ekalesia. Teia te au Ekalesia, tana i tiaki mai ana:

1. Ekalesia Oiretumu i Mauke (Aere Apiianga) – (1980 – 1988).
2. Ekalesia Oneroa i Mangaia – (1988 – 1991).
3. Ekalesia EKKA i Porirua – (1991 – 1999).
4. Ekalesia Hararanga, South Auckland – (1999 – 2003).
5. Ekalesia Otahuhu – (2003 – 2007).
6. Otara Branch – (2007 – 2015).
7. Ekalesia CICC in NZ, Porirua – (2015 – 2020).
8. I roto i te Uipaanga Maata tei raveia ki te enua Atiu i akatinamouia ei e kia aere raua ei tiaki no te Ekalesia Tetautua, te ngai i kapiki mua ei te Atua iaia ei tavini nona. No te tu apikepika ra, o te kopapa, iaia e tona tokorua, kua pati mai kia akangaroi raua. Kua tupu te tuatua a to tatou Atua e, kua tika i te Vaerua, paruka ra te kopapa.

I roto i te au teretereanga o te Orometua ki roto i te au Ekalesia, e rua Ekalesia kare i ariki mai ana iaia.



1. Ekalesia Oneroa

Tei Oiretumu rai aia e teateamamao ra no te aere ki Mangaia, tae mai te telegram mei roto mai i te Ekalesia Oneroa kiaia, *“Auraka koe e aere mai, kare matou e inangaro iakoe”* Akaoki atu aia i telegram ma te akakite e: *“Te aere atu nei au...kia mate au, mate uatu”* Penei kua tae te tuatua kia Numangatini, no te mea, kia tae atu te Orometua ki Mangaia, kua tae katoa Numangatini i te airport i te tiki iaia. Teia te reo o Numangatini: *“Oro mai e taku tama-ua, Oro mai, teia au, Naku koe e akono, oro mai, oro mai e taku tama-ua. Ko Numangatini, e Nga Ono o Mangaia teia”*

Iaia i Mangaia, e imene tetai i Atua no te Orometua. Teia te akaupokoanga o taua imene ra: *lakoe nei e Temere Poaru, i topai te reo o Numangatini Ariki, e tama ua oki koe na te Aronga Mana.*

2. Ekalesia EKKA i Porirua

Tae ratou ki Porirua, i te ora 9, i te popongi, kare e tangata i aere mai i te tiki ia ratou. Noo ratou i te airport mei te Ora 9 mai ki te Ora 8 i te aiai, i tae mai ei te Tekeretere o te Ekalesia i te tiki ia ratou. Ko te tumu i pera ei, kare oki te Ekalesia e inangaro iaia ei Orometua no ratou.

5. Tetai taoanga Arataki tana i mou mai ana:

I te Mataiti 1993, kua iki'ia aia ei Tama Akatereau (Chairman) no te Konitara Maata CICC Aotearoa, e kua mou aia i te reira taoanga e tae ua mai ki te Mataiti 2019, i akangaroi ei aia mei runga mai i te reira taoanga no te tamanakoanga oki ra, ka neke raua ki Tetautua tiaki Ekalesia ei. E 26 Mataiti iaia i runga i teia taoanga nei.

6. Akangateiteianga no te Orometua Akangaroi:

Kua orongaia tona Pepa no te Akangaroianga (Certificate of Retirement). I roto katoa i teia ra, kua tamanakoia e kua turua e te Kumiti Tinamou kia orongaia tetai Pepa Akangateiteianga no te Orometua Akangaroi, no tona tavinianga i tona Atua i roto i te au Ekalesia tana i tavini mai ana i tona Atua. Kua akameitaki katoa te Atua ia raua ko tona tokorua e kua rakei mai ia raua i ta raua au tamariki:

- E 8 a raua tamariki, e 6 na raua rai, e 2 a raua nga tamariki angai.
- E 43 a raua Mokopuna.
- E 33 a raua Ina.

I teia ra nei, e 73 mataiti o te Orometua Akangaroi Temere Poaru.

I roto katoa i teia atiangā nei, te na roto atu nei iaku i te oronga atu i te akangateiteianga a te Kumiti Tinamou, Te Orometua Ngateitei, Tekeretere Maata, te au Mema o ta tatou Kumiti Tinamou, Kapiti katoa ki ta tatou Apii Takamoa Theological College i te akakite atu ki te katoatoa e, te orongaia nei te Pepa Ngateitei koia oki: Honorary Doctorate of Ministry ki te Orometua Akangaroi Temere Poaru.

Te rauka katoa nei iaku teia ngateitei maata i te pati atu i te Puupii Maata kia riro e nana e akarakei i te Orometua i tona rakei (hood) e i muri ake i te reira ka pati katoa atu au i to tatou Orometua Ngateitei, kia riro e nana e akapare iaia, e pera katoa i te oronga anga i tona Pepa Ngateitei.

E toru kara (colour) o te lining o tona hood: Blue – Ministry (on the outside), Red – Biblical studies (on the inside), Gold – Theology (around the neck)

Ko teia au colour katoatoa nei, tei runga ia i te logo o te Apii. Tena ia tei mua i to kotou aroaro Rev. Dr. Temere Poaru. CONGRATULATIONS.



Tataia/orongaia te karere ki te katoatoa e Rev. Vaka Ngaro. Na Saungaki Rasmussen nga tutu i nenei.

4. TERETERE APII SABATI



ua raveia te Teretere Apii Sabati openga no teia mataiti 2020 i Rarotonga nei i te Sabati 15 Noema. Kua tere mai to Nikao ki Matavera tei apaiia mai e te Orometua Oirua Rasmussen, e kua tere atu to Matavera ki Titikaveka tei apaiia atu e te Orometua Panu Rouru.

Na te Nikao i akamata i te tatau i roto i te Are Pure, e kua akamouia te vaerua o ta ratou tuanga ki runga i te tuatua o te *Lamepa*: te puapinga o ta te Atua tiakianga ia tatou i te oraanga nei, e kia kaka tana lamepa ki roto i te ngakau tangata i te au atianga ravarai. Kia oti ta Nikao, kua aere mai te Matavera e kua akanoo i ta ratou tuanga ki runga i te *Irinaki ki te Atua* ma te kokoti i te au akameitakianga mei ko mai iaia, *Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and enjoy his blessings.* Manea te angaanga a nga Apii Sabati i te raveanga mai, mou te tatau a te tamariki – te maataanga – e te maruarua i ta ratou au imene, kia akameitakiia te Atua. Kare tatou e ekoko i te akara tamou atu anga ki te au ra ki mua ma te irinaki e ka riro mai tetai o teia au tamariki ei au arataki meitaki no te Evangelia, no te basileia Kuki Airani e no to tatou iti tangata i te au ngai katoatoa i te ao nei tei nooia e ratou.



Apii Sabati Nikao

Kia oti te tuanga a nga Apii Sabati, kua rave mai te Orometua Oirua i tana irava no roto i te Tia o te reira ra, koia te irava 1 o te Salamo 120 ko tei na ko mai e, *“I toku tumatetenga ra, kua kapiki atura au ia lehova, e kua tuatua maira aia kiaku.”* Mei roto mai i te Good News Bible, *“When I was in trouble, I called to the Lord, and he answered me.”* Kua tatara e kua oronga mai aia i te au mea puapinga i roto i te irava, ma te akapiri atu ki te vaerua i roto i te tatau a nga Apii Sabati, ko te ka riro i te tauturu i to tatou to te tangata nei au aareanga i te oraanga nei e pera ta tatou e umuumu nei no to tatou oraanga vaerua.

Kia oti te tuanga i roto i te Are Pure, kua taki aere atu te katoatoa ki tai ia Gibeona, te Are Apii Sabati o te Ekalesia Matavera, no te arikiakianga a te Tapere Rotopu i te tere mei Nikao mai e pera te katoatoa tei tae mai ki te pure. Maruarua te au mea katoatoa tei raveia ki reira. Kia oti te kaikai, kua akaeiia te anau mei Nikao mai, veevee aroa, e kua leva atu ki te wale, job well done, all good.



Apii Sabati Matavera

ORONGA'ANGA RE A TE APII SABATI MATAVERA

Mei tei matauia i nga mataiti i topa, kia oki atu te tere Apii Sabati mei Nikao mai e kia tae mai te tere Apii Sabati o Matavera mei Titikaveka mai, kua raveia te oronga'anga re (prize giving) a te anau Apii Sabati o Matavera ki roto rai ia Gibeona. Kua akatereia mai te reira e nga Puapii Sabati, koia a Renall Vogel (Principal), Teokotai Ngamata, Dorothy Ivaiti, Vaipae Teko, Mii Pukeiti e Mariana Mataio. Kua kitea te maroiroi o te au tamariki tei tae putuputu mai ki te Apii Sabati i te au Sabati o te marama na roto i te akairo tei orongaia kia ratou. Kua oronga ake, oronga ake, te reira Puapii Sabati i te reo akameitaki ki te tamariki i roto i te au pupu tatakita no to ratou tu maroiroi e te au akairo tei rauka, e pera te reo akameitaki tei oronga ia atu ki te au metua tei maroiroi i te tuku mai i ta ratou tamariki ki te apii i te au Sabati. Tau mari ei te irava tei na ko mai e, *te tamaiti kite ra, e rekareka'anga ia na tona metua tane....* Ko te tuanga openga rai teia no te Apii Sabati no teia mataiti 2020, tapapa atu ei no te akamata akaouanga i te Apii Sabati o te 2021 i te Oroa o Peperuare.



Tataia/neneia e Nga Mataio

5. FROM THE PRINCIPAL'S DESK

Kia Orana tatou katoatoa i te aroa maata o te Atua. The beginning of the year looked very promising but it would become very busy as the Apiianga worked very hard to complete their studies. There have been some major highlights during year, despite the covid-19 situation, that I would like to describe in this report. We allowed minimal interruptions to the studies which, at times, limited our numbers in attending meetings, however we were focused on ensuring that all the students would complete their studies. As I write this, I am thankful for all the support systems that are in place which ensured that Takamoia would successfully achieve two Graduations followed by two Ordinations in the same year as well as process the new intake for 2021. The approval of the Accreditation was a highlight in August which saw the completion of three years of hard work that required specialised input and writing of a Quality Management System (QMS) as well as reviewing of a curriculum that met and complied with the accreditation system.

