



Conch Shell

Communicating good news from PTCEE
Pacific Theological College Education by Extension



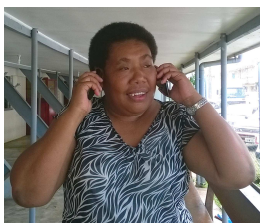
May 2015

A cool and breezy hello from Suva, as we write the second Conch Shell of 2015. We greet all readers and particularly all faithful students on *Theological Education by Extension* courses. Please keep the enthusiasm up and those assignments rolling in! We love to hear from you and we pray for your progress. If you haven't returned an assignment recently, why is that? What's stopping you? Can we help you? Whatever obstacles you're facing, we firmly believe God can make a way and in the PTCEE department we want to be God's instruments to help that way open up. Phone us, write to us, e-mail us or call in to see us if you're in Suva. We recently went over to Labasa on Vanua Levu to meet our students there and encourage more interest in PTCEE, so this edition of Conch Shell reports on that wonderful time 'in the field'. May we come and see you sometime? Let us know!

What we did in Labasa...

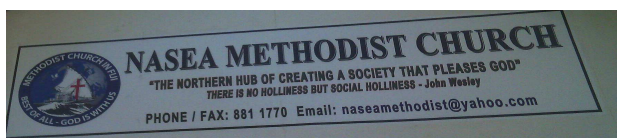
Thursday: travelled by bus, ferry and bus from Suva to Labasa, leaving at 4.30am and arriving at 2.30pm. Settled into our room at The Friendly North Inn and explored Labasa's long high street! We thank God for travelling mercies

Friday: planning with our team on the ground at Nasea Methodist Church: including Talatala Rev Noa Turaganivalu, and the amazing and energetic Deaconess Jeta Draunidalo, seen here organising many practicalities by mobile phone. We are so grateful to them. Nasea had just finished hosting the Methodist Divisional meeting and were preparing for Mothers' Sunday but still showed us amazing grace and hospitality.



Saturday: 'Theology for Everyone' workshop with present and potential students across Vanua Levu. We were delighted that the Dreketi Anglicans made it! Sairusi Kaiwaidau, Queenie Nivoi and Sekaia Silinatoba are regularly in touch with us here at PTCEE and studying hard.

Sunday: Preaching and participation in a baptism for Rev Val at St Thomas' Anglican Church with kind hospitality from Fr Kelvin Rakesh and family. Then back to Nasea to speak and share at their afternoon Mothers' Day service.



Monday:
back to
Suva...

PTCEE visits Vanua Levu

'There is a real opportunity here
for great and worthwhile work'.

(1 Corinthians 16.9. GNB)



Salome, Rev Val and Ema, off to the workshop



**Pacific Theological
College
Education by
Extension**

Bula! We're visiting Vanua Levu to meet our students. They're studying theology in their own homes, at their own speed, and gaining great qualifications. Want to join them or discover more? Then come to a

Theology for Everyone

Workshop on Saturday 9th May 2015
Nasea Methodist Church, Labasa
11.00am—1.30pm followed by lunch

Meet the team that would love to meet you!



Rev Dr
Val Ogden
PTCEE Director
and Mission
Partner of the
Methodist
Church, UK



Mrs Ema Asioli
Anglican Lay
Leader
Certificate in
Theological
Studies
Graduate 2014



Mrs Salome
Kalouniviti
PTC Education
by Extension
Programme
Administrator

*I will pray with
the spirit, but I
will pray with the
mind also,
I will sing praise
with the spirit,
but I will sing
praise with the
mind also.*

1 Corinthians 14.15

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At the invitation of you and your Churches, PTCEE can come to your area and conduct a programme like this. We can run workshops, offer preaching, teaching and tutorials, meet present students, encourage new ones and join in with local events at your Church. Contact

In the workshop, we had a quiz to test whether we *really* think Theology is for Everyone. Have a go at this worksheet with others from your Church. Discuss your different responses.

Theology for Everyone

PTCEE



From *theos* (God) and *logos/logia*

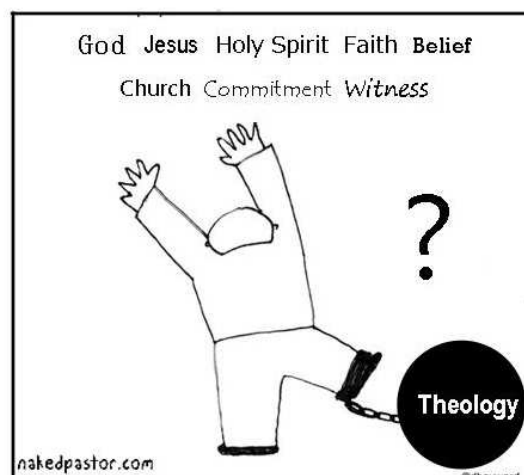
(word, speech, logic, knowledge, reason) – *ology*

1 John. 1–3

In the beginning was the 'logos'

A quiz!

- | | |
|-------------------|---|
| Strongly agree | 1 |
| Agree | 2 |
| Undecided | 3 |
| Disagree | 4 |
| Strongly disagree | 5 |



- (a) I do theology every day ☐
- (b) Only those in full-time Church ministry need theology ☐
- (c) I don't need theology because I have a simple faith ☐
- (d) Theology is not Biblical ☐
- (e) Theology is for the head but not the heart ☐
- (f) Jesus was a theologian ☐
- (g) The Apostle Paul was not a theologian ☐
- (h) You have to go to college to study theology properly ☐
- (i) When people do too much theology they lose their faith ☐
- (j) Salvation comes through theology ☐



Thanks to Stephen Illrich (See Genesis 6-8) 05-19-2005

WE WERE TOLD YOU WERE TAKING CREATURES
THAT CAME TO YOU IN PEARS

Let's talk language...

