

Newsletter

SPRING 2005



Recent Visit

March of this year saw a three-member team make a visit to Kadavu, Fiji and make decided improvements to the Tiliva Health Centre site.

Tom Stirewalt, Board Member and Farmer, as well as Dave Ames, Builder, joined Terry Schmunk, President of VHP and Dentist, to the general area of the Tiliva Health Centre. During the 12 day visit many exciting events and accomplishments took place.



Kavala Bay S.D.A. Church

The new church which has been under construction the past three years received a generous contribution from the team members. The funds have been designated to develop the water system and complete the bathroom facilities for the church.



Garden Planted

A 1/2 acre plot of ground was prepared by the local villagers and Tom Stirewalt. Beans, melons, tomatoes, pineapple, okra, and lime trees were planted at the site. This supplements the banana, papaya, and coconut trees already established on the property. A local gardener was hired to maintain the garden site and to distribute the produce to supplement the village food supply. In the future the garden will allow the clinic to be largely self sufficient with produce. A well was dug adjacent to the garden to provide a water source.



Construction Building

This trip saw the completion of the 18 X 22 foot construction shed. This shed will house the building materials for the construction of the permanent maintenance building. It presently houses the supplies and equipment for the caretaker and gardener.



Diesel Generator

While in Suva the team was able to meet with Mr. Graeme Sullivan, the **CAT**(Caterpillar) representative, from New Zealand. The company has offered a 13KW generator for the clinic at cost. In addition they would ship the generator to Fiji at no cost. The amount needed to purchase the generator is \$8,300.00 US Dollars.



Floating Dock

Another providential meeting occurred at the Nadi Airport. While waiting for a connecting flight to Suva the team met Mr. Rob Perrin, C.E.O., of **KIWI DOCKS, INC.**. He and his lovely wife offered to provide **VHP** with left over docking material from his own personal property project on a neighboring island. This will be a great boon to the access and safety of the jetty and beach area.



Water Ambulance

The 28 ft. fiberglass water ambulance was further configured when we met with Mr. Simon Hearn of **THE FIBERGLASS SHOP** in Lami, a small marine community outside of Suva. The time necessary to construct the boat and power it will take approximately 3 months after ordering it. The total cost of the water ambulance with motors, safety equipment, will be about \$33,000.00



Non Profit Status

While at the **Fiji Trade and Investment Bureau** Mr. Viliame Volavola suggested that we pursue acquiring our tax exempt, non profit status in Fiji. We engaged the services of Mr. Apaitia Seru, a local barrister and solicitor. Once approved, we will be able to solicit funds in Fiji and qualify for space available flights on **AIR PACIFIC** for our **Volunteers in Service.**



Jamaica Trip Planned

August 19-27 will find Terry and Marcie Schmunk providing dental services to the Priory and St. Mary's Infirmaries. The St. Ann's Bay Health Centre will also receive support through supplies and services from **VHP**. A follow up report of the visit will be in the next VHP Newsletter.

Board of Directors Meeting Scheduled

The annual Board of Directors meeting will be held in Soquel, California Friday, July 29, 2005. The Board will review the past year's events and plan for the future growth and development of **VHP**.