1: GRADUATION, FEBRUARY 2020

The graduation was just like one you would attend overseas and saw the Lecturers in their gowns, hoods, bonnets and caps. The opening song which lead the procession into the hall, was taken from Psalms 23 and conveyed the idea of our Great Shepherd leading and guiding us in the ministry. The song was sung by Shekinah Marsters and Teuira William, with Unuia Unuia on the keyboards. Mr Ken Ben was the Master of Ceremony, Rev Vakaroto Ngaro led the Devotion and opening prayer. Orometua Ngateitei Rev Tuaine Ngametua OBE, officiated the welcome followed by Mr Tangata Vainerere sharing the opening address. This address reiterated the vision and mission statement of the College and addressed the ongoing theme, "The Next Level" and the importance of the Accreditation. The Keynote Speaker for the night was Dr Teina Rongo

who encouraged and inspired the graduating students. Many thanks to the sponsors of Trophies and the Bounty Book Shop for gifts for the Students.

Many thanks to Mrs Marianna Mataio for the beautiful flower arrangements and to the remaining Apianga 2017-2020, for assisting with the preparations and serving. The night was attended by more than 500 people including many dignitaries from the Traditional and Government sector as well as Leaders of other denominations. Families from the Outer Islands, Australia and New Zealand also attended the event.

TAKAMOA THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE CLASS OF 2016–2020



Back Row: Tokerau Teokotai, Sorimata Sorimata, Joe Tinirau, Pareta Ezekiela, Sinaloa Teaurere, Saitu Saitu, Ngariki Mare, James Apolo, Tanire Pokipoki
Middle Row: Henry Marsters, Mita Tini, Jesame Teokotai, Meretania Sorimata, Repeta Tinirau, Lagi Teaurere, Mami Mare, Tuatai Pokipoki, Campbell Ngatokoa
Front Row: Torea Marsters, Martha Tini, Kakara Ngatokoa, Principal Rev Tere Marsters, Mama Principal Yvonne Marsters, Makirau Saitu, Tara Apolo, Upokoina Ezekiela

Certificate and Diploma Awards

All the 24 students of 2016-2020 achieved 120 credits and graduated with a Certificate in Biblical Studies. Of the 24 students, 3 achieved an additional 120 credits and graduated with a Diploma in Ministry and another 16 students achieved an additional 120 credits and graduated with a Diploma in Theology.

Certificate in Biblical Studies (Level 4) 120 credits

Diploma in Ministry (Level 6) 240 credits

Diploma in Theology (Level 6) 240 credits

NAME	CHURCH	AWARD
1: Saitu Saitu	Sydney CICC, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology
2: Makirau Saitu	Sydney CICC, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology
3: Sinaloa Teaurere	Sydney CICC, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology
4: Lagi Teaurere	Sydney CICC, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology
5: Ngariki Mare	Auckland City, NZ	Certificate/Diploma Theology
6: Mami Mare	Auckland City, NZ	Certificate/Diploma in Ministry
7: Joe Tinirau	Otahuhu, NZ	Certificate/Diploma Theology
8: Repeta Tinirau	Otahuhu, NZ	Certificate/Diploma Theology
9: Mita Tini	Nikao, Cook Islands	Certificate in Biblical Studies
10: Martha Tini	Nikao, Cook Islands	Certificate in Biblical Studies
11: Tanire Pokipoki	Gold Coast, Aus	Certificate/Diploma in Ministry
12: Tuatai Pokipoki	Gold Coast, Aus	Certificate in Biblical Studies
13: Pareta Ezekiela	Frankston, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology

14: Upokoina Ezekiel	Frankston, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology
15: James Apolo	Frankston, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology
16: Tara Apolo	Frankston, Aus	Certificate/Diploma Theology
17: Henry Marsters	High Brooke, NZ	Certificate/Diploma Theology
18: Torea Marsters	High Brooke, NZ	Certificate/Diploma in Ministry
19: Tokerau Teokotai	Southmall, NZ	Certificate/Diploma Theology
20: Jesame Teokotai	Southmall, NZ	Certificate/Diploma Theology
21: Sorimata Sorimata	Balaclava, Australia	Certificate/Diploma Theology
22: Meretania Sorimata	Balaclava, Australia	Certificate/Diploma Theology
23: Campbell Ngatoko	Vaipae, Cook Islands	Certificate/Diploma Theology
24: Kakara Ngatoko	Vaipae, Cook Islands	Certificate in Biblical Studies

The Special Awards were presented to the following students 2016-2020:

Languages Award	Makirau Saitu
Church History Award	Tokerau Teokotai
Health and Wellbeing Award	Male – Campbell Ngatoko, Female – Tara Apolo
Old Testament Studies Award	Campbell Ngatoko, Saitu Saitu and Makirau Saitu
New Testament Studies Award	Campbell Ngatoko, Saitu Saitu and Makirau Saitu
Principal’s Homiletics Award	Campbell Ngatoko
Principal’s Pastoral Theology Award	Saitu Saitu
Theology Award	Makirau Saitu
Takamoa Theological College Dux	Makirau Saitu

2: GRADUATION, OCTOBER 2020

The graduation began with the MC, Mr Ken introducing the program. The music was taken from Psalms 23, The Lord is My Shepherd and the music team singers were Mama Orometua Kakara Ngatoko, and Memory Vainerere. Mr Unuia Unuia provided back up on the keyboards. The Executive Council lead the procession into the hall, followed by the Academic Advisory Committee, Faculty and Lecturers. Rev Takaikura Marsters officiated the opening prayer and devotion. The Official greetings were conducted by the President, Rev Tuaine Ngametua OBE, followed by an opening address by Mr Tangata Vainerere. The keynote speaker was the Honourable Mac Mokoroa, Minister of Education, who spoke about the government initiatives and the opportunity of the Ministry of Education and Takamoa working in a more proactive relationship.

TAKAMOA THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE CLASS OF 2017 – 2020



Back Row: Talaru Kiliuyi, Travel Makara, Nikau Mii, Maurice Hioe, Vuya Peau, Tome Nikau, Remi Tumu, Punatau Mataio,

Middle Row: Louise Kiliuyi, Hinatea Makara, Mabel Mii, Tracy Hioe, Taieneroa Peau, Metuakore Nikau, Mamamere Tumu, Tuatai Mataio

Front Row: Teurukura Meteka (Student Leader), Tangi Meteka, Principal Rev Tere Marsters, Mama Principal Yvonne Marsters, Teava Nanai (Assistant Student Leader), Teeiau Nanai

Certificates and Diplomas Award

All the 20 students of 2017-2020 achieved 120 credits and graduated with a Certificate in Biblical Studies. Of the 20 students, 15 students achieved an additional 120 credits and graduated with a Diploma in Theology.

Certificate in Biblical Studies (Level 4) 120 credits

Diploma in Theology (Level 6) 240 credits

NAME	CHURCH	AWARD
Teurukura Meteka	Maungarei, NZ	Certificate/Diploma
Tangi Meteka	Maungarei, NZ	Certificate/Diploma
Teava Nanai	Dandenong, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Teeiau Nanai	Dandenong, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Punatau Mataiao	Rakahanga, Cook Islands	Certificate
Tuatai Mataiao	Rakahanga, Cook Islands	Certificate
Nikau Mii	Mangere, NZ	Certificate/Diploma
Mabel Mii	Mangere, NZ	Certificate
Remi Tumu	Dandenong, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Mamamere Tumu	Dandenong, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Tome Nikau	Otahuhu, NZ	Certificate/Diploma
Metuakore Nikau	Otahuhu, NZ	Certificate/Diploma
Vuya Peau	Mt Sheridan, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Taieneroa Peau	Mt Sheridan, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Talaru Kiliuyi	Pukapuka, Cook Islands	Certificate
Louise Kiliuyi	Pukapuka, Cook Islands	Certificate
Travel Makara	Hampton Park, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Hinatea Makara	Hampton Park, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Maurice Hioe	Clayton, Aus	Certificate/Diploma
Tracy Hioe	Clayton, Aus	Certificate/Diploma

The Special Awards were presented to the following students 2017-2020:

Languages Award	Remi Tumu
Church History Award	Teava Nanai and Remi Tumu
Health and Wellbeing Award	Male – Travel Makara, Female – Tangi Meteka
Homiletics Award	Teava Nanai
Old Testament Studies Award	Teeiau Nanai
New Testament Studies Award	Travel Makara
Homiletics Award	Teava Nanai
Pastoral Theology Award	Travel Makara
Soteriology Award	Maurice Hioe
Theology Award	Teava Nanai
Youth Ministry Award	Travel Makara
Takamoa Theological College Dux	
2 nd Runner Up	Remi Tumu
1 st Runner Up	Teava Nanai
1 st Place	Travel Makara

3: ACCREDITATION WITH SPATS

Since 2017 it has been a priority to review and prepare Takamoa to pursue accreditation with the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS). The application for accreditation is for the Institution and the Academic Programs. This has been a 3-year process that covered many areas to ensure Takamoa would be aligned and comply with the accreditation process. Theological and Biblical Educational systems were thoroughly looked at within the Pacific region and abroad. Universities and other Theological Colleges and Schools were studied to get a broader overview of the curriculum and academic programs. Due to the influences of the New Zealand and the Australian Government within the Pacific, as well as the Educational systems by



both these countries such as the NZQA and AQF, there was a need to understand the nature and process of both of these two educational systems.

This year has seen two applications submitted to the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS) and Takamoa received a second visit by the SPATS Commission on 15th February for five days. On the 15th February two SPATS Commissioners (Rev Dr Mosese Mailo, Chairman of SPATS Commission, and Rev Rusiate Tuidrakulu, Secretary of SPATS Commission) arrived and completed their inspection, interviews and meetings in relation to the Takamoa Accreditation. In August we received a letter of confirmation that SPATS had approved our two Applications. There were recommendations and we are currently working on these matters due to a revisit by the SPATS Commission in 2023.

1: Accreditation of Institution

This confirmed that Takamoa Theological College is an Accredited Institution.

