

Beacon Media report January 2016

The Ministry of Education has now given permission for Teacher's Aides to be employed in all Methodist Primary schools in Fiji. This will be a pilot program for 2016, covering only the Year 3 classes. The main goal is to provide one-on-one literacy assistance to non-readers. The Ministry has requested that other schools be included as well. Five additional schools have been chosen for 2016, to run with the pilot program. These schools were chosen to cover a broad cross-section of cultural and socio-economic groups. The additional five schools are:

Lami Primary

Draiba Fijian Primary

Vishnu Deo Memorial Primary

Suva Muslim Primary

Veiuto Primary

Two Teacher's Aides per school were trained and employed in January 2016. *Youth With A Mission* has stepped in with volunteers to carry out testing and literacy assistance.

Teacher's Aides have been set up with a "starter kit" for literacy, which includes a Running Records test kit and student reading materials up to Level 6. They have also been provided with a data CD from which they can print out further resources.

The teachers of the Year 3 pilot classes will provide statistics of student progress, which will be recorded every four weeks. These statistics will be submitted to Mr. Bower, (director of Suva Christian Community School) or Losalini Tuwere (director of YWAM Suva), at the end of each term.

All schools are in great need of finances, reflected in the lack of student reading materials, crowded classrooms, little storage space and no quiet working spaces for Teacher's Aides. In order to break this cycle some creative thinking will need to be done concerning fund-raising.

Currently all Teacher's Aides are working as volunteers in the hope that there will be some answers to the financial situation. This needs to happen soon before the volunteer Teacher's Aides lose hope.

The Butt Street Methodist Church will be presenting a fund-raising play in September 2016, with the assistance of *Beacon Media*, the purpose being to raise funds for the Methodist Schools.



Teacher's Aides preparing at Davuilevu Methodist Primary, Jan 2016