

Reaching the Islands!



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Dear friends,

First of all our apologies—it's been about 6 months since our last newsletter —partly due to most of our news being published on our website www.pacificoutreach.com but also because of being too busy with too many projects! There's no shortage of news to catch up on though & so this first of 3 'catch up' newsletters is about our last projects in Fiji towards the end of 2012.

To start off with, here's an article that appeared in the Sun newspaper towards the end of last year called 'Charity helps home residents' (see above photo):

Residents of Father Law Home in Lami received bed sheets & toothpaste from Pacific Outreach Fiji (POF).

POF is a registered charity in Fiji, which usually distributes school books & library books in village schools. Peter Kingston, who operates POF, said the organisation also donated clothes to needy families; however this was the first time they distributed toothpaste.

‘Many boxes of adult & children’s toothpaste came from England in co-ordination with Children of Fiji Charity. The first toothpaste distributions were at settlements around Suva’, Mr Kingston said. ‘While we have plans to distribute more in orphanages & other needy institutions in the coming weeks, we thought it important to at least get started with a small distribution in poor settlements’.

Mr Kingston said although their distribution was a ‘local’ one, they had reached people from all over Fiji. ‘We met families from Kadavu, different parts of Vanua Levu & also the Lau group’, he said.

Mr Kingston said one of POF’s missions was to provide social assistance to the needy, spiritually & materially. ‘Our Family members carry this out in a multitude of ways around the globe, ranging from encouraging & assisting the elderly, the sick & the disadvantaged to working to rehabilitate drug addicts & gang members, & offering personal counselling in prisons & juvenile detention centres’, he said.

‘We help in assisting in humanitarian efforts, disaster relief & refugee camps; and staging benefit performances for the underprivileged in many different countries.’ Mr Kingston also said, ‘Our members frequently work with relief organisations –regional & international– to bring food, supplies, comfort, help & encouragement to people in distress or hardship’.



Above left: receiving a shipment of 110 boxes of schoolbooks & library books, kindly sent by Joy in Melbourne; Right: transporting the books by wheelbarrow at Moala island.



Above: making plans to visit village schools using a hand-drawn map of Moala island.

The bed sheets mentioned in the above article were donated by Holiday Inn, who also sponsored our air fares to Moala island, where we distributed books in 8 primary schools.

This was quite a major undertaking as it meant sending the boxes of books ahead by cargo ship, (thanks to Lau Traders that donated the transport costs), & arranging for someone to collect & store them on the island. We also needed to send jerry cans of petrol ahead of us for boat travel around the island as, like many of Fiji's outer islands, Moala has no cars & no roads!

Below: donating books to children at Vunuku Primary School, Moala.



*Above: Naroi Primary School, Moala.
Below: happy children at Maloku Primary School show their new books.*



*Please help us reach more precious children like those in the above photo!
Donations towards our charity work can be put directly into our Fiji bank account: Pacific Outreach, account number 9515841, ANZ bank main branch, Suva, Fiji. (international swift code ANZ BFJFX).*

For more news, please see our website www.pacificoutreach.com that normally gets updated every 1-2 weeks,

Yours,

Peter & Susan Kingston

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