2: Accreditation of Academic Programs

This confirmed the accreditation of the following three Academic Programs:

Certificate in Biblical Studies (Level 4),
Certificate in Youth Ministry (level 4),
Diploma in Theology (Level 6),

The Degree Program, Bachelor of Theology has already been submitted for consideration. Following the visit in February, there needed to be some slight adjustments to align to the recommendations of the Commission to ensure the continued compliance to the guidelines and principles of the Pacific Qualification Framework (PQF) in the context of Theological education in the South Pacific.

Credit Value

“The PQF is a credit-based framework. The volume of learning of complete qualifications and their components is defined in terms of credits where a credit represents the notional time it takes an average learner to achieve the learning outcomes of a component of a qualification. Notional hours include time in direct contact (as in lectures and tutorials), practical and field work, time in independent study and time spent doing assessments. One credit is equivalent to ten notional hours of learning at the appropriate level. A year of full-time study is, therefore, notionally equivalent to 120 credits. The total credit volume of a qualification is the sum of the credits of its components which may be units, modules, courses, papers, or competencies expressed as whole numbers.

Credit Points

Credit points are used to quantify complete qualifications and components of qualifications and to give them a value. The numerical value (number of credits) assigned to a full qualification (as well as to its components) represents the estimated time needed for a typical learner to demonstrate that all the specified outcomes have been achieved.

Levels

There are ten levels within the PQF that are described in terms of their level of complexity of learning. Generic descriptors are used across three domains: knowledge and skills, application, and autonomy.

- Enable comparison of qualifications and components of qualifications regardless of length or duration of the designed program.
- Are open-ended at the top and bottom levels, enabling all learning to be recognized.
- Do not discriminate between qualifications derived from different sectors.”

(SPATS, Accreditation Standards Guideline (2016), sec 2, 2.1, 2.2, p18)

4: LIBRARY PROGRESS

The Library has developed over the year with a lot of progress in setting up the cataloguing system and installing computers, fans and lights

Completed

The Library Books have all been updated and numbered in the Dewey Decimal System

The Books have all been catalogued and placed within their proper location.

All books are entered in the Takamoia data system.

The Cook Island News has been integrated in the system and daily copies are available to students.

New Fans and lighting installed

Incomplete

Free access to Internet for the College is being negotiated in 2021 with Government

The extension to the Library has not started.

5: NEW APIIANGA INTAKE FOR 2021

NAME	EKALESIA	COUNTRY
1: Mr Caleb & Memory Maea	Vaipae, Aitutaki	Cook Islands
2: Mr & Mrs James & Veronica Jessie	Maungarei	New Zealand
3: Mr & Mrs Ngatokorima & Sakamiri Joe	Otahuhu	New Zealand
4: Mr & Mrs Ngatokotoru & Miimetua Rouru	Mitiaro	Cook Islands
5: Mr & Mrs Kaivai & Rebecca Meremere	Townsville	Australia
6: Mr & Mrs Saungaki & Frances Rasmussen	Nikao, Rarotonga	Cook Islands
7: Mr & Mrs Ngatikanga & Maraë Tangaina	Avarua Rarotonga	Cook Islands
8: Mr & Mrs Kitekore & Temauri Koiatu	Balacava	Australia
9: Mr & Mrs Napokoaki & Parekura Taia	Balacava	Australia
10: Mr & Mrs Moutira & Kuraiteaea Tereora	Mt Sheridan	Australia
11: Mr & Mrs Rio & Kura Teika	Avarua, Rarotonga	Cook Islands
12: Mr & Mrs Alex & Maria Tiatoa	Hastings	New Zealand

Apiianga will be arriving during the month of December due to the uncertainty of travel restrictions. Classes will commence on the 18th January 2021.

THANKS AND APRECIATION

I would like to take time to congratulate all the graduate students of 2020 and trust God will continue to open doors and guide you as new Ministers. To all the Executive Council, Academic Advisory Committee, Rarotonga Konitara Ekalesia, all the supporting Churches and members of our Cook Islands Christian Church, thank you so much for all your prayers, gifts and support throughout this year.

Thank you to all the Lectures who committed their time to teach this year to ensure the Apiianga graduated and to be part of the ongoing theme "The Next Level". Please remember Takamoia in your prayers as we will remember you in our prayers.

- **Kia akameitaki mai a lehova ia koe, e kia tiaki mai ia koe**
The Lord Bless you and keep you
 - **Kia akakaka mai a lehova i tona mata ki runga ia koe, e kia aroa mai ia koe**
The Lord make His face to shine upon you and be gracious to you
 - **Kia nana mai a lehova i tona mata ki runga ia koe, e kia oronga mai i te au ia koe**
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you and give you peace
- Numbers 6:24-26**

Keep Healthy and Safe, A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. Ko te Atua te Aroa.



Rev Tere Marsters, Principal – Puapii Maata

6. UIPAANGA MAATA E TE 200 MATAITI, OKOTOPA 2021

I te oti anga o te uipaanga maata i Atiu i roto ia Okotopa o te mataiti i topa 2019, i akamata'i te akateateamamao no te uipaanga maata o teia mataiti ki mua 2021, te mea maata ta tatou i tapapa ana no tetai tuatau roa. Kia oki mai te aronga angaanga o te opati ki Takamoa nei i muri ake i te uipaanga maata, kua akamata te angaanga ki runga i te pepa tei tuatuaia e, *Background Information to the Bicentennial Assembly 2021*, tei roto oki i teia pepa te au mea katoatoa ta tetai uatu tei anoano kia tae ki teia nga akakoroanga, i te kite. Tei runga te reira pepa i te website a ta tatou akonoanga (www.cicc.net.ck), ka rauka i te tuku akaou atu ki tetai uatu kare i kite ana, tena katoa te cover page i te tua katau.



Cover page of CICC Bicentennial Assembly 2021 Background Information Paper

I roto i te marama Peperuare o teia mataiti 2020, kua tae atu au maua ko Tangata Vainerere (Director of the Bicentennial Celebrations Unit) ki Aitutaki no te uriuri manako e te akatinamou i tetai au akanoonoanga no te uipaanga maata; kua mataia mai ki roto i te reira uipaanga a te Aitutaki Konitara Ekalesia, te Kavamani (1 Member of Parliament, Mayor & Island Secretary), taokotaianga o te au akonoanga tuketuke (RAC), e pera tetai o te aronga mana. Kia oti te reira uriurianga manako, kua apai mai maua i te au manako e kua tuku atu ki te kumiti akaaere. Kia oti tana akaraanga ma te turu i te au tamanakoanga, kua akaotia ireira te pepa e taikuia ra i runga nei, e kua tukuia ki te katotoa i te openga o Peperuare. I te tuatau i tukuia'i te reira pepa ki te katoatoa, kare e tuatua no te maki korona vaireti ta tatou e kite nei tei koropiniia teiane ai o teia ra e tei riro i te apai mai i tetai au akatukeanga e manganui ki ta tatou i matau i te rave i mua ana i roto i te oraanga nei.

I te taeanga mai teia maki, kare tatou i marama eaa ra tona roa e ngaro ke atu ei; e na reira ana oki tetai au maki me tae mai, e tuatau kua ngaro atu, e tuatau kua tapae akaou mai na te ngutuare nei, mei te Dengue rai. Kua irinaki tetai pae ia tatou e ka kore uatu aia ma te kore e tamanamanata mai i ta tatou au angaanga e to tatou au akakoronga tei paraniia – mei te uipaanga maata e te 200 mataiti. Kia aaere mai ra tatou na roto i te roa'anga o teia mataiti, kare takiri e tuatua no teia maki e te aere atura ki tona aerenga. Te kite nei tatou e iti mai i tetai au enua, maata atu i tetai au enua, iti mai e oti maata akaou atu, kare akaraanga e, e tuatau tona kua akakotingaia. Ka tano paa ireira tatou i te tuatua e, *ko teia maki tei iaia rai te tuatua e te tika iaia, kare ia tatou te tangata nei.*

Te kite katoa nei tatou i runga i te nuti e kua rauka mai te vairakau (vaccine) tei angaanga tetai au basileia ki runga i te katoanga o teia mataiti no te kimiti ravenga i te takore me kore akaiti mai i te kino ta teia maki e akatupu nei. E maata oki te au enua tei o atu ki roto i te au kimikimianga ravenga no tetai vairakau, ko Aussie oki tetai i to tatou pa moana Pacifica nei; ko Marike, Tinito, Tiapani, Varani, Tiamani, Italia, Paratane, e te vai atura. Irinaki au e te akarakara matatio nei tatou i te turanga o te au angaanga kimi ravenga no te vairakau e raveia nei i teia ra, ia tatou e akara atu nei ki teia matatiti ki mua ma te ekoko e te uiui e, me ka uipaanga maata rai me kare, me ka rave rai te akamaaraanga i te 200 mataiti o te Evangelia ki to tatou basileia me kare. Kare oki e tano e ka takore takiriia raua, i na e akakoroanga maata teia – te 200 mataiti tika'i – kare no tatou ua no te CICC, no te basileia katoatoa ra o te Kuki Airani nei.



Images from past CICC assemblies. L-R: 2005, 2009, 2011 (Source: Takamoa records)

E no reira i raro ake i te turanga ekoko no runga i teia maki e te tereanga o te vairakau e maaniia nei e te au basileia i teia ra, tupu mai ei te manako o te kumiti akaaere e, e ngari ake i te akamata i te akarakara i tetai **Plan B** me kare te **Plan A** e rauka kia akatupuia. Teia oki te aiteanga o teia nga Plans i raro nei:

- **PLAN A** Go ahead as planned (details in *Background Information Paper*) with no changes, subject to vaccine becoming readily available and therefore life returning to normal or almost normal
- **PLAN B** Consider options on hosting the bicentennial assembly if Plan A is not possible due to continued pandemic restrictions

I roto i te uipaanga a te kumiti akaaere i te Paraparau 26 Noema, kua iki te kumiti kia noo ua na ki runga i te Plan A, i muri ake i te mataiti akara akaou ei aia e me ka neke ki te Plan B me kare. Tei runga oki i te turanga o te vaccine me ka viviki i te tae ki runga i te makete me kare.



