

# Keith and Cindy Bickley

## Foursquare Emissaries to the South Pacific

Advent: the arrival of a notable person, thing, or event.



When we were kids, we anxiously waited for Christmas Day to arrive. It was all we could do to restrain ourselves to be nice instead of naughty so that we could receive our gifts. As adults it's not so much Christmas Day but the month-long celebration consisting of decorating and visiting friends and family and making Christmas cookies. As children we chose to be nice instead of naughty and as adults, we choose to enjoy the season rather than letting the season make us into Scrooge's. It all comes down to our attitude while waiting. We must make the most of the days because we don't know what will happen tomorrow.



### Burundi FDR Medical Mission

On September 3<sup>rd</sup>, we traveled to Burundi for a training outreach as part of the Foursquare Disaster Relief Medical team. We love to serve the communities in Burundi. The team was able to provide medical care to 1023 people over 7 days. This was possible due to people's generous donations. Thank YOU!



We focused on our partnership with local churches and engaged in evangelism while also offering support to pastors and their families. Recently, we were entrusted with the task of hosting a conference for 300 pastors and their wives. The topics were 'Women in Ministry' and 'Balancing Ministry and Family'. It was an immense privilege to nurture, uplift, and equip these devoted individuals and their families for their dedicated service to God.



During the conference, an unforgettable moment unfolded when we invited National leader Pastor Serges to demonstrate the essence of a pastor's love for his wife. Without prior notice or prompting, Pastor Serges humbly invited his wife to take a seat, then knelt to remove her shoes and proceeded to wash her feet—an act of profound servitude highly valued in their culture. This act beautifully mirrored Christ's sacrificial love for us, exemplifying a husband's selfless dedication to his wife. Moved by the experience, Pastor Serges extended an invitation for us to return next October to conduct similar conferences in two different locations.



As a concluding gesture at the conference, we orchestrated a touching ceremony where the pastors and their wives renewed their wedding vows. Each couple was presented with a ring and certificate, symbolizing their enduring commitment to one another.

Furthermore, we've collaborated with Foursquare Mission Press to facilitate the provision of Bibles in the Kirundi language. This joint effort resulted in the acquisition of 70 Study Bibles! We extend our heartfelt gratitude for your partnership, prayers, and support—your contributions play an integral role in making these endeavors possible.

In this small world that often seems even smaller, I encountered the embodiment of peace, my newfound friend and medical volunteer, Aime Jesus. It was back in 2014 when the nation of Burundi was once again engulfed in a horrific uprising, witnessing a resurgence of genocide. Many, particularly young men, were losing their lives. Aime himself bore witness to the loss of several relatives during this conflict. In a desperate attempt to safeguard his life, his mother sent him alone on a bus to Uganda, seeking refuge in a camp.



He embarked on this journey with little more than a scant amount of money and provisions to sustain him throughout. Arriving at the Nakivale refugee camp was daunting. Recognizing his dire situation, a young pastor extended his support, taking in many boys fleeing the genocide, offering them shelter and care. Life within the refugee camp was harsh, especially for those who had witnessed such horrifying massacres. Aime recounted finding solace and a growing understanding of the God of Peace through the guidance and nurturing of this pastor, gradually healing from the trauma he had endured.

Little did I anticipate that, throughout my numerous years of service with Medical Teams International, I would cross paths with the same young individual who, at the age of 14, had been working in the medical clinic. Witnessing a refugee like Aime, who had spent considerable time caring for countless displaced victims, return to his homeland was a true blessing. For over eight years, I dedicated a month at a time to serve in that very refugee camp. It was within those challenging circumstances that Aime also found love, meeting his future wife in that same camp.

Reflecting on these remarkable encounters, I eagerly anticipate the day when, in heaven, we will watch the playback video of our unexpected reunions. I have never collaborated with a volunteer as gracious and grateful as Aime, someone who, despite enduring profound hardship, harbors no bitterness towards life.



## Papua New Guinea - Fiji

Our November ended in an almost “medical mission” to Papua New Guinea! We had several hiccups to prevent our trip to 3 different venues. After traveling for 36 hours, our plane was

turned around at our first destination and had to return to Port Moresby because of weather and tarmac issues. So, after 40 hours since we left home, we booked a hotel and finally climbed into bed for a short sleep to attempt to board the early morning flight. Little did we know that most of the flights were cancelled due to the lack of availability of small planes, tarmac issues, and weather. So, the waiting



began! 3 days of crowded terminals and later we decided for plan B. This was to stay in Port Moresby and work with one of the leaders in their Bible school, health clinic and feeding program. Pastor Rodney was thrilled for the help. Plans fell through. The Pastor’s mother-in law passed away. So understandably became tied up with funeral preparations but Keith was able to teach at the Bible School. During this time, we were staying in a missionary guesthouse, and we were excited to hear we were an answer to a missionaries’ prayer. She flew into Port Moresby a few weeks before to have a specialist deliver her baby. She had just delivered it the day before we arrived. She asked the Lord if He could send someone to make sure the baby was doing ok. Teresa, our family medicine ARNP and me a NICU nurse quickly jumped on the request. The baby was fine!







