



Hello from the South Pacific!!

We finished up the Field Conference on Thursday with a devotion on how not to be weary in well doing. It was very encouraging message by Bill Lake, the Area Director for the Asia Pacific region. According to the conference leader, this conference was a great success to refresh and equip the missionaries as they head back to the front lines. We had two couples with their six children study God's word on various topics including mine: Teamwork In Missions—How to Stop Hating your Teammates! We had great discussions around the teamwork illustrated by the Godhead in John 17:20-23 and as illustrated in the life of our Lord and the apostle Paul. We could have

spent a 2nd week on the same subject easily.

There wasn't much time for sightseeing but we did travel through the land where the Lord of the Rings was filmed. If you remember the battle scenes of the two huge armies clashing, well, that was filmed in the northern part of the country. What was once a little farming town has been renamed Hobbiton complete with buses of tourists all day long.

I learned a great deal about the missionary enterprise here in NZ and the struggles they face every day. The biggest one is the inflation due to changing currency rates. One missionary raised an additional 25% in support last year to make ends meet only to return home to find out the 25% has been wiped out. Not only are fuel costs skyrocketing but also food costs (which have doubled in NZ in the last year). They are not discouraged! God's word will not return void. People are being saved and discipled. The NZ team as an aggressive strategy for additional church plants over the next 5 years as the Lord provides them with resources and willing hearts to serve. How about your?

Thursday night I was invited to attend a dinner meeting of the leadership team of one of the churches as they rotated two deacons to new roles and two new deacons were coming on stream. This meeting was a little of what heaven must look like: people from Singapore, China, South Africa, and Indonesia were there. Multiple people groups! We had a great dinner served by our host (Indonesia), sang songs of praise and thanksgiving, and thanked the Lord for His faithfulness to this group of servants. What a wonderful way for me to end my visit to this field.

Friday was a national holiday in NZ: ANZAC day. It's a day similar to our Memorial Day. One of the battles they remember is that of Gallipoli that was fought in WW1. If you don't know much about this battle, take a few moments and Google it. As I was leaving for the airport and they were starting their celebration of remembrance, it recalled to me how quickly we can take our freedoms that cost so many their lives for granted.

I'm writing this message to you from Fiji where they have no WiFi so I don't know when it will be sent. I'll be ministering to our two missionary couples in Labassa (look it up!) and starting for home on Wednesday the 30th. Thank you all for your prayers for my time here and for my safety. Also thanks for many to have held Tricia up in prayer while I'm away; we both really, really, REALLY, appreciate it.

In His service and yours in the furtherance of the Gospel,

Clark Macaulay

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