



The “Bula Bulletin”



May 2013

Continuing journeys: *PCC General Assembly highlights*

8 ‘... and what does the LORD require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God’

Micah 6: 8 (NRSV)

Theme of 10th General Assembly, Honiara

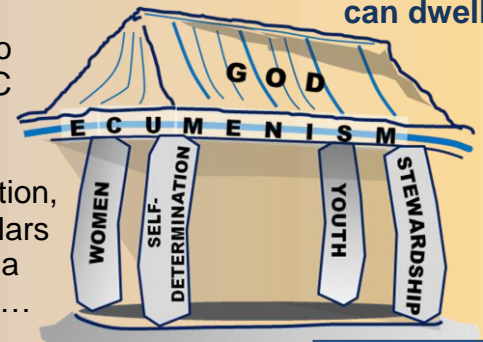
In early March, 200 Pacific Church Leaders, representatives and observers attended the 10th General Assembly of the Pacific Conference of Churches, in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

The Assembly, the highest governing body of the PCC, meets once every five years, when member churches from across the region gather to elect a PCC Moderator (in this instance, Revd. Dr. Tevita Havea), Deputy Moderator (Revd. Lola Koloamatangi), & Suva-based General Secretary (Revd. François Pihataae). Members also provide the focus of the work of the Secretariat for the next quinquennial period.

Going forward: In Honiara, 46 resolutions were endorsed, and key areas for the future work of PCC now include: supporting the decolonisation of the Pacific (specifically, of Maohi Nui (Tahiti) and West Papua); seeking compensation for people affected by nuclear testing; calling a stop to experimental seabed mining; ending HIV/AIDS stigmatisation; and, continuing research on climate-induced resettlement.

The above, & other issues of concern to members, sit figuratively within the PCC *fale* (house). Ecumenism is the unifying ‘roof’, with support from the themes of Stewardship, Self-determination, Women, & Youth, all weight-bearing pillars that churches can lean against to build a shared Pacific future, together in Christ...

“Let us build a house where love can dwell”



From top left to bottom right:

1. Opening church service;
2. The ‘Haus’, GA venue;
3. GA Plenary;
4. Haus pillars;
5. Alternative Assembly theme;
6. Pan pipes, Solomon-style;
7. Commission session;
8. GA Close: Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, HE Gordon Darcy Lillo.

Fiji, moce mada (Fiji, goodbye until next time)

The General Assembly was a time of great celebration, however, it is with sadness that I also report that this is the last Bula Bulletin. I have come to the end of my time of service with the Pacific Conference of Churches and the Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma. While I bid Pacific shores and Suva, my home, a very fond farewell, I will carry with me the lives and concerns of the peoples of the Pacific. *Ni sa moce vinaka.*

Isa Lei, the Fijian song of farewell, is sung at every departure...

*Isa, isa vulagi lasa dina,
Nomu lako, au na rarawa kina?
Cava beka, ko a mai cakava,
Nomu lako, au na sega ni lasa.*

*Isa lei, na noqu rarawa,
Ni ko sana vodo e na mataka.
Bau nanuma, na nodatou lasa,
Mai Suva nanuma tikoga.*

*Vanua rogo, na nomuni vanua,
Ken ca, ni levu tu na ua.
Lomaqu voli, me'u bau butuka,
Tovolea, ke balua na bula.*

*Isa lei, na noqu rarawa,
Ni ko sana vodo e na mataka.
Bau nanuma, na nodatou lasa,
Mai Suva nanuma tikoga.*

*Domoni dina, na nomu yanuyanu,
Kena kau, wale na salusalu,
Mocelolo, bua, na kukuwalu,
Lagakali, baba na rosidamu.*

*Isa lei, na noqu rarawa,
Ni ko sana vodo e na mataka.
Bau nanuma, na nodatou lasa,
Mai Suva nanuma tikoga.*

Isa, Isa, you are my only treasure,
Must you leave me so lonely and forsaken?
As the roses will miss the sun at dawning,
Every moment, my heart for you is yearning.

Isa lei, the purple shadows falling,
Sad the morrow will dawn upon my sorrow.
Oh! Forget not, when you are far away,
Precious moments beside Suva Bay.

Isa lei, my heart was filled with pleasure,
From the moment, I heard your tender greeting.
'Mid the sunshine, we spent the hours together,
Now so swiftly those happy hours are fleeting.

Isa lei, the purple shadows fall,
Sad the morrow will dawn upon my sorrow.
Oh! Forget not, when you are far away,
Precious moments beside Suva Bay.

O'er the ocean your island home is calling,
Happy country where roses bloom in splendour,
Oh, I would but journey there beside you,
Then forever my heart would sing in rapture.

Isa lei, the purple shadows fall,
Sad the morrow will dawn upon my sorrow.
Oh! Forget not, when you are far away,
Precious moments beside Suva Bay.

Please continue to remember in your prayers:

- **The peoples of the Pacific;**
- **The Pacific Conference of Churches;**
- **The Methodist Church in Fiji and Rotuma; and,**
- **The not-so-distant challenges of our 'Liquid Continent'.**



Suva Bay

Whoever serves must do so with the strength that God supplies,
so that God may be glorified in all things.
1 Peter 4:11 (NRSV)

God bless
Julia