

Maranatha Gardens

SERVING GOD BY LOVING MAN

January 2009

....A pictorial update on the life and ministry of the Stice Family serving in the Fiji Islands....



Maranatha Gardens Gets its First Ministry Structure

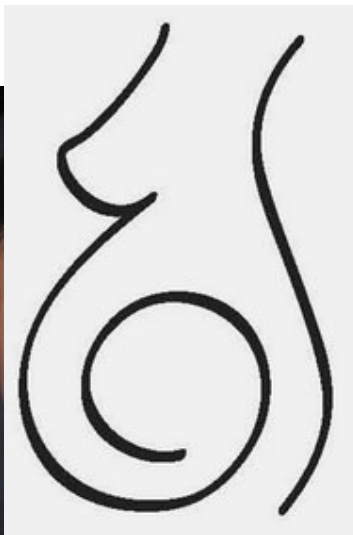
Oh Man! This is breaking news and very, very exciting!!!! A little history..... so God gave us this awesome piece of land to use for His glory, we left the US and came here full time. For the first year and a half we worked in a Fijian village that had a fledgling body, while beginning to develop our (His) land across the river. We completed construction of our house and wrapped up our work in the Fijian village and moved into our new community. For facility we have had use of the area under our house (on stilts). The ministry has grown, the flock has multiplied and we have been seeking the Lord as to what to grow into. We have 4 acres set aside for the Community Missions Center but as yet have only been using our house, for lack of facility. The EU was funding a big hut project but that fell through 11th hour. We had funds for the purchase of a small excavator tractor but the Lord kept raising obstacles to its purchase. We did not break down the door but waited again on the Lord. 5 days ago newspaper ran an ad for a large shed about 60'x60' and over 20' tall! The price was the exact dollar amount we had for the machine. My heart jumped, I made the call placing us at #11 on the interested list, then inspected it and came to find out it belonged to a church member's land lord with whom we already had a relationship and because we had the money already in the 'holding pattern' we were able to purchase the building. We had been praying for this exact type of structure, with no center posts so that it could also be used to develop recreation facilities for our growing sports ministry. The raw materials alone in this shed would have cost us 3x what we paid for it. There are no nails, only nuts and bolts and screws. The posts are deep and without cement all making it very possible for us to take it apart, transport it and reassemble as the core of our Community Missions Center!!! So sweet! Okay, but now here we are cutting trails, prepping an access road and trying to get started. We need help. We are looking for a Missions Construction Team. We need to take this buddy apart, transport it and build it again. We also would love a pour a floor. Tuks and I have already started working. We are trying to get water and hopefully power. We are going to move a little toilet/shower set up to the back. We also need to do a little earthworks before we rebuild. We are starting from a blank field and it is so exciting. We need to dig some drains and complete some fencing and get a pad set for the structure. Earthworks are going to be about \$1200 for the basics. Then we would be ready for a team. We can work to feed and house you as best as possible!!! Praise the Lord with us you guys, this is very exciting. We are basic little ministry and God is entrusting us with something that only He could fill! Pray about a team if the Lord is stirring, even 4-5 pros with a few tools would be awesome, we have some good strong manpower down here as well. Wow!

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to provide funds and a building team according to His will. Praise God for this awesome provision.

Tuks!! Full-time Gospel Worker!!!!

The Lord has answered yet another prayer that has been on our list for two years now... He has again brought Tuks on as full time staff. Over these past two years Tuks has been attending and has now completed training with South Pacific Missionary Training Center. We are indeed blessed with what the Lord is going to do through him as he presents himself willing and humble before the Lord. Tuks will hold many roles and enjoy teaching responsibilities. Included in these roles is; Team Leader CS Fiji, worship director, teacher, discipler, farmer, skater, friend and family.... the list goes on. I know it is true in the Kingdom that no one is indispensable or irreplaceable but if ever someone was close....Tuks. We are looking to raise support for Tuks and are currently supporting him entirely out of our monthly support. We are seeking support for him as a short-term solution to a long-term position. Prayerfully, at some point, the ministry will be able to generate his support through farming and fundraising projects. In the meantime we are asking those of you who already have a personal relationship with Tuks to consider supporting him or supplementing our support as we support him. He will have his own newsletter as well as having updates on ours. If you would like to support him in prayer or financially let him know through email at pnakesu@yahoo.com You can send his support through us, just add TUKS to the memo section. We are looking to raise US\$300/month in support.

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to provide monthly support for Tuks according to His will. Again praise God for this awesome provision.