Images from past CICC assemblies. Top row 2013, Middle 2015, Bottom 2017 (Source: Takamoa records)

Eaa ireira te aiteanga o te karere i konei no to tatou akakoroanga o teia mataiti ki mua? Teia ia i raro nei:

- a. Ka pure e ka irinaki tatou e ka autu te Plan A, kia rauka nga akakoroanga e 2 i te raveia ma te kore e tamanamanataia.
- b. I roto i te marama Peperuare akatinamou ei te kumiti i te akanoonoanga o nga akakoroanga e rua e ka tuku iatu te karere ki te katoatoa. Tera oki te aiteanga, if Plan A is not on, there will be a Plan B with details on how it will look like.

Kotou i Nutireni e pera i Aussie, te marama atu nei matou i Rarotonga nei e ka inangaro viviki kotou kia papu te akanoonoanga kia rauka ia kotou i te maani/organise i to kotou aereanga mai/travel plans. Kare ra e rauka i te akapapu i teia atianga no te au tumuanga tena tei oraoraia atu i runga nei. No reira tapapa mai no te au karere akakiteanga/updates i muri ake i te mataiti.

N. Mataio, General Secretary

7. E AU REO AROA NO TE KIRITIMITI E TE MATAITI OU



ei tei matauia me tae mai ki teia tuatau o te mataiti i te au mataiti i topa, e tukuia ana tetai karere ki te katoatoa na runga i te imere me kua anoano tetai uatu i te tuku reo aroa no te Kiritimiti e te Mataiti Ou, ka rauka kia akaoia ki roto i teia tuanga o te nutileta. Kua tukuia te karere akamaaraara openga i te Paraparau 19 Noema; ko teia i raro nei ratou tei pau mai i te reira karere.

1. TAKAMOA HEAD OFFICE STAFF

Kia orana e te au tama-ua a te ui-ariki i te aroa maata o te atua. Teia te korero no tatou:

*E reo aue tei rongoa i runga i te maunga ko Arangirea
Kua nati ia te pito enua ki te kaa, kua mamaia ki te nu uri
Kua ninaia ki te ua tuitui Kua tu te marama kua tangi te konga
I te po tangotango kua taviri te pirita i nga rima kua takai i te
Kaingakai i orongo e kua rere l'E KO-KO*

Pange ki raro; Ko taku tamaiti akaperepere teia e akarongo kotou iaia.

E reo aroa teia mei roto atu i te aronga angaanga o to tatou Opati i Takamoa nei. Te au Tavini o te Atua e ta kotou au Ekalesia, te mapu e te anau tamariki Apii Sabati e te au metua pakari, e pera katoa te au kopu tangata tei tomo na roto i te tumatetenga i roto i teia mataiti, tei noo manuiiri ki roto i te au Ekalesia, kia akameitakiia te Atua, koia tei tiaki ia tatou mei te mua mataiti mai e tae mai i teia openga mataiti. Pera katoa, to tatou tomo mai anga na roto I te tuatau maki koroviti (COVID-19). Kare teia maki i tomo mai ki roto i to tatou basileia Kuki Airani. Kua apai mai ra aia i tetai turanga tuke i roto i ta tatou au akamorianga e pera katoa ta tatou au akateretere anga i roto i te Ekalesia. Ta tatou pure, kia kore roa teia maki e tomo mai ki roto i to tatou Ipukarea Kuki Airani e kia oronga mai te Atua te kite, te pakari e te maroiroi ki te au Taote e te au Neti.

No reira, kia riro teia tuatau Xmas e te Mataiti Ou ei tuatau mataora e te perepere kavana. Kia matakite katoa tatou i te au angaanga ta tatou ka rave, kia kore tatou e rokoia e te tumatetenga i teia tuatau orote. Kia riro ra teia tuatau ei tuatau akaepaepa anga no tatou i te ra i anau mai ei to tatou Atua ko Iesu Mesia ma te tapapa atu i te Mataiti ou (2021) kia oronga mai te Atua i te manuia ki roto i ta tatou au Ekalesia e kia riro teia tuatau ei tuatau mataora no tatou i te akatupu anga i tona anoano ki roto i to tatou ngakau tatakitaia kia kite tatou i tona aroa ua e te tana akameitaki anga. Te karanga nei a Paulo, Ephesia 6:10, “E tenana, e aku au taeake, kia maroiroi kotou i te Atua, e i te ririnui o tona mana; aao ia te rakei o te Atua.” Amene.



*Tekura Potoru
On behalf of CICC Head Office staff
Takamoa*

2. EKALEZIA NIKAO

Kia Orana e te au Ekalesia katoatoa i Tumutevarovaro nei, to te Pa Enua Tonga, to te Pa Enua Tokerau, to Nuti Reni, to Autireria e tei totoa atu ki nga pore o teianeia ao. Kotou katoatoa tei tu i te taoonga e tei kore, mei tei maata e tae ua atu ki tei iti, te au putuputuanga tuke ke, to kotou au arataki e te au mema, te au metua pakari, te au mapu, te au tamariki e to roto i te kopu i roto i ta tatou akonoanga CICC e pera tei noo manuiiri ki roto i te au Ekalesia/Oire/Enua, Kia Orana i te aroa maanaana o to tatou Atua, to tatou Akaora ko Iesu Mesia. Kia Orana katoa ki te Kumiti Akaaere o ta tatou akonoanga CICC, te Orometua



Ngateitei Rev. Tuaine Ngametua, toou akaperepere e te ngutuare tangata, te Tekeretere Maata Nga Mataiao, toou tokorua e te ngutuare tangata, te Mou Moni Maata, toou tokorua e toou ngutuare tangata, te Puapii Maata o te Apii Takamoa, toou tokorua e te ngutuare tangata e te katoatoa rava i runga i teia Kuniti, Kia Orana i te aroa maata o to tatou Atu ko Iesu Mesia.

Kia Orana katoa ki te au tavini Orometua katoatoa i roto i ta tatou akonoanga CICC, tei tu i te Ekalesia e tei kore, to kotou au tokorua e te ngutuare tangata katoatoa, Kia Orana i te aroa nuingangaere o to tatou Atu ko Iesu Mesia.

E reo aroa Kiritimiti e te Mataiti Ou teia mei roto atu i te Ekalesia Nikao, te Papa Orometua Rev. Oirua Rasmussen, Mama Orometua Marjorie Rasmussen e te ngutuare tangata katoatoa, te Papa Tauturu Orometua Vai Peua, Mama Tauturu Orometua Mereana Peua e te ngutuare tangata katoatoa, te au metua Elders e to ratou katoa, te Uipaanga Diakono e to ratou katoa, te au mema Ekalesia e to ratou katoa, tei tupu ou e tei tupu taito, te putuputuanga Vainetini, te au putuputuanga tuke ke i roto i te Ekalesia e to ratou au mema, te au mapu, te tau tamariki e to roto i te kopu e pera tei noo manui nei ki roto ia Nikao, te oronga atu nei kia kotou katoatoa e te iti tangata Kuki Airani e noo nei i te Kuki Airani nei, i Nuti Reni, i Autireria e pini ua ake te ao nei, i te reo aroa no teia Kiritimiti e te Mataiti Ou. Kia riro teia au tuatau nei ei au tuatau mataora e te manuia i roto i te aroa ua o to tatou Atu ko Iesu Mesia.

E aroa taka ke ki te au ngutuare e te au kopu tangata katoatoa tei tomo na roto i te tumatetenga i roto i teia mataiti 2020, kia vai mai rai te vaerua akapumaana o to tatou Atu ko Iesu Mesia ki rungao ia kotou katoatoa e nana katoa e oronga mai i te tauturu tau, te mataora e te manuia kia kotou katoatoa i teia au tuatau mataora o te Kiritimiti e te Mataiti Ou.



*Nooapii Tearea
Diakono/Ekalesia Nikao*

3. CICC EXECUTIVE COUNCIL

Its that time of the year again when we look back and take stock of what we have come through the year. Given the pandemic's adverse impacts on our everyday routines, it certainly has challenged the way we normally go about our lives. When we see or read about the devastating impact the pandemic had on so many families and communities the world over, we as Christians must have some sense of sorrowful feeling for them. Through our prayers we continue to plead with our Heavenly Father for his comforting spirit to be on each and everyone directly and indirectly affected. We remember those in the medical field that are forever trying to do their best and we uphold them in our daily prayers, not forgetting that many of them have sadly succumbed to the virus, perished in the line of duty doing their part for humanity. We will also not forget those who are left behind when their loved ones have passed on due to the pandemic as well as other causes. As the saying goes, *Now You See, Now You Don't*.

As we go through this festive season and celebrate the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and look forward to what we expect to be a year that is going to be much better than the one we are about to leave behind, we remember those who have been adversely impacted not only by the pandemic but also by all sorts of other challenges in life. We pray to God for his mercy and grace to be on all peoples of the world that they may continue to have faith in the Lord for his guidance and deliverance of us from the temptations and challenges of this life, keeping in mind that he has already prepared a better place for those who believe and put their trust in him.

Given the many challenges that we face today, nevertheless the 11-member management body of the CICC would like to extend to every reader of this paper – both CICC and non-CICC members wherever you may be living – its best wishes for Christmas and trust that 2021 will be a flourishing

year for everyone. Keep calm, keep safe and do the best we can, for night is coming when no one can do any work at all.



Executive Council Members, Takamoa

4. APII SABATI MATAVERA

Te nako nei tetai ngai i te reo imene tuki e imene ia ana i te tuatau o te Kiritimiti:

*Tiare manea oki koe
E puera i te itinga ra
Tona au umereia te ariki anau ou*

Ka ui i reira te uianga, Koai ra teia ariki anau ou? Teia tona pauanga, koia oki ko te tamaiti a te Atua ko Iesu tei riro i te apai mai i te karere o te au kia tatou. Kua riro tona anauanga i te oronga mai i tetai tuatau orote no tatou tei tapapa ma te irinaki e kia putuputu tatou ki te ngai okotai ma te imene akameitaki i tona taeanga mai ki te ao nei.

