



## 2023 NEW YEAR LETTER to the REGION

To Our Esteemed Pacific Missionaries and National Leaders,

What a most humbling privilege and great gift is afforded me in serving you. My wife and I send New Year greetings across the waters to you in the Name of our LORD Jesus Christ. We thank God that He has privileged us with a new year, a new gift. We are filled with hope for a new day.

### HIGHLIGHTS of 2022 IN REVIEW / Looking Backward to Look Forward

As we spend the first weeks of this New Year in focused prayer and fasting, times of personal introspection and evaluation are not only beneficial, but necessary. **By looking back with thankful consideration of His mercies, His provision, His guidance, His blessings, His protection and His hand on our lives, we receive renewed faith to move forward in complete trust to accomplish His mission.**

The Scripture says, *“Remember his marvelous works that he hath done, his wonders, and the judgments of his mouth;”* (1 Chronicles 16:12)

*We look backward to thank God and look forward to trust God.*

**January 15, 2022.**

How shall I ever forget the most sickening feeling in the pit of my stomach when trying to make contact with Brother Esoni Vai on the island of **Tonga’tapu, Tonga** immediately after receiving news of the horrific cataclysmic volcanic explosion — and receiving nothing but silence.



For several days, each attempt to get message through ended in complete failure. The shock waves that rippled through the atmosphere and oceans were unlike anything in the modern scientific era. The mere thought of the possibility of our friends and population on Tonga'tapu being swept away to sea was crushing.

Earnest, global intercessory prayer for Tonga was immediate. And then, finally, a BLIP! Brother Vai's voice was recognized over a very weak and broken connection — but, he was alive! They were all alive! It was truly pure Joy Unspeakable!

**We look back and we thank God!**

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**Virtual Meetings** continued well into 2022 as our national borders slowly became open, one by one. I so greatly appreciate our national leaders and missionaries allowing me the privilege to join you virtually throughout this long process.

**We look back and we thank God!**

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In August of 2022, the **UPC of Malaysia** became **nationalized**. What a tremendous celebration as everyone gathered together in Kuala Lumpur, **looking back and thanking God**, recognizing His guiding hand on their past and bringing the beautiful Malaysia church body forward to 'such a time as this.' **In Jesus' Name, revival to this nation!**

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The great **UPC of the Philippines** simultaneously celebrated their **65th Anniversary** all up and down the 7,000 island archipelago in October with remarkable celebrations of worship and praise, honoring their legacy, **looking back and thanking God**, as they commit to grow and go forward.

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Immediately prior to the UPCI Global Council meeting in November of 2022, the **PAC Steering Committee**, formed before the pandemic, was able to meet *in-person*! The members of this integral Committee consist of Area Coordinators, Reps of our primary arms of Reg'l Ministry, and our PAC Superintendents of Nationalized Works. **We look back and we thank God** as we prepare to go forward!

PACIFIC REGION



The UPCI Global Council meeting in November of 2022 was significant including 300 Delegates with spouses and representation from 238 nations & territories. This was the first time it was hosted in the US. Meetings were translated into Spanish, French, Portuguese and Malagasy. *The Pacific Region was so well represented in attendance and participation!* **We look back and we thank God** as the global church moves forward together!

In December 2022 the UPCI of Fiji grandiosely celebrated their 50th Anniversary. They were so honored to have Rev. & Mrs. D.K. Bernard minister at this historic event with approximately 4,000 in attendance, 198 receiving the Holy Spirit, 28 baptized in Jesus' Name, 25 healings (including blind eyes and deaf ears opened!), and a Bible School Graduation Ceremony with 46 Graduates! With gratitude to their early pioneer missionaries, they **looked back and thanked God** and have great anticipation for the future!



**2022 PACIFIC REGION NUMERICAL SYNOPSIS**

Be reminded that our **Annual Field Reports** for the year 2022 are to be submitted online by **April 15, 2023**. I do so appreciate your diligence in gathering this important information.

CATEGORY	2013 Report	2019 Report <i>(pre-pandemic)</i>	2022 Report	10 Yr Percentage
Constituents	420,720	1,390,945	1,587,565	377.7%
Established Churches	3,271	4,101	4,184	127.8%
Licensed Ministers	4,343	4910	5,586	128.5%
Bible School Students	495	767	911	184%

GLORY TO GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE, IS DOING, AND WILL DO!