Childbirth Ministries

...Lindy here! With lots of bookwork and two certifying births completed, I have just a couple months of work left to complete my Birth Doula certification. I am so thankful to have the opportunity to serve the Lord while serving birthing families! It is challenging but joyful and fulfilling work. I will continue to work towards a diploma in childbirth education through Childbirth International (CBI) over the next year or so. Working with mamas in labour has very unpredictable hours, so I'm very thankful for the unwavering support and encouragement from Kris and the kids! Kris has had some interesting nights with Haleh, who is still very much a nursing babe! I certainly appreciate his willingness to have a baby bottle thrown at him repeatedly so that I can make a difference for other families. :) We are praying for a new work permit for me, so that I can officially work for Maranatha Gardens, in the capacity of childbirth ministries as well as other current and future ministry facets. Please pray for our family to stay rested and peaceful during and in the days after a birth, for favor within the government, and in the hospitals and birthing community in Fiji, for lots of healthy and happy mamas and babies, and for God receive the glory as new life comes into the world.

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to provide a new work permit, fresh opportunities and wisdom according to His will. Praise God for this awesome new ministry.



Sunday Celebration Service

...continues and reach out and be His presence in the Pacific Harbour Cultural Center. We are studying **verse by verse** and are currently in Mark 4. We're so blessed to have Tuks back on board as worship leader. In the photo above, left to right, are Tuks, John-John, Timote, and Steven, praising God as they practice & prepare the set for Sunday morning. Tuks is taking the team through Romans 12 right now on Saturday nights. He is doing a great job shifting the focus from simple performance training to really developing the hearts of team members. What a wonderful relief to have him sharing some of the organizational load of our Sunday service while really growing the guys around him. For you gearheads, that little amp is fully rechargeable by plug in, has 4 channels and 2 built-in wireless mics. A charge lasts for 3-4 hours. What a blessing! We don't have electricity at our site so this amp is perfect!

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to continue to use us to bring Him glory and to continue the sanctification that comes by His Word. Praise God for His sustaining work in this ministry.



Youth 4 Truth

...Y4T Youth ministry is going through another growth spurt. We have young people making their way from the neighboring towns on either side for our Friday nights. The core group is growing well and the Lord is adding new faces almost weekly. We just received a stack of Bibles and have already put them to good use. The kids love having their own Bibles open and checking out what I am saying. Our time of games, fellowship and sharing has instilled confidence or at least comfort such that even the shy ones will take a turn at reading a verse or even answering a question. That is big for this culture where respect is shown by keeping your head down and your mouth shut! Daily joys and frustrations with this group and so awesome to watch God transforming its individuals for a life of walking and working effectively for the Kingdom. Keep Praying!

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to provide wisdom for the shepherding of these lambs and we as grace and patience for the shepherds. Praise God for the awesome growth new Bibles to use.



Christian Surfers Fiji

... continues as a thriving ministry. We have been building our little team of local surfer missionaries to **take Jesus** to right where the people are. We have now established a second base at the sand dunes in Sigatoka where we are partnering with Aflame For Christ Ministries. Our development surfing continues to be **centered around prayer and the Word**. Tuks and I attended the CS New Zealand National Conference at Raglan

where we were able to encourage others as well as be encouraged by ministry reports from around New Zealand. It was awesome to hear the heart of Brett Davis, the ministry founder, who holds firmly to the initial vision, NOT to have a fellowship of Christians who surf but to have a ministry of surfers who reach out to their communities with the Good News. This is a missions agency and we prayed long and hard about our association with it, striving only to advance the work of the Kingdom and to in no way water it down. The Lord has established this partnership and we are excited. We recently conducted a 4 day leadership/discipleship camp in Sigatoka for the core leaders of CS Fiji. Tuks took the lead role in teaching each of the sessions as well as leading the devotions and surf development. We will be hosting a CSNZ Fiji Mission the first two weeks of this coming May, our local core group will partner with the missions team members to develop the existing movement as well as using surf development to advance the gospel and generate small bible study groups in 4 other village locations along the south coast of our main island.

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to provide clear vision for the work of the team as well as receptiveness in the new villages. Praise God for this ministry in which the young disciples can serve effectively and reach their peers.



CSNZ Taranaki Easter Camp 2009 & Family Vacation!!!

We are so blessed to be invited to speak at this years CSNZ Easter Camp in New Zealand. It is an awesome opportunity to bring the Word before a group of young people in an amazing setting. The organizers have raised NZ\$2000 to help to cover airfare and expenses to help bring the whole family down. We are currently about US\$900 shy of the airfare. Wow! It will be great to have our first real whole family vacation since we came to the mission field in 2004. We have submitted Myah's immigration paperwork (still a little Fiji citizen) and everything looks great. We will get to travel through Vanuatu and visit Kris's parents as well as teaching at the local fellowship there. Kris wants to use this opportunity to really get an 'on the ground' picture of the Lord's work in Vanuatu and assess for the need for future ministry there. We are so excited!

Prayer Point: Ask the Lord to provide remaining funds and also a great time of rest and refreshing for the family, as well as keeping His hand firmly upon the Kingdom work that will continue in our absence. Praise God for this awesome opportunity.

Thanks for all the prayer all the love and all the support that allow us to continue serving for the Glory of God in this place. Lives are being changed and God is being praised!

Remember us,

Kris, Lindy, Josiah, Judah, Myah, Haleh.....STICE.... & TUKS!



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Support funds are Tax-deductible and 100% reaches the mission field!