No reira e atiangā teia noku i te oronga atu i to matou reo aroa Kiritimiti e te Mataiti Ou kia kotou katoatoa tei rauka tetai tikaanga kia tatau i teia karere. Ko matou teia te anau Apii Sabati Matavera e tuatua atu nei e, Kia Orana e kia mataora i roto i te Atua ia kotou ka rave i ta kotou au peu no te akaepaepa anga e te akamaaraanga i te taeanga mai o to tatou akaora ki te ao nei. Noatu e kua pokia tatou e teia maki rikarika te Koviti-19 kare te reira i riro i te tamanamanata i ta matou apii, kua riro ra i te apii mai ia matou kia tauturu atu tetai i tetai i te akatupuanga i ta te pae paruru maki akamatakiteanga e te au angaanga te ka raveia kia kore teia maki e totoa, Kia akameitakiia ra te Atua no tona aroa tei vai marie ki runga ia tatou i roto i teia tuatau. No reira akamaroiroi i te pure ma te pati ki te Atua kia oronga ua mai aia i te mataora kia tatou katoatoa i roto i teia tuatau.

Akara tamou kia Iesu i roto i teia tuatau koia tei tu e tei kapiki mai e, aere mai kiaku nei ko tei roiroi e tei teiaa i te apainga, naku e akaanga i to kotou roiroi.

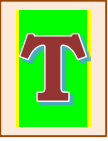


Marianna Mataio, Tekeretere

Matavera CICC Sunday School educational & social tour to NZ, Dec. 2010. Photo by N. Mataio



8. NUTI POTOPOTO



etai au nuti potopoto/tuatua akamaaraara ei kiteanga na te katoatoa:

➤ **Upcoming CICC Assemblies**

- 2021 Sunday 24 – Sunday 31 October, Aitutaki – to coincide with the CICC’s Bicentennial celebrations (Plan A). The CICC Executive will, before end March 2021, issue a Plan B in case Plan A cannot proceed if the current pandemic restrictions continue. Clarification in Cook Is Maori is given on pp.19-20 of this newsletter.
- 2023 Sunday 12 – Sunday 19 February, Auckland, New Zealand (proposed, to be confirmed)

➤ **Next 4-year Cycle of the CICC Ministers Rotation Programme**

- After the 2023 assembly

➤ **Next 4-year Cycle of the CICC Office Holders’ Renewal**

- Last agenda item at the 2021 bicentennial assembly in Aitutaki

➤ **Te Maeva Nui Constitution Celebrations**

- 2021 Friday 30th July – Saturday 7th August
(Source: Ministry of Cultural Development, Rarotonga)

➤ **Next CICC Newsletter**

- End March 2021, deadline for submission of articles: mid March



A portrayal of the birth of Jesus.

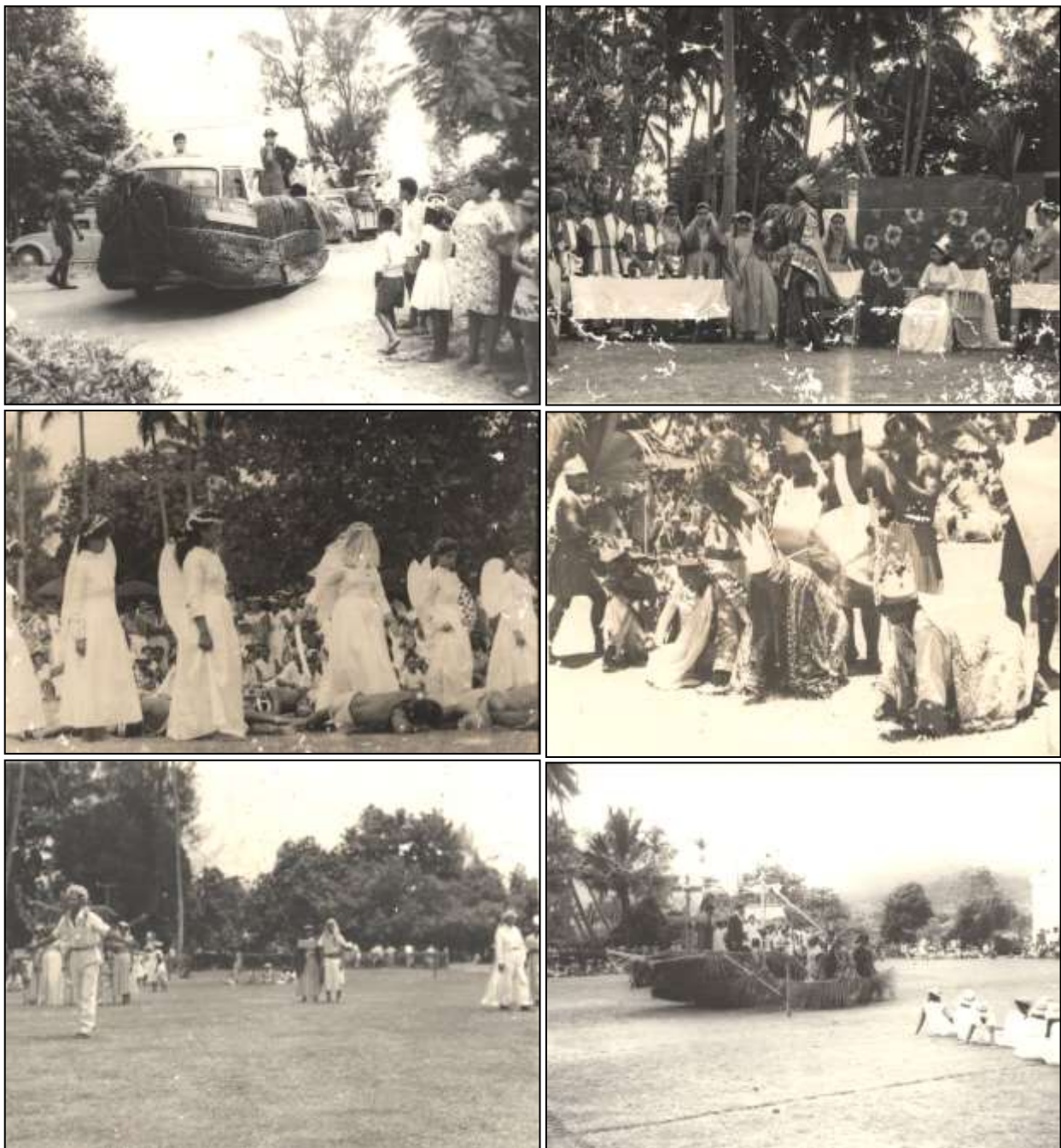
Source: 3D GIF Animation, Google Images

MEMORY LANE

I am indebted to the Head of the Ministry of Cultural Development (Anthony [Ants] Turua), Government of the Cook Islands, for kindly granting me permission to access and publish via this newsletter since 2018, Cook Islands memory-lane photos of yester-years from the Archive Division of his Ministry. Much appreciation also goes to Ms Paula Paniani, the Ministry's Archivist, for going through old records and collections to retrieve and make e-copies of the images. There is only one purpose here; to facilitate dissemination of the images to Cook Islanders (and interested non-Cook Islanders as well) scattered all over the Pacific and beyond, who will no doubt resonate with some of the images in this and future issues of the newsletter for a number of reasons: they might sight ancestors or can recognise some of the current events related to those of years gone by, and so on. This is the last lot of photos from Ms Paniani.

1. GOSPEL DAY (NUKU) IMAGES ON RAROTONGA FROM THE 1960s & 1970s

October 26 every year is public holiday to commemorate the arrival of Christianity to the Cook Islands (Aitutaki) on this day in 1821. The CICC parishes get together to showcase allocated Biblical dramas, known as Nuku. The Nuku photos below come from the Johnson Studio collection being kept at the National Archives for the enjoyment of future generations.



2. TIU TE MATANGI

A popular song in the Tapere of Avatiu/Ruatonga on Rarotonga. It is also regularly aired on Cook Islands Radio for the past 50-odd years, and frequently brought to life in many social gatherings of all sorts. The lyrics were part of the eulogy hand-out for the late Andrew Turua (refer CICC newsletter #77 p.26, issued March 2020).

The Words in Cook Is Maori

Tiu te matangi, te araranga nei
Te mareureu te ava i tai e

Kua angi-ata te maru ki te Rua o te Tonga

Tira'a ua i te aiai
Uri taua e na tai te enua
Uri taua ki uta i te o
Maunga kua tarai ia ki te ata o te po
Rua manga i te anakenake
Te vai nei

Te upoko teie te kapiki nei
To rima e taku nga Tapere
Tu'a anga o te mou te ruru okotai
Ei puka reka anga na taua
Te toru o te marama te atea
Te vairanga anga o te ra
Taoanga kua akara'i ia ki te ngateitei
Rangatira ki te anakenake te vai nei

Translation

The rustling of the wind "Tiu"

The setting of the sun reflected upon the passage

The shadow can be seen stretching to the village of Ruatonga

While enjoying the evening breeze

Look towards the coastland, Uritaua ki Tai

Look also towards the valley, Uritaua ki Uta

A hill standing as if carved during the night

Its name is Rua-manga and it stands alone

Continues to exist

A voice is heard from the head of the Tribe

Your offering of hand my two tapere

To embrace us as one

Let's talk and be proud of it

Three months away

The day has been set

A title to be ranked to its highest

There is this Rangatira title out there that needs

to be filled to represent and promote the

interests of the community.

Note: while views differ on the song's history and background, the following are commonly understood:

- *Tiutematangi* has a deep meaning; it is a name referring to both wind direction and an ancestor of Ngati Uritaua.
- The song is composed by the late Turepu Turepu, a well-known orator and composer who also formed the once-popular local cultural Taakoka Dance Troupe in the 1970's/80's. It was recorded by the Troupe and Apiti Nicholas of Avatiu.
- The spiritual richness contained in the lyrics is proudly treasured by the Ngati Uritaua tribe. It continues to be enjoyed by residents of the two settlements whenever and wherever they congregate for whatever purpose.
- The Rangatira mentioned at the end, although referring originally to an elected community-based representative, can also be looked upon as referring to any socially responsible senior-level title that the two settlements elect to represent their interests in the 3-tier pillars of the country, i.e. Aronga Mana, Government, and Church.

Comments on the background and history of the song were provided by Enuu Pakitoo, Teariki Purua, Doreen Boggs, Teariki Rongo and Vaine Turepu-Clarke. Re-typing for the purpose of this paper is by Nga Mataio.



A beautiful image of Avatiu Harbour and landscape, by Tokerau Jim Images of Rarotonga. From Google.

HEALTH-WISE

Two subject matters: benefits of pawpaw and fresh coconut juice.

