



Community and Ecological Transformation

(The following is an extract from Dr. Geoff Waugh, Journal in Fiji 2003, South Pacific Revivals, Community and Ecological Transformation.)

Vuniani had visited Argentina and seen the beneficial results of reconciliation with the British over the Falklands war, he also visited Guatemala to see the Almolonga transformation. This was a singularly dramatic community change. Jails and public bars closed, land fertility increased and crop production levels had to be seen to be believed.



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What he saw brought a deeper desire in his heart to see this happen to Fiji, to give room for God to bring about community and national transformation in similar ways to what he had seen overseas, he saw the need to appropriately respond to the circumstances and use the spiritual tools available to see the nation transformed. After returning to Fiji, he called some people together to seek God for solutions. They felt they should begin at Nuku, and this took place on April 1-10 2003. Nuku is about 65 Kilometres North of Suva, on the main island of Viti Levu.

The inhabitants of Nuku had been suffering feuds, infertility, mental illness and social problems for decades. The water of the stream that flowed through the village had been polluted since a day 42 years previously, the water and banks being filled with slime. At that time, children were swimming in the stream when the water suddenly turned white and they all ran for their lives. Fish died and grass died. Vuniani as a child, was swimming in the river when this happened, so he knew the background story. It was believed that the polluted water caused blindness infertility, madness and even death.

Vuniani and the team went up to Nuku to activate the process. The key scripture they went with was 2 Chronicles 7:14 If my people, which are called by my name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land.

They had 2 weeks of prayer meetings, the Methodist, Assemblies of God and Seventh Day Adventist Churches being represented. They spent time studying bible references on defilement and Healing the Land. This led them to repent and confess their sins and the sins of their forefathers, in the same way as Nehemiah did. These included killing and cannibalism, idolatry, witchcraft, bloodshed, and immorality.



They went to the high places in the area to cleanse them of the sinful acts that had taken place there. The elders confessed sins of their forefathers. Reconciliation first took place within families, then clans and finally within the tribe. The chief of the area led a corporate prayer or repentance with the whole tribe. On the third day some women came running and shouting into the village, announcing that the water in the stream had become pure again. It is still pure today.

Nuku village had been heavily populated, but because of feuds and disputes people were chased out or just left and went to live in other villages. Deputations were sent out to these to apologise for the past offences. A matanigasou (Traditional Apology) was sent to two villages, inviting the people to return if they wished.

The whole community now count themselves blessed. The productivity of the land increased. The stream water is pure and since that time shrimps and fish have returned to the waters. The fertility of the banks and agriculture has radically improved. Some people have even demonstrated healing properties.

One of the miracles in Vanibau, Serua Island, at the Navua River an elderly lady and her son went fishing on the beach. They cast the net out but when they tried to haul it back in, it seemed to be stuck. They found out that it was full of fish and they net was actually so full of fish that they couldn't pull it in.

They started walking back to the village to tell everyone, and the lady was following her son walking along the beach. Wherever his footprints were in the sand a red liquid appeared. As she walked in his footsteps she was healed of migraine, knee ailments and severe back pain, all of which she had suffered for many years. This healing has been permanent. As soon as they returned to the village she told the whole community what happened. Many other miracles happened that was a sign of reconciliation and healing, after this sign Pastor Vuniani recalled the scripture in Acts 2:19 where the Lord had spoken through the prophet Joel: "I will show wonders in heaven above, and signs in the earth beneath; blood, and fire, and vapor of smoke". Pastor Vuniani wondered what would come next after the sign of the blood and felt that the next sign would be fire.