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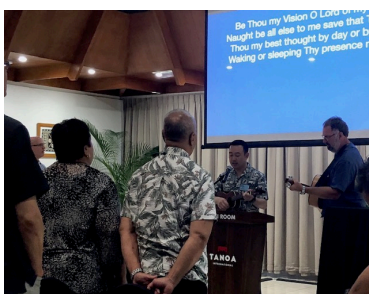
# *WILLIAMS CHRONICLE*

Prayer Letter of Steve and Rita  
21 Johnson Street, Kaiapoi 7630 NEW ZEALAND

**March/April 2023**

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## **GOD IS WORKING IN THE SOUTH PACIFIC**



Before we share stories of how God is working in the islands, we want to say a huge “thank you” for any prayers you lifted up on behalf of the Island to Island Forum 2023 which finally happened. God was extremely good to help our Australasia organizing team (photos) make this happen and bring together 33 people from several parts of the globe. The attendees consisted of the charter members of I2I (representing the four partner denominations who started this ministry in 2018), church leaders, those living and serving in the islands, people representing youth, women and student outreach ministries and a few visitors interested in better understanding how God is working in the islands of the South Pacific. All participants seemed greatly encouraged! Seeing many different nationalities come together especially in singing and worship felt a little bit like “heaven on earth!” (See photos bottom left).

Exciting things are already happening. There is a new church plant in Samoa started by Samoan Brother Uaita Levi and supported by wife, Susana. Recently they had the inaugural service for Falealili Grace Church. This group is blessed to be able to use the chapel of a local resort. Let’s continue to pray for the Levi’s, these faithful followers of Christ and the resort owner for his generosity in allowing them to use their facility to hold “church”. (See photo below on page 2).

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Also, there is a youth ministry from a Fijian church in Suva (led by Brother Niles Goundar) that has an amazing outreach to youth. Two young women (photo) presented at the Forum on what they believe are the needs of today's youth in the islands. They are mature and serious about serving Jesus. We understand that there are many of their friends who are likeminded. They are conducting camps (including Easter camps) and will soon travel to the neighboring island nation of Tonga in order to share the Gospel with other youth. We praise our Lord for such faithfulness and fervor! Please pray for them and for the Gospel to change lives.

## GOSPEL TRULY NEEDED IN NEW ZEALAND

Recently, a group of middle-aged children came to our door and were selling raffle tickets for Easter. We asked them if they understood what Easter means. Two of the children responded that it was about Easter eggs and receiving presents. Finally, a child in the back of the group said, "Is it something to do about Jesus?" We responded, "Yes! What about Jesus?" One child said, "Is it about Jesus' birth?" Another said, "Maybe it is something to do with His death?" We responded that it was about Jesus' resurrection after His death and that he would soon be returning to Heaven. Easter was about a new life that Jesus brings us! This appeared to be completely new information that these children had never heard before. This incident once again reminded us that most children in New Zealand have never heard the Gospel and certainly have little clue about what "Christian holidays" such as Easter and Christmas are about. What a truly tragic situation we find ourselves in where the future of our nation has little grasp of the greatest hope for an increasingly very troubled world. Please lift the people of New Zealand up in your prayers!

## HMA (HOME MINISTRY ASSIGNMENT)

We are getting closer to our May 8 departure date for a six month visit to the States. This will most likely be our last formal newsletter until the end of the year. We will try to send an occasional email update but we hope to see many of you face-to-face. We will appreciate your prayers! Thank you, especially for your faithful support in prayer and/or financially.

Online tax-deductible donations: [www.mtw.org](http://www.mtw.org) > home page select "Give" > "Missionaries" > "Steve & Rita Williams"-account #95650 "NZ Grace CareCom." Also "Projects" #95654 (MTW Island to Island).



***May you have a blessed Easter weekend as we remember the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ!! Matthew 28:6***