8 EVIDENCE-BASED HEALTH BENEFITS OF PAPAYA (aka Pawpaw)

The papaya is an incredibly healthy tropical fruit. It's loaded with antioxidants that can reduce inflammation, fight disease and help keep you looking young. Here are 8 health benefits of papaya.

Google image



1. Delicious and Loaded With Nutrients

Papaya is the fruit of the *Carica papaya* plant. It originated in Central America and Southern Mexico but is now grown in many other parts of the world. Papaya contains an enzyme called papain, which can break down the tough protein chains found in muscle meat. Because of this, people have used papaya to tenderize meat for thousands of years. If the papaya is ripe, it can be eaten raw. However, unripe papaya should always be cooked before eating — especially during pregnancy, as the unripe fruit is high in latex, which can stimulate contractions. Papayas are shaped similar to pears and can be up to 20 inches (51 cm) long. The skin is green when unripe and orange when ripe, while the flesh is yellow, orange or red. The fruit also has many black seeds, which are edible but bitter. One small papaya (152 grams) contains:

- Calories: 59
- Carbohydrates: 15 grams
- Fiber: 3 grams
- Protein: 1 gram
- Vitamin C: 157% of the RDI
- Vitamin A: 33% of the RDI
- Folate (vitamin B9): 14% of the RDI
- Potassium: 11% of the RDI
- Trace amounts of calcium, magnesium and vitamins B1, B3, B5, E and K.

Papayas also contain healthy antioxidants known as carotenoids — particularly one type called lycopene. What's more, your body absorbs these beneficial antioxidants better from papayas than other fruits and vegetables.

SUMMARY The papaya is a tropical fruit high in vitamins C and A, as well as fiber and healthy plant compounds. It also contains an enzyme called papain, used to tenderize meat.

2. Has Powerful Antioxidant Effects

Free radicals are reactive molecules created during your body's metabolism. They can promote oxidative stress, which can lead to disease. Antioxidants, including the carotenoids found in papayas, can neutralize free radicals. Studies note that fermented papaya can reduce oxidative stress in older adults and people with prediabetes, mild hypothyroidism and liver disease.

Also, many researchers believe that excessive free radicals in the brain are an important factor in Alzheimer’s disease. In one study, people with Alzheimer’s given a fermented papaya extract for six months experienced a 40% drop in a biomarker which indicates oxidative damage to DNA — and is also linked to aging and cancer. The reduction in oxidative stress is attributed to papaya’s lycopene content and ability to remove excess iron, which is known to produce free radicals.

SUMMARY Papaya has powerful antioxidant effects, which may reduce oxidative stress and lower your risk of several diseases.

3. Has Anticancer Properties

Research suggests that the lycopene in papaya can reduce cancer risk. It may also be beneficial for people who are being treated for cancer. Papaya may work by reducing free radicals that contribute to cancer. Additionally, papaya may have some unique effects not shared by other fruits. Among 14 fruits and vegetables with known antioxidant properties, only papaya demonstrated anticancer activity in breast cancer cells. In a small study in older adults with inflammation and precancerous stomach conditions, a fermented papaya preparation reduced oxidative damage. However, more research is needed before recommendations can be made.

SUMMARY Early research suggests that the antioxidants in papaya may reduce cancer risk and perhaps even slow cancer progression.

4. May Improve Heart Health

Adding more papaya to your diet may boost your heart health. Studies show that fruits high in lycopene and vitamin C may help prevent heart disease. The antioxidants in papaya may protect your heart and enhance the protective effects of “good” HDL cholesterol. In one study, people who took a fermented papaya supplement for 14 weeks had less inflammation and a better ratio of “bad” LDL to “good” HDL than people given a placebo. An improved ratio is linked to a reduced risk of heart disease.

SUMMARY Papaya’s high vitamin C and lycopene content can improve heart health and may reduce your risk of heart disease.



Pawpaw images from Mataio family property.

5. May Fight Inflammation

Chronic inflammation is at the root of many diseases, and unhealthy foods and lifestyle choices can drive the inflammatory process. Studies show that antioxidant-rich fruits and vegetables like papaya help reduce inflammatory markers. For example, one study noted that men who increased their intake of fruits and vegetables high in carotenoids had a significant decrease in CRP, a particular inflammatory marker.

SUMMARY Chronic inflammation is at the root of many diseases. Papayas are very high in carotenoids that can reduce inflammation.

6. May Improve Digestion

The papain enzyme in papaya can make protein easier to digest. People in the tropics consider papaya to be a remedy for constipation and other symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome (IBS). In one study, people who took a papaya-based formula for 40 days had significant improvement in constipation and bloating. The seeds, leaves and roots have also been shown to treat ulcers in animals and humans.

SUMMARY Papaya has been shown to improve constipation and other symptoms of IBS. The seeds and other parts of the plant have also been used to treat ulcers.

7. Protects Against Skin Damage

In addition to keeping your body healthy, papaya can also help your skin look more toned and youthful. Excessive free radical activity is believed to be responsible for much of the wrinkling, sagging and other skin damage that occurs with age. The vitamin C and lycopene in papaya protect your skin and may help reduce these signs of aging. In one study, supplementing with lycopene for 10–12 weeks decreased skin redness after sun exposure, which is a sign of skin injury. In another, older women who consumed a mixture of lycopene, vitamin C and other antioxidants for 14 weeks had a visible and measurable reduction in depth of facial wrinkles.

SUMMARY The powerful antioxidants in papaya can help your skin recover from sun damage and may defend against wrinkling.



Pawpaw images from Mataio family property.

8. Delicious and Versatile

Papaya has a unique taste that many people love. However, ripeness is key. An unripe or overly ripe papaya can taste very different from a perfectly ripe one. When optimally ripe, papaya should be yellow to orange-red in color, although a few green spots are fine. Like an avocado, its skin should yield to gentle pressure. Its flavor is best when cold, so it's a good idea to keep it refrigerated whenever possible. After washing it well, you can cut it in half lengthwise, scoop out the seeds, and eat it out of the rind with a spoon, like cantaloupe or melon. As it's incredibly versatile, it can also be combined with other foods that complement its flavor. Here are a few easy recipe ideas using one small papaya:

- Breakfast: Cut it in half and fill each half with Greek yogurt, then top with a few blueberries and chopped nuts.
- Appetizer: Cut it into strips and wrap a slice of ham or prosciutto around each strip.
- Salsa: Chop papaya, tomatoes, onions and cilantro, then add lime juice and mix well.
- Smoothie: Combine the diced fruit with coconut milk and ice in a blender, then blend until smooth.
- Salad: Chop papaya and avocado into cubes, add diced cooked chicken and dress with olive oil and vinegar.
- Dessert: Combine the chopped fruit with 2 tablespoons (28 grams) of chia seeds, 1 cup (240 ml) of almond milk and 1/4 teaspoon of vanilla. Mix well and refrigerate before eating.



Orange and pink pawpaw for breakfast on the Mataio family dinner table.

SUMMARY *Papaya is a delicious fruit that is best enjoyed ripe. It can be eaten alone or easily combined with other foods.*

The Bottom Line

Papaya is rich in valuable nutrients and has a delicious taste. Its powerful antioxidants like lycopene may reduce your risk of many diseases — especially ones that tend to come with age, such as heart disease and cancer. It may also defend against the visible signs of aging, helping your skin remain smooth and youthful. Try adding this healthy and delicious fruit to your diet today.

(Source; Healthline, Google)

NU PAPUA

laku e meangiti ra (early 1960s), i kite mua ei au i teia tumu nu orange tona kara i te kainga o Papa Teina & Mama Mere Evaina i te tua ki taatai i te kainga Orometua o te Ekalesia CICC i Matavera. Tei rongu iatu i te reira tuatau, no Papua New Guinea mai te akari me kore uto i te ngai i apaiia mai ei, kare i papu naai i apai mai. Penei na toku Papa rai paa i apai mai i tetai uto mei te kainga o Evaina, tanu ei ki to matou kainga i te tua ki uta i te mataara maata vaiata atu ki te Are Pure Katorika i Matavera. I na kua tupu e kua kai matou i te kainga i teia katiri nu mei te reira tuatau e tae mai ki teia ra. Ko te tumu mua kua teitei, kua takere (old age) e kua tipuia ki raro. No te vene/sweet o teia katiri nu noatu tona rikiriki, kua akatupu e kua tanu uatu rai matou iaia, tamanako au e ko te 4th generation paa teia e tupu nei i teia ra. Ko te uto o te tumu i roto i te tutu i raro nei, kua tanuia i te momua o te mataiti 2016 e kua akamata matou i te kokoti mei te rotopu/middle o te mataiti i topa, 2019. Tera ireira te aiteanga, mei tetai 3½ mataiti i tona tanuia anga kua akamata matou i te kai iaia. E kia tau ki te oraanga me kore roa o te nu i te vai ua anga, ka kai uatu rai matou e ta matou anau, mokopuna, ina, iaia no tetai 50-tuma mataiti e tu mai nei. Mei te aa tika'i te size o te nu? Mei teia te tu, ka pangia rai te kaki vai e okotai nu; me koia'i te kaki vai, ireira taea atu ei te 2 o te nu ka inu. Mei ta te aronga akara etu i tuatua i te au mataiti i topa, *coconut juice – any variety of coconut – is the purest drink in the world, full of all sorts of natural goodies for one's health.* Eaa ireira te karere ki konei? Tanuia te nu – tetai uatu katiri meitaki tona ua – no te mea ko tetai rakau teia e kokotiia ana i te au atianga ravarai no tetai tuatau roa.



Write-up and photo by Nga Mataio; photo taken in December 2020 from Mataio family property.

HERE AND THERE

1. 'HE WAS SCREAMING.' 67-YEAR-OLD USES MARTIAL ARTS ON SENIOR HOME INTRUDER, CA COPS SAY

'He was screaming.' 67-year-old uses martial arts on senior home intruder, CA cops say. Lorenza Marrujo grabbed a baseball bat when she realized someone had broken into her home. Marrujo, 67, who studied jujitsu for over two decades, said Donald Robert Prestwood, 59, broke into her apartment at a complex for seniors in Fontana on Monday, according to The San Bernardino Sun. She said she warded him off with a baseball bat and he left.



