



## Congratulations to our 2010 Graduates!

*"This course is getting interesting — an eye-opener and exciting. I am getting my search for the Truth answered within."*

Josateki Vula, Diploma graduate,  
Methodist Church in Fiji & Rotuma

## Certificate in Theological Studies



Mereti Rabonu  
Anglican Diocese of Polynesia



Veceli Raduva  
Methodist, Fiji & Rotuma



Siteri Sale  
Methodist, Fiji & Rotuma

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### Reminder

If any of your  
contact details change,  
please contact your  
PTCEE office.



Mere Viriviri  
Methodist, Fiji & Rotuma



Stanley Sautahi (*in absentia*)  
Anglican, Solomon Islands

*Stanley's Certificate was  
presented to him at BPTC.*

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## International Ministry Explosion



Bula! I am Veceli Raduva, a Lay Pastor of the Methodist Church of Fiji. My wife is Sereima Rokovada. She works in the Immigration Dept of Fiji and is my partner in ministry. I have completed my Certificate studies at PTCEE. I am currently pursuing my studies in the Bachelor of Theology.

I am the President of the International Ministry Explosion. Since our ministry is interdenominational, I am its Pastor standing on this post as this is part of its requirements. We serve in prisons, hospitals, churches, old people's homes, squatter settlements, street kids and HARTs (a housing project). Life is a great challenge, and most times it challenges my faith. For instance, going out on visitations to squatter settlements. The level of unemployment

and people living below the poverty line is unbearable. Seeing the number of people living in small ramshackle lean-to buildings has moulded me into a more compassionate person rather than someone who can share financially. We have very limited funds and the enormous needs and hunger are way above our financial power. The Street Kids aged from 9 to 20 who sleep in culverts and streets and who are victims of abuse is what my mind cannot comprehend. The other areas of commitment I mentioned above are also challenging.

Well, this is my life and it is a great challenge to my faith as our main focus is to teach the Kingdom of God. I personally believe that faith is an unshakeable trust in God, but frankly speaking, in times of these challenges my faith is questioned.

Completing the Certificate in Theological Studies has boosted my life academically and spiritually. The people I meet every day from different walks of life always come up with big questions such as globalization, the economy, poverty, hunger, school dropout, unemployment, the political situation, etc. My studies are a great help as I have answers to reassure people of certain

situation with the theological perspective of God in each scenario. They have helped the Bible study ministry, as I am writing lessons focusing on the Kingdom of God. My knowledge of theological expressions has really changed the people and has had an impact on the community and churches we work with. Different issues such as globalization, divorce, marriage, crimes etc. are clearly explained, as people search for answers and are satisfied. This is possible due to the studies that I have completed.

I personally believe that other students who are doing this course and are struggling, could do better by doing a lot of practical work in the field voluntarily. **The answers are out there in the world and the theories of the world's misery are in the course. Put them together and you will find the answers to your Certificate.**

The extension programme has been successful in the last few years but there is still room for improvement, such as tutorial classes to be extended for two days or more. Extension courses to be advertised in papers (Fiji Times) twice a year so that the concept would sell out to the people, as it answers so many questions regarding global and spiritual crises.

My name is **Stanley Sautehi**. I am a member of the Anglican Church of Melanesia and I come from Ulawa Island in Makira Province, Solomon Islands. I am the youngest of seven siblings, four girls and three boys. Both my parents have passed away. I was under my elder sister's love and care in Honiara waiting for my graduation day on 12 November at Bishop Patteson Theological College.



I wanted to study Theology because I find that through God everything is possible. God is the source of everything in this sinful world. Without God, it is like a garden without water and the garden is starting to die. So learning the

word of God and sharing is the main reason I want to study Theology. God himself is ALPHA and OMEGA. There is nothing more in this world.

Now that I have completed my Certificate in Theological Studies, I know many things to do in my ministry and my community as a whole:

- Encourage my people to know God;
- Do counselling when people need help in times of trouble;
- Show how Christians should live by our actions toward each other, by LOVE and CARE for everyone in our community as well.

What I find most difficult in my studies, is time. I live in a rural area where every week we do community work, and I have

to find time to do my study.

What helped me during my study is prayer. I find it helpful to pray before opening my course book.

My advice to students who are struggling would be "DON'T GIVE UP. Keep on running towards your goal; God is always there to help us."