Theology doesn't only get done in English!
Because of history, PTCEE courses use English

Theology in English...

needs to liberate not imprison

Theological communication...

needs to cross barriers

God's greatness is beyond **any** language



Sunday Eucharist at St Thomas's and PTCEE students in prayer together at the Nasea workshop

We also reminded people that when we're studying a PTCEE course, it makes us part of a huge, Pacific-wide and global, ecumenical family. Nobody is on their own, even if studying solo, because God links us together. Read the amazing list of PTC's partners in mission below.

PTCEE rejoices in God's call to be ECUMENICAL

Anglican Diocese of Polynesia
 Church of Melanesia
 Congregational Christian Church of American Samoa
 Congregational Christian Church of Samoa
 Cooks Island Christian Church
 Ekalesia Kelisiano Tuvalu
 Ekalesia Kelisiano Niue
 Evangelical Lutheran Church Papua New Guinea
 Free Wesleyan Church Tonga
 Kiribati Protestant Church
 Eglise Evangelique en Kanaky
 Etaretia Porotetani Maohi
 Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma
 Methodist Church Samoa
 Nauru Congregational Church
 Presbyterian Church in Vanuatu
 United Church in Papua New Guinea
 United Church in the Solomon Islands
 United Church of Christ, Marshall Islands
 United Church of Christ Pohnpei
 Evangelical Lutheran Church, Bavaria
 Mission EineWelt, Germany
 Bread for the World, Germany
 Church of South India
 Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa, New Zealand
 Methodist Church in Britain

...and YOU!



PTCEE Director Rev Val blesses children at St Thomas, Labasa

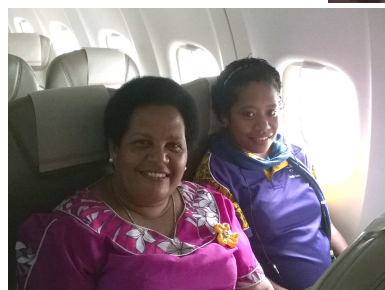


For God so
loved the world...

John 3:16



Right: Aleesha's baptism, with Fr Kelvin, at St Thomas's



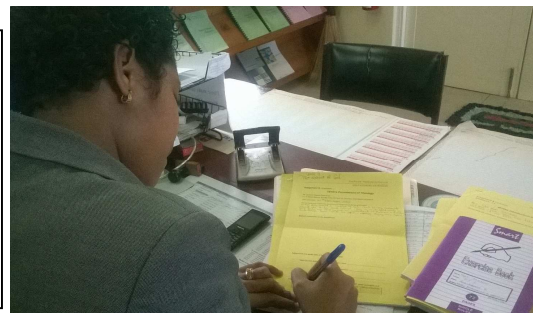
Left: Ema and Salome prepare for take-off

PTCEE - your companion on the global journey of theological education

And in other news....

Signing up for Studies

So far in 2015 we've had 23 new enrolments. From the 'active student' body 21 have submitted assignments and had them marked and returned. An increased and enthusiastic Faculty team helps greatly with this. Here, Administrator Salome records assignments as they arrive. Are yours on their way?



PTC 50th Anniversary 1965-2015



A Day of Thanksgiving
and Celebration

6th March 2015

PTC 50th Anniversary

As with all other Departments and colleagues, PTCEE played its part in the College's 50th anniversary celebrations, having responsibility for the production of printed materials. We were also part of the sub-group which compiled a Fiji Times 50th Anniversary supplement. Extension students living locally gave of their time generously to help a busy and memorable day run very smoothly.



New BD Course released.

B30BD04 20th Century Pacific Church History written by Rev Dr Andrew Thornley has been edited and is now in circulation. We welcomed Dr Thornley to the Education by Extension office to "sign it off" as the picture shows. In the past, the author taught at both Davuilevu, the Methodist Theological College in Fiji, and here at the Pacific Theological College and is well known not least because of his commitment to reviving and reprinting the first ever Bible produced in the iTaukei (Fijian) language.



Mrs Rokosiga Morrison
Centre for Flexible
Learning, USP

Advisory Committee reconvenes

PTCEE's Advisory Committee met last month and had a lively discussion about the ongoing needs and development of PTCEE. Accreditation standards and adequate student support were topics high on the agenda. We are grateful for the wisdom of those who give their time to serve on our Advisory Committee such as Mrs Rokosiga Morrison from University of the South Pacific, and Rev Dr Upolu Vaai, Senior Lecturer and Head of the Department of Theology and Ethics at PTC.



Rev Dr Upolu Luma
Va'ai, Methodist
Church, Samoa, PTC

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**And don't forget!
We're on the Web and on Twitter!
www.ptc.ac.fj/ptcee
[@PTCEdbyEx](https://twitter.com/PTCEdbyEx)**



Labasa friends fed us too well...

***Generous God, Creator and
Provider - just as food for our
bodies is necessary and welcome,
so may theological studies feed us
richly, building and sustaining us
for ministry and mission in a
complex world. Amen***