Lorenza Marrujo

Police said Prestwood then assaulted 81-year-old Elizabeth McCray, Marrujo's neighbor and friend, the publication reported. Marrujo said she used her martial arts skills to take him down. "I had to bend his fingers back ... to get him off her. He was screaming because that's one of my techniques, the bent fingers. Then I went 'boom' with my elbow twice in his sternum," Marrujo said. "I didn't expect that little lady would be that brave," McCray said about Marrujo, according to CBS Los Angeles. "I said, 'Could you be careful, he's gonna kill us.' She said, 'Not tonight.'"

McCray was treated at the hospital and released a day later, according to the TV station. "We recommend that you dial 911 for emergency assistance, which, in this case, she did that, and she also jumped in," Jennie Venzor, spokesperson for the Fontana Police Department, said. "What she told me is that her training kicked in, and it was like a muscle memory. She knew she had to help her friend out."

Prestwood was arrested and faces charges of elder abuse, according to inmate records. He is being held on \$150,000 bail at West Valley Detention Center, records show.

Summer Lin, Miami Herald/ October 1, 2020

2. SINGLE FOSTER DAD ADOPTS FIVE SIBLINGS SO THEY WON'T BE SEPARATED

Robert Carter, a single father in Florida, grew up in foster care and did not want the siblings to be separated. A single Florida man became a father of five after officially adopting an entire family of siblings to prevent them from being separated by the foster care system last week. According to a local NBC affiliate, Friday, Robert Carter adopted siblings Marionna, Makayla, Robert, Giovanni, and Kiontae. When asked why he chose to take such a huge leap of faith, he explained that he personally knew how it felt to be removed from a biological home and ripped away from loved ones.



Carter –who is originally from Hamilton County, Ohio –went into the foster care system when he was 12 and as a result, spent years estranged from some of his younger siblings. Fortunately, when he got older he emancipated and ultimately granted custody of his younger sister and guardianship of his younger brother. "When permanent custody was awarded to JFS, the five siblings were already placed in three different foster homes," explained adoption worker Stacey Barton.

(Credit: Hamilton County JFS Adoption & Foster Care Recruitment)

“Mr. Carter was the only foster parent willing and able to adopt all of the children. His childhood background has made him aware of the importance of keeping siblings together. He says that he enjoys being their father and that parenting them is easier than he could have ever imagined! His life is busy, with a lot of love, laughter and loudness! I have enjoyed working with him and witnessing the children bond as siblings.”

“I understand how they feel,” said Carter who was fostering the three boys when he and the two girls’ individual foster moms all came together to reunite the children for the first time in six months. “I understand what they went through, so it really touched me. I was already thinking about adopting all of the kids but when I saw them crying, I was like, ‘Ok, I’m going to take all five to keep them together.’” He believed that taking care of his siblings along with his time mentoring and volunteering at South Avondale Elementary prepared him to adopt.

“Making memories to replace a lot of the bad ones.” Carter said. “Every night I talk to them and let them know, ‘I’m your dad forever. I know what it’s like and I’m always here for you.’ Like Marionna. She’s warmed up so much since the beginning. At first, she didn’t like me. She walked in my room last night and said, ‘I just want to say thanks for taking us in and taking care of us when our real mom couldn’t.’ It just really touched me. So just making memories, letting them know I’m here and they never have to go. I’m here for them no matter what.”

Blue Telusma, TheGrio, November 2, 2020

3. THE NUMBER 80

Note: this write-up about number is attributed to this issue #80 of the newsletter – editor.

Part of the meaning of the number 80 comes from the fact that it can represent the start or duration of freedom from oppressors. Moses was 80, and his older brother Aaron was 83, when they challenged Pharaoh to free the children of Israel from their bondage (Exodus 7:7). Moses, whom God blessed by not having his strength or eyesight diminish as he aged, lived to the age of 120 (Deuteronomy 34:7).

Ehud was a rare left-handed warrior in ancient Israel. He freed the people from eighteen years of Moabite oppression by killing their king and rallying the Israelites around his cause. After his victory, he was Israel's Judge for eighty years, the longest person to serve in the position (Judges 3:12 - 4:1).

Appearances of the number eighty

King Solomon, according to the Bible, used 80,000 (80 x 1000) aliens living in Israel to dig stones out of quarries that would be used to build God's temple in Jerusalem (1Kings 5:15, 2Chronicles 2:17 - 18).



Google images



Solomon states that a particular woman he loved was more precious than 60 queens, 80 concubines and an innumerable number of virgins (Song of Solomon 6:8).

A man named Ishmael, after he murdered Babylon's governor over Judah, killed eighty men who came to Jerusalem to mourn its destruction (Jeremiah 41:5).

Lifespans and the number 80

The only Psalm which credits Moses for writing it is Psalm 90 (see verse 1). In his prayerful hymn to God, he declares that humans live an average of 70 years. If, however, they are strong, they can live to be the ripe old age of 80.

For all our days pass away in Your wrath; we finish our years as with a sigh. The days of our years are threescore years and ten (70); and if by reason of strength they are fourscore years (80), yet their span is but trouble and sorrow . . . (Psalm 90:9 - 10).

Moses' statement that humans live seventy to eighty years, even though made more than 3,500 years ago, is surprisingly accurate today!

According to the CIA Factbook, the life expectancy in the world is almost 70 years (69.8). Men live an average of close to 68 years and women average living to 72. In the United States, a male can expect to live almost 78 years with females living to 82. The average for those in America is 80. The two countries in the world with the highest average life expectancy are Japan and Singapore. Their citizens can expect to live 5.5 more years than the U.S. average of 80!

Additional info on the Biblical Meaning of 80

King Uzziah of Judah, after winning several battles against his enemies, became a strong and respected leader who was well-known abroad (2Chronicles 26:1 - 15). He soon, however, became filled with vanity and pride. In an impulsive act, he attempted to offer incense at Jerusalem's temple, a ceremony only priests could perform.

Azariah the High Priest, along with eighty other priests, confront Uzziah in the temple over his intentions. The king, as he grew angry with the priests, was struck with leprosy (2Chronicles 26).

One of Jesus' many parables was of an unjust steward who was told he would be fired (Luke 16). Before leaving his position, he reduced the debt of several who owed his boss. One person had their debt lessened from 100 to 80 measures of wheat (Luke 16:7). The parable was given to underscore a Christian's responsibility to use, as wisely as possible, the resources he has been given (verses 10 - 13).

(Biblestudy.org/Google)

4. THE INDIAN DIVER WHO HAS SAVED MORE THAN 100 LIVES

For years, Shiva helped police find bodies in Hussain Sagar lake in the southern Indian city of Hyderabad. And then one day, he stopped someone before they jumped, saving a life for the first time. BBC Telugu's Balla Satish reports. Shiva, who uses only one name, says he was about 10 years old when he came across a group of policemen who were offering to pay anyone who would bring a body out of a nearby pond.

Police in India are underfunded and poorly trained. Many don't know how to swim and are not given funds to hire professional divers. So it's not uncommon for them to rely on such informal, even risky, arrangements. But when Shiva volunteered, he says, they were taken aback. "They initially refused saying I was too young. But I convinced them," he recalls.

He did the job and walked away with 40 rupees, now worth about \$0.54 or £0.42 but a decent sum for him at the time. That was 20 years ago. He is now 30 and still helping the local police. Shiva lives right by Hussain Sagar, a large artificial lake in the heart of the city. A popular tourist spot, the lake is also used during the Ganesha festival for immersing idols of the Hindu deity.

The statues disintegrate under water and Shiva fishes out the iron rods they are made of to sell to recyclers. But the lake is also a place where many come to die and Shiva often helps police retrieve bodies out of the water. Sometimes, he also helps them recover bodies from other rivers and lakes in the city.



Shiva says he has saved 114 lives so far.



The man-made Hussain Sagar lake is in the centre of Hyderabad

Shiva does more than pulling bodies out of the lake - he often saves people before they jump into the water, and sometimes even after that. "I have lost count of how many bodies I have found. But I have saved 114 lives," he told the BBC. He is now also training his wife to swim so she can help retrieve bodies of women.

Inspector B Dhanalakshmi, who's posted at the police station near Hussain Sagar lake, acknowledges that Shiva has been "a huge help" to them. "I can't confirm how many people he has saved over the years, but I believe it's more than 100," she told the BBC. Suicide is still a crime in India and many people Shiva saves run away even before he can call the police.

Shiva says he never knew his parents and spent most of his childhood on the streets, with brief spells in orphanages. At some point - he can't be sure how old he was - he started living with a woman and her children who were also homeless. He grew close to them and it was one of her sons who taught him how to swim, a skill that changed the course of his life.

"I have lost a lot of friends over the years - to addictions, to disease, to hunger, to accidents," he says. The boy who taught him to swim - "my brother Lakshman," he calls him - accidentally drowned and another close friend died while trying to save someone else. He says because he couldn't save them, he's trying to make up for that by saving others.

Saving lives brings him some extra money - sometimes people he saves pay him as a token of their gratitude. And coverage in the local press has turned him into a minor celebrity and fetched him small roles in Telugu films. But Shiva says he doesn't consider saving lives a job.



The lake is a popular spot for immersing idols of Lord Ganesha

People's motives for suicide, he says, vary - from exam pressures to love affairs gone wrong to family feuds and financial woes. He says sometimes the elderly try to kill themselves when they are abandoned by their children.

Recently, he says he saw a man jump into the lake, fearing he might have contracted the coronavirus. The man's friend then jumped in to save him and Shiva too jumped in, but he was only able to save the friend. He says the dead man's family members didn't even take the body, afraid of catching the virus. "So I cremated him," he says. "I saved another man who said his family had begun to neglect him since they thought he had the virus."



Shiva has become a local celebrity in his community because of his work

But his work comes at a cost - Hussain Sagar is heavily polluted and Shiva, who dives into the water regularly with no gear or suit, says he has developed skin rashes and caught other ailments, including a bout of typhoid. "There is no time to put on any gear. You have to react fast. If you see someone jump, you have to jump right away."

The lake also smells foul during the summer and snakes are commonly found on its shores, but Shiva has no plans to move on. "I want to stay here," he says. "Only if I stay here, I can save lives. The satisfaction of saving a life is supreme."