Our team Teresa Marshall and Michaela Rickard did such a great job rolling with the trials! I saw them as we stood in line encouraging the ones around them demonstrating the spirit of peace and contentment when all was amiss. They laid hands and prayed for the sick, smiled and struck up conversations with anyone who needed comfort. They truly brought peace to the situation! Plan C. We called the National Leader in Fiji and asked if he needed any willing workers! He said YES, they had a Women Empowered conference planned and needed speakers! We were able to enjoy sweet fellowship and of course

wonderful food that the ladies made! Our host Pastor Mousme did an awesome job coordinating the conference. She saw our post on the difficulties we were having getting anywhere in PNG and was praying about asking us to come. One of the highlights of the conference was a life-changing experience for the young lady who came to the event. She happened to be hearing impaired since birth and had a difficult time adjusting through life with her disability. She had to use hearing aids to hear anything. It just so happened our own sweet Mickela had the same hearing problem. She was a great encouragement to this lady giving her testimony how God is with us no matter what. It is very rare to see any hearing-impaired person in a meeting. I was able to brush up on my sign language and use it. I wish you would have been there to see the connection that happened because of Mikaela hearing impairment testimony.

We ended up ministering in a combined service in Suva and then driving 5 hours to the women's event. On the way to the Suva, we visited the sick, brought food to a destitute family and did some house evangelism.

Ministering is always full of surprises. Our surprise was a cyclone that was heading straight for our location. Luckily, the cyclone changed its course, and we were spared. The only downside was that we sweated a lot in our 90-degree house with no ventilation. The windows and doors were sealed to prepare for the storm. Our kind hosts shared their stories of surviving other typhoons in their house, where the water rose up to their chest. Their house had been flooded several times before. The river was right at the edge of their

property. I was so anxious about the flood that I stayed up all night, watching the water level. It turned out that it wasn't even raining, and the water was far from the backyard. Everyone else in the house slept soundly, except for Teresa and me. We were ready to grab our peanut butter and flip flops and run for our lives! Despite the cyclone and the plane delays, I am so thankful that we got to serve Him. He always has a bigger plan that we can't see.



## Family update!

We've been keeping busy with the farm amidst our travels. With our reliance on wood heating, we've spent a couple of weeks preparing for the cold weather ahead. Keith is ecstatic about his new tractor, especially with its grappling hooks that make logging much easier! But, of course, we also take every chance to escape reality by going camping.

Our trees have yielded an abundance of apples and pears, keeping us occupied with canning throughout September and October. We recently invested in an apple press, which not only allows us to enjoy delicious apple juice but also cuts down significantly on the workload compared to canning. Unfortunately, my garden didn't fare so well, but I'm optimistic about getting ahead of the weeds next year!

Natasha and Shane have settled on the west side of the state, near Lake Tapps. Natasha has been with World Vision for an impressive 23 years, while Shane works in construction. And their kids are simply amazing! Reese has secured some major roles in high school drama, and it's unbelievable she's already 17. Their two younger brothers keep Tasha and Shane on their toes with their sports activities. Eleven- and twelve-year-old boys seem to have bottomless appetites! Meanwhile, Joshua, their 26-year-old, is residing in a trailer on our farm, employed by a landscaping company. David and Dani are actively planning to build their house on a portion of the farm's acreage. For now, they're residing in 'the bunk house' with their two daughters, aged 12 and 14. David serves as an associate pastor at Suncrest Worship Center, just 7 miles away. They're an active bunch—never seem to sit still. Dani's busy homeschooling the kids and leading the ladies' Bible Study.



And, naturally, the girls are engrossed in music, art, and caring for animals! Kristal is employed at Amazon, channeling her passion into creating beauty with her hands during her spare time. She's set to move to a cottage close to the farm by February. Melissa resides in Spokane, working as a production manager for a company that assembles large electrical panels. She's a master multitasker, handling things with impressive efficiency. Keith's older brother, Kirk, has been living in the shop on the farm for nine years now! What began as a visit turned into a permanent stay. He's the most laid-back person to share space with. My mother lives in Tacoma in an assisted living facility. Despite dealing with macular degeneration and arthritis, she's always in high spirits and quite the popular figure in the dining room!

## Next year (LORD WILLING)

In March, our plans entail traveling to the Islands of Chuuk and Pohnpei to visit our new Foursquare Church family, aiming to train leaders and develop ministries. We will collaborate with PNG Missionary William Yakumbu to establish churches and organize leadership, women's, and children's ministries. These were two of the endeavors that suffered economically during the COVID lockdown.

Next fall, we will travel to Burundi to conduct two marriage and ministry seminars for pastors and leaders.

Last year, we undertook extensive travel. We are endeavoring to further streamline our travel arrangements. We were fortunate to visit South Korea, Tonga, Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Jamaica, and Burundi. Additionally, we had the opportunity to participate in the 100-year celebration of Four Square in Los Angeles. None of this would have been possible without your support. We deeply appreciate your enabling us to serve as your hands and feet on the mission field!

### PRAY FOR:

- **Health** and Safety: before, during & after the mission for us and our families back home.
- **Strength** and Endurance as we minister.
- **Miracles** of Salvation and Healing!
- **Safety** as we travel by air, boat, and car.
- **Ministry Provisions.**



Have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! Bless you,

*Keith and Cindy Buckley*

