

Mission Sonlight-Fulton College-Traditional

Narrator: Welcome to Mission Sonlight. Our cameras visit the tropical island of Fiji in this segment of Mission Sonlight. The setting of this South Pacific island nation provides the visitor with majestic views of mountains, which are contrasted by the lush green of the tropical jungles. In the cobalt blue of the ocean waters, more than 300 islands make up the country of Fiji.

Its capital city of Suva is situated on a hilly peninsula. Also the nation's largest city, it is home to many nationalities, including Fijians, Indo-Fijians, and expatriates from Australia, New Zealand and Asia.

The name Fiji is actually the Tongan name for these islands. Early inhabitants called this place Viti. The Vitian culture was a melding of Polynesian, Melanesian and Micronesian people groups. These people were known for their fierce warlike manner. Their reputation for cannibalism earned the islands the name "The Cannibal Islands." Fierce warriors would use double-hulled canoes that were hewn from a single tree. It took five men, using oars that measured up to 12 feet in length, to pilot them. These proved a fearsome sight as they approached land and the warriors were swinging their war clubs and yelling their war cries.

Traditional Fijian society taught that eating your enemy was the ultimate revenge and a disrespectful death was something that the victim's family could never live down. The ritual included men and women's dances, specially crafted long wooden forks and the designing of mementoes that the warriors kept to remind them of their victory over their victims.

Today, Fijians are a gentle and friendly people. Their warm greetings of Bula! are combined with a grace that is welcoming of friends and strangers alike.

Christian missionaries began arriving in the area in the mid-19th century. Their tireless work is still seen today as approximately 52% of the island's inhabitants are Christians. Hinduism makes up 38% and Islam is practiced by 8% of the population.

John Tay was the first Seventh-day Adventist missionary to work in Fiji. He arrived in 1891 on the mission ship Pitcairn. His untimely death just a few months later cut his work short among the Fijians.

Other Adventist missionaries, including J. M. Cole and J.E. Fulton, followed Tay. The work of the church began to spread throughout Fiji. Today there is still a great need to tell the story of Jesus on the island of Fiji. The population of the island is around 864,000 people. There are 144 Seventh-day Adventist churches and almost 27,500 baptized church members.

The Fiji Mission is part of the Trans-Pacific Union in the South Pacific Division. As the church began to grow, leaders saw the need for building a centralized educational training center for higher education. Over the early years of the work done here, smaller islands had developed small colleges. When Fulton was established the three schools in existence at that time merged to form the Fulton College campus near Suva on the main island of Fiji. The mission of the college was to train ministers, teachers and business administrators to work in this part of the world.

Joseph Pitaki (Fulton Principal) 6c2-9 (0:38): Fulton has been here for nearly 70 years.

Isimeli Levuimata (Electrician) Day 1c: It's important to let people know that Fulton College is a Christian institution where they come and learn more not only an education but more about Christ.

Narrator: Fulton College has changed the lives of many young people, not only from Fiji but from across the South Pacific. Today, approximately 250 students register for classes and continue their training to share the gospel message.

Joseph Pitaki 61N: Eighty percent of these students are coming from overseas. Only about twenty percent of them are Fijian.

Osea Panda (Student) (6C2) Fulton has really improved me a lot. It has molded me and shaped me to work with different cultures and different ethnicities.

Iliapi Tuwai: (Parent) (Day 8 #3) As a parent of a Fulton student, my daughter started at Fulton last year. She told me that she's very happy now at Fulton. She's enjoying her studies. She had been relating to us as a family that the spiritual life is on par with what she had expected.

Former Female Student (Where is her name?, Former Student) 6c2-25: Experiencing Fulton is really challenging and very important. It encourages me in many aspects of life-physical, mental, spiritual and socializing.

Narrator: Today Fulton College is facing several serious challenges. The college was built on land that was held in a native lease. This type of lease requires that upon renewal all of the landowners must give their consent for the lease to be renewed. For the past 2-3 years the large family of owners with a new generation have not been able to agree. Thus, the College has not been able to renew the land lease. After much prayer and

study, it was decided that the college would need to move from Tailevu, to a new location across the island in Nadi.