### ***How could our Extension Education Programme be improved?***

I understand that we have a PTCEE coordinator here at COM HQ. I suggest that all the course materials should be here with him, so when students pay up their fees they would pick their course materials as well. Once assignments are completed they are sent back to PTCEE for marking.

**GOD BLESS!**



## Welcome Back!

*Let's hear from the Director*

Welcome to another year of study. I know some of you have already begun work, because we have been receiving many assignments! Well done! May your commitment be rewarded!

If you have not started yet, I encourage you to get back on track. Re-dedicate yourself to your vision. Make the necessary sacrifices to achieve your goals. You can do it, with God's help!

We have quite a number of new students. So far 18 new Certificate students and two new Bachelor of Theology students have started their first course. Three pastors from Kiribati Protestant Church are upgrading their Certificates. And nine lay pastors in Niue are about to start studying.

Welcome to you all! We pray that you will find your studies interesting, challenging and helpful for your faith journey and Christian service.

### An Exciting New Venture

The Ekalesia Kerisiano Niue supports its committed lay leaders to study theology by extension. PTCEE will supply theology courses and the Church will provide ministry formation and training.

The new students are pleased that they can receive theological training without having to leave their families and go overseas. We are very happy to do our part to help build up the Niue church. We hope to put more information about this project in the next PTC Newsletter. It could provide a helpful model for other churches which do not have their own theological training college.

## What Markers Want

This topic will interest all students! Below is a list of what Faculty members expect from students:

**1. Address the question.**

Read the question carefully and answer it straight.

**2. Be brief.** Don't ramble on about everything. Be specific. [But make sure you support your statements with relevant examples.]

**3. Use your own words.** Don't copy from the course book. Express ideas in your own way, using simple words.

**4. Think carefully (critically).**

Don't just accept everything you read or hear. Compare it with your own knowledge and experience to test whether it is true and helpful.

**5. Acknowledge your sources.**

When you use information from books, make sure you write a note saying which book, which page, etc.

**6. Write neatly** so the markers can understand your answers.

**7. Leave space for comments** from the markers.

### Opportunities for Students in the Solomons

In May I hope to visit the Solomon Islands and meet with students there. In 2009 I ran tutorials in several places, as well as helping individual students with their studies. This year I wonder whether to teach a course.

I NEED YOUR FEEDBACK!

Instead of having to study by yourself, would you like to attend a week-long workshop? If so, **which course** would be most helpful for you? Please let me know, so I can plan it properly.

There may also be an opportunity for our Solomons students to do a workshop on *Leadership and Management* later in the year. Dr Manfred Ernst from PTC has been talking to SICA, the Solomon Islands Christian Association, about this possibility. SICA has sent information to the churches, so it would be good to let your church leaders know if you are interested in attending it.

Being good leaders and stewards is very challenging, both within the church and in the wider society. We need to develop our understanding and skills in these areas. Dr Ernst is willing to run a week-long workshop in Honiara to focus on these—probably in October. Certificate and Diploma students could gain credit for this course, since it is an elective.

### Opportunities in Suva

Ten Certificate and Diploma students in Suva have joined the PTC Women's Programme students in a class I am facilitating on *Ministry with Children and Youth*. We are grateful the Women's Programme allowed our students to join. It is wonderful to be able to share with others who are very committed to these ministries. We can all learn a lot from one another.

Certificate students will have the opportunity to participate in a week-long workshop in May on *Leadership and Management*. Many of them want to learn about these important areas of ministry. In Term 2 they will be eligible to register for a course in *Pastoral Counselling*, to be run in the Women's Programme.

Our extension tutorials continue each Friday morning for two hours. They aim to develop skills in learning, thinking and writing assignments.

During Term 1 some BTh students are studying *Paul's Letters* in a class run by Dr Holger Szesnat. One BTh student attends an evening class run by Dr Ernst: *Leadership and Management*. We thank Dr Szesnat and Dr Ernst for offering these courses in the evenings so that part-time students are able to attend.

*Let us all make the most of the opportunities God gives us each day!*

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## A Quick Look at 2010



Farewell feast



Computer class



Library tutorial



Sports day



Working bee



Weavers meeting



Orientation week



Orientation week



Advisory Committee meeting



**The Conch Shell** is the occasional newsletter of Pacific Theological College Education by Extension.

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