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Pray with Fiji on Sunday, December 2, 2018

BY [NIKO SOPEPA](#) ON NOVEMBER 26, 2018

Lectionary Selection: Luke 21:25-36

Prayers for Fiji:

Ever present God, how strange it is that we often enter unknown land, and to our surprise we find you there. In these unfamiliar grounds we erect our places of worship and there seek your face. Here in Fiji we often stumble upon unfamiliar grounds and with passion and theological justifications we void the ground of your presence, only to find that you are there. In these unfamiliar grounds we discriminate, hate, kill, corrupt justice and every system that sustains the well-being of this country's citizens.



Therefore Lord, we pray that you open our eyes to see your presence, so that we may love, accept others, and exercise justice and peace for the good of the people in this country and for your glory. May the people we elect into government work in harmony and not become indifferent to the problems faced by the people of this country.

O God, let us kneel to worship and commit our prayers to you. Hear us in Jesus name, Amen.

Mission Stewardship Moment from Fiji:

As we prepare to celebrate Christmas, we cannot jump into a spirit and atmosphere of celebration and thanksgiving without acknowledging the pain and suffering around us. How then can we worship God freely and truly when vicious human desire tears through humanity as a whole?

While we prepare to celebrate life in Jesus Christ in the coming weeks, some of our brothers and sisters are pained by war, hatred, discrimination, and narcissism. It is without surprise that these things which cause others pain are practiced and supported by many who profess they have life in and through Jesus Christ. Here in Fiji the government deported an Iranian refugee who entered this country using false documents. This nation prides itself in being a Christian country and yet we fail to live up to the simplest Christian command, love your neighbor. We fail to attend to those who are in need.

Although this tiny island nation called Fiji is thousands of miles away from the bigger nations that control the world's economy and affairs, we are no different in our response to those who need a space to live – the refugees of our time.

We deceive people when we want something in return. This is exactly the nature in which Satan tempted Jesus. Every offer comes with a deceiving “promise.” We need to provide help without holding anything back. We need to embrace our brothers and sisters, without fear and doubt. Creating a safe environment for us to live in begins not with fear and doubt, but with love.

We will fight to stop our country from sending anymore refugees away. We shall embrace and love them. I know if the refugee was a Christian it would have had a different ending. Love without boundaries, is love from above.

(Prayer and Mission Moment by Niko Sopepa)

Global Ministries Mission Co-worker in Fiji:

Niko Sopepa serves with the Pacific Conference of Churches in Fiji. His appointment is made possible by your gifts to Disciples Mission Fund, Our Church’s Wider Mission, WOC, OGHS, and your special gifts.

More information on Fiji:

<https://www.globalministries.org/fiji>



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Fiji

Fiji is located in Oceania, island group in the South Pacific Ocean, about two-thirds of the way from Hawaii to New Zealand.

Population (2014 est) – 903,207

Area – 11,350 mi

Capital – Suva

Ethnic Background

iTaukei (predominantly Melanesian with a Polynesian admixture) – 56.8%

Indian – 37.5%

Rotuman – 1.2%

Other (European, part European, other Pacific Islanders, Chinese) – 4.5%

Exports – sugar, garments, gold, timber, fish, molasses, coconut oil

Imports – manufactured goods, machinery and transport equipment, petroleum products, food, chemicals

Life Expectancy (2014 est) – M 70 years F 75 years

Infant Mortality (2014 est) – 10.2 deaths/1,000 live births

Adult Illiteracy Rate – 6.3%