Isimeli Levuimata (Fulton Worker) (6C1) We have been pumping from the creek and from this creek we have a dairy shed, which is about a hundred meters above the creek where they milk everyday.

Narrator: Another issue for the college is the lack of a good supply of clean water.

Isimeli Levuimata (6C1) All that __ (garbled) __ goes down to the creek. Just 100 meters from there we are taking in that water without a strainer up to the first dormitory, to the main tank and distributed to the campus. That's where the students are having their bath, washing, and toilets.

Narrator: The lack of good clean water has become a concern because of the illness and diseases that students are facing on a regular basis.

Peter Daniel (Student Worker) (6c2-18): I have been working as a college nurse and I have received students coming to the dispensary complaining of skin problems, viruses and other dermatitis problems. This is cause by water. So moving the quarters from here to the new site is good simply because I know there are good waters out there for the college to use.

Narrator: The current location of Fulton College also creates difficulties for students arriving from outside of Fiji. Most students fly into the international airport in Nadi and then must travel several hours to the college.

Joseph Pitaki (6C1N): Nadi is on the other side of the island and Fulton is on this side. Students coming in have to pay about \$200 to come to Fulton. \$200 Fijian would be around roughly \$100 US.

Narrator: This is a high price to pay for an island economy.

Another advantage for locating the college in Nadi is the opportunity to reach the Indo-Fijians who live and work in that area. In the late 1800's, a large influx of residents from India as indentured servants added to the diversity of the population of Fiji. Today, most of the Indo-Fijians who live and work in Fiji are 4th and 5th generation family members of those early laborers. This group is largely composed of Hindus and is a people group waiting to be reached with the story of Jesus.

Alafina Katovai (Student) 62CU: To me this place is like home because I grew up here. To move is like a big step.

Narrator: Moving to a new location is not without regret and sadness.

Alafina Katovai 62CU 5:16-5:32 I believe that if we move to Nadi more students will be able to come and get a Christian education in which when they go back to their islands they will be able to go and spread the gospel to wherever they are from.

Narrator: Land and a new site have been found and plans are being laid for moving the college.

Jim Saukauru (Layman) Day 7b: I'm standing here on the riverbank of the new site of Fulton. The total area of this land is about 160 acres in total. The paramount chief of this area known as the ___**chief's title but can't understand it to spell it**_____ owns entirely this piece of land.

Narrator: The chief has given his consent to lease the land for a period of 99 years with a perpetual written agreement. At the end of 99 years there is a renewal of a recurrent 99 year lease for the new Nadi campus of Fulton.

Jim Saukauru Day 7b: Just across on the other side of the river is a 16-acre property, which is included in the total 160 acres. The 16 acres has 3 natural water springs that can be used to supplement the water supply here at the new Fulton College, apart from the Sobeto (Somm-bett-oh) River that runs 365 days a year flowing down right out to the open sea.

Narrator: In times past Fulton College has reached out to the world church for improvement. A reminder of this will be moved from the college's present site to the new one in Nadi. In the college chapel there is one lone red tile. It represents the sacrifice of one young boy who gave all he had to help tell others about Jesus. At a time when the college was in need of funds, letters were sent out to the world church requesting that funds be sent to purchase tiles for the auditorium and church. Sadly no one responded except for one little boy in the United States. He emptied his piggy bank and sent all he had. It was just enough to buy one tile.

One red tile was purchased with this gift from a boy who gave everything he had. A potent statement of love and sacrifice is summed up in that one red tile. The faculty and staff decided they would donate the rest of the money from their own humble salaries. More tiles were installed, but they were grey. The red tile remained at the front and center next to the stage to serve as a reminder of this young boy's sacrifice. When the

college moves to it's new location, the red tile will have a new place of honor to continue reminding students that sacrifice is what we are called to as Christians.

Your gift can buy many red tiles, desks, computers, and much more. Students at Fulton College can have clean water and the assurance of a school where they can receive a Christian education?

A young boy once gave enough for a red tile. As a world church family we are called to give enough to help build a new school. Will you respond with a generous offering on Sabbath, December 26?

Reporting from the island of Fiji, in the South Pacific Division, this is Mission Sonlight.