BBC, November 8, 2020

5. VENETIANS FURIOUS OVER FAILURE TO ACTIVATE MOSES BARRIER AND PROTECT CITY FROM FLOODING

Angry Venetians have been left mopping out their homes and shops after authorities failed to activate a multi-billion euro sea barrier to save the city from flooding. Tests in recent months demonstrated that the Moses barrier is capable of shielding the World Heritage city from high tides, but when a surge in the sea level happened on Tuesday, it was not deployed. Weather forecasters had predicted a 1.25 metre high tide and Moses – a series of barriers which can close off the Venetian lagoon from the Adriatic – is normally not activated until the tide reaches 1.3 metres. But a combination of heavy rain and an unexpected *bora* wind, which blows from the north-east, pushed the high tide to 1.38 metres, flooding St Mark's Square and many other parts of Venice to knee-high level. By that time, it was too late to raise the barriers, giant hinged gates that are bolted to the sea floor and protect the three openings to the lagoon. "The situation is terrible, we are under water," said Carlo Alberto Tessein, the guardian of St Mark's Basilica, which dominates St Mark's Square and is prone to flooding because it occupies the lowest part of the city. "Floods like this make the basilica ever more fragile."

People walk through one of the arcades on a flooded St. Mark's Square - ANDREA PATTARO /AFP



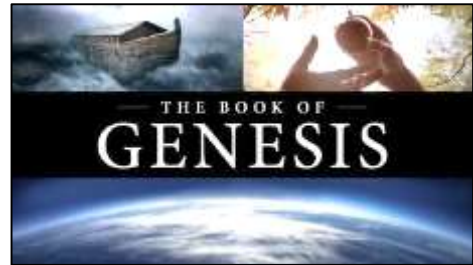
"To have something like Moses and not use it is unfathomable," said Claudio Vernier, the president of an association of business owners in St Mark's Square. "Five centimetres more of high tide makes all the difference." Iginio Mascari, who runs a spice shop near the Rialto Bridge, also said the barriers should have been raised. "Any fisherman knows that the weather in the lagoon changes from one moment to another," he told La Repubblica newspaper. With more high tides predicted on Thursday and Friday, the mayor of Venice said protocols for deploying Moses needed to be reviewed. Luigi Brugnarò said the city should have more say in whether to raise the barriers. That call is currently made by Rome-based Elisabetta Spitz, the government-appointed commissioner of the infrastructure project. "It is the city of Venice that must be able to make the decision," said Mr Brugnarò, who has been mayor for the last five years. "We need to find a system which will make us faster and more flexible to react. If the person making the decision is too far away, we risk having the situation that we see now."

Nick Squires, The Telegraph, Wed, December 9, 2020

STUDY OF GENESIS

INTRODUCTION

In this First Book of the Holy Scriptures, our conscience is and will be illuminated by its awesome power, because we will be looking into the Sovereignty of the Lord God in His mysterious ways. Genesis sets the stage, the scene, the casts, the acts, pros and cons, etc. of the whole Bible. It is the first book of Moses, the son of Hebrew slaves, who was raised in the Pharaoh's palace. Much of the information were handed down by oral and written tradition from Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob and Joseph, but the first chapter was given by direct revelation from God. No one else was around to witness what happened. It is not Egyptian in style although Moses was educated in all the wisdom of Egypt (Acts 7:22). Genesis, after the silence of eternity, God spoke ten times (10x) the first ten commandments, and they were all kept. It all began with And God said....



Let there be light... (vs. 3), Let there be an expanse... (vs. 6), Let the waters under the sky... (vs. 9), Let the land produce vegetation... (vs. 11), Let there be lights in the expanse... (vs. 14), Let the water teem... (vs. 20), Let the land produce living creatures... (vs. 24), Let us make man... (vs. 26), Be fruitful and multiply... (vs. 28), Behold, I have given you every herb... (vs. 29).

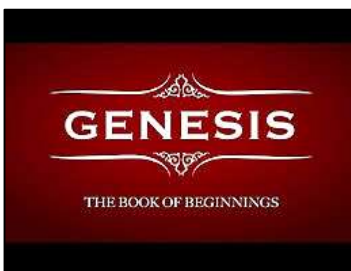
The Book of Genesis declared its origin with a Living God and ended with a dead man, the final words “...in a coffin in Egypt” It is the most important book in the Old Testament and therefore it is written from God's viewpoint. Basically, this book is very important for four main reasons:

First, it is the Book of Beginnings, Second, it is a Foundational Book, Third, it is the Book of Answers and Lastly, it is the Book of Truth

Book of Beginnings – Genesis is a trans-literation of the Greek word ἀρχή which means “beginning or origin” The Hebrew equivalent is the word bereshith which simply means “In the beginning....” These are the first three words of Genesis and also of the whole Bible. Thus, Genesis is the beginning of the Universe, History, Human-race, Marriage, Family Life, Government, Civilization, Arts, Music, Sin and Death. God did not begin in Genesis, He has always been.

We can never answer the important questions of life unless we go back to the beginning. The Humanist will also raise these thoughts regarding Life: The world's origin, Our existence, Purpose in life. The answers are in Genesis. The Humanist also tells us that there is no purpose in life, enjoy yourself, make the most of it while you can because there is nothing after life. If we believe that, then life became void as the creation was in the beginning. Remember the words of Jesus in this parable, “...You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink and be merry.” (Luke 12:19) This is the viewpoint of a Humanist.

Foundational Book – When God set out to write the Bible, He started by laying a Gigantic Slab of Truth and sure Foundation fifty chapters thick, as the basis upon which the rest of the Book would be built. Much of the Old Testament would make no sense without Genesis. We read all through the Bible about the God of Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, but without Genesis we would not know what that meant. What was true about God for them in the past will be true for us today because, “...God is the same yesterday, today and forever” (Hebrews 13:8).



The New Testament is also based on Genesis. Every one of the first 3 chapters of Genesis is quoted in the New Testament either directly or

indirectly. For instance, when Jesus was asked about divorce, he referred them to Genesis 2. Paul explaining the cross in Romans 5:19, refers to Genesis 3 when he says, *“For just through the disobedience of the one man, the many were made sinners, so also through the obedience of the one man, the many will be made righteous.”* In Revelations, we see the two books come together, written hundreds of years apart by two people who never met each other. All the themes which began in Genesis 1 – 3 are taken up and completed in Revelation 20 – 22. In Genesis we have a Paradise Lost and in Revelations, Paradise is regained. Also in Genesis, the Tree of Life disappears from the first few pages of the Bible and reappears in the last few pages of the Bible.

Book of Answers – That is why Genesis is ridiculed and scoffed at by men motivated by Satan. The devil hates Genesis and so deceives men and women into believing Genesis as a pack of fairy tales. He does this because Genesis exposes the devil and his plans. It predicts his destruction. *“You (Satan) will bruise His (Christ) heels, and He (Christ) will crush Your (Satan) head”* (Genesis 3:15)

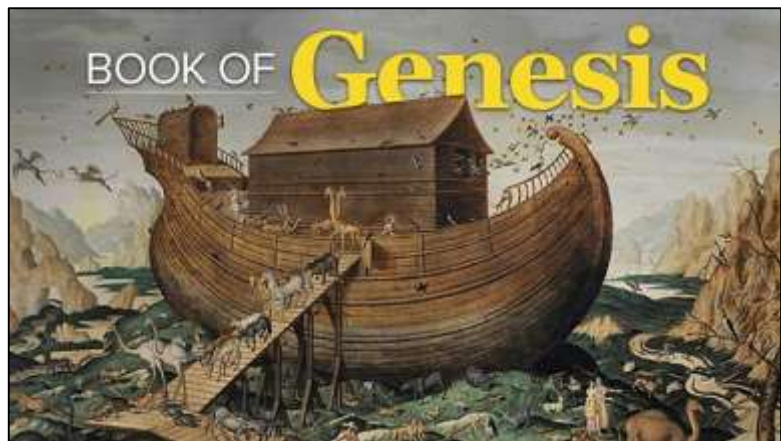
It is the only book in the Bible which tells us all about our great enemy. Satan, no wonder, he hates this book. If the devil can remove the credibility of Genesis in the thinking of Christians, he will do so. That is why through the centuries, Genesis has been attacked more than any other book. Misinterpretations of Scripture and misunderstanding of Science has caused many Christians to stumble over Genesis.

Biblical Truth – Before we start to examine Genesis exegetically, we must understand that Biblical Truth starts with the existence of God and moves on to explain everything else. Nowhere in the Bible does God try and justify His own existence because He was already there in the beginning. In the Book of Hebrews *“...whoever would draw near to God must believe that He exists...”* (Heb. 11:6) *“In the beginning God...”* Truth begins here, Faith begins here, therefore We must begin here. We can either believe it or disbelieve it, God will remain the same.

APPLICATION

Genesis is absolutely true.

The God who took nothing and made something, can also take a nobody and make somebody. In fact, He cannot make anything out of a man until he is nothing. God can take outcasts and make them His Ambassadors. God who brings order out of chaos, can also bring order out of lives. The world is crying out for meaning and a craving for excitement, possessions, crime and lawlessness.



Today, God is in the re-creation business. He took a great sinner and made him an apostle – Paul. He took an adulterer and made him a holy man – David. He can do the same to each one of us. God is personal and wants a personal relationship with us. He is powerful and can sort out any problems in your life as the chorus goes: *There is no problem too big that He cannot solve it.* God is purposeful and can bring meaning and purpose to your life.



by Rev. Ngaro
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 Images from Google

PHOTO SHARING

Church-related images from around the Pacific, capturing various events in the years gone by for the awareness and enjoyment of today's readers. Feel free to pass on.



Pacific Church Leaders meet in New Zealand, 2010. Source: GS records, Takamoa



Church gatherings in Samoa, American Samoa, Tahiti, Fiji. Source: Papa John Doom, EPM, Tahiti.



PCC Church Leaders' gathering in Fiji, 2014. Source: GS records, Takamoa.



PCC 50th Anniversary, Malua, Samoa, Sept 2011. Sources: Dr. Nu'ualofa Potoi (PCC Executive Women's Rep.) and N. Mataio (Medium Churches Rep.).



PCC 50th Anniversary, Malua, Samoa, Sept 2011. Sources: Dr. Nu'ualofa Potoi and N. Mataio.

WHAT THEY ARE GOOD FOR

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Flower arrangements from the collection of Mina & Umar, Apia, Samoa