Scripture makes it clear that it is not only wickedness and disasters that will increase in the last days. We have the accompanying promise of Acts 2:17,

*“And it **shall** come to pass in the last days, saith God, I **will** pour out my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters **shall** prophesy, your young men **shall** see visions, your old men **shall** dream dreams.”*

As leaders, it is our responsibility to ensure that our entire church body is expectantly and actively working in our ripened harvest fields, planting, sowing, and reaping the unprecedented outpouring of His Spirit in these last days!

## OUR REGIONAL VISION & OUR FUTURE

**The Pacific Region must continue to grow, not only in numbers and depth, but our VISION must also continue to grow and expand.**

*We exist to accomplish a shared mission.*

*Our shared mission is reaching our unreached Tribes, Islands, and People groups (TIP).*

Each national board has been requested to gather together for the purpose of formulating a researched listing of all their *unreached islands, unreached tribes, and unreached people groups*, and then prayerfully prioritize as to their national strategic plan in making intentional efforts to reach, disciple, and establish in the Gospel. These lists will be presented at the time of the PAC Strategic Planning Meeting this coming June 1-2, 2023.

Fulfilling our PAC VISION through organizational effort **cannot be accomplished through the efforts of just one ministry — not even one nation, no matter how gifted.**

We must labor together as partners with high degrees of trust and shared purpose.

**We are, as you might say, “A Team of Teams.”**

We are committed to support the mission of the whole.

**OUR MISSION OF REACHING EVERY TRIBE, INHABITED ISLE and EVERY PEOPLE GROUP becomes a conviction that holds us together, changes us, and continually propels us forward.** No one cannot go the distance alone.

**PAC REGIONAL MISSIONS UPDATE**

**KIRIBATI**

We are so grateful for the pioneer ministry of **Rev. and Mrs. Dan Vitayaki** in the islands of **Kiribati**. We understand the commitment, time, finance, and great sacrifice required to establish a work in a new field.

KIRIBATI	2014 Report	2022 Report
Constituents	300	600

In January 2021, they returned to Fiji due to Covid restrictions. After 18 long months of lock-down, a return to Kiribati to continue the work was finally allowed.

This work is primarily being established through financial donations made through the UPC of FIJI and PAC Regional Missions. *In their most recent report, the islands of Kiribati now have 2 established churches and 15 preaching places!*

**TIMOR-LESTE**

**Rev. and Mrs. Michael Perry** have invested much as they have labored in establishing the work in Timor-Leste, applying themselves to the studying of the Tetum language and culture. In mid-2022, the Timor-Leste Church and leaders finalized a National Strategic Plan, Mission, and Goals.

*In May of 2022, they dedicated a new Bible School facilities serving the two affiliated local churches of Bacau and Dili, funded by the generous giving of the Australian Church.*

TIMOR-LESTE	2013 Report	2022 Report
Constituents	119	246

Extreme gratitude is given to the UPCI of FIJI and to the UPC of Australia for their financial sacrifice in support of our Regional Missionaries.

We are also appreciative to the individuals and nations who give to our  
**PAC REGIONAL MISSIONS PROGRAM!**

God bless you!

**2023 PROPOSED CALENDAR of SPECIAL EVENTS:**

March 6	Pacific Regional Day of Prayer
April 15	Deadline for Annual Field Report
May 1-12	School of Missions – St. Louis
May 28	Area Coordinator’s Meeting – Bali
May 31	PAC Steering Committee Mtg – Bali (9:00am-12:00 noon)
May 31-02 June	PAC Regl Strategic Planning Meeting – Bali
July 28-30	NAYC - Indianapolis
August 4-14	Apostolic Youth Corps – Samoa
September 19-22	UPCI General Conference – Indianapolis
October 31-02 Nov	Asia / Pacific Youth Conference - Manila

**With CONDOLENCES and with REMEMBRANCE, we give honor, respect, and appreciation to REV. MERVYN MILLER, who has gone home to meet his reward this past year.**

Rev. Mervyn Miller served as our very first Pacific Regional Field Supervisor when the Asia / Pacific Region separated and become two separate Regions in the 80’s.

**Our prayers continue to be with Sister Marilyn Miller and their extended family.**



**“But go your way, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you into Galilee: there shall ye see Him, as he said unto you.”**

**Mark 16:7**

Let’s make 2023 a very intentional year of **stepping forward** into our unfamiliar fields of the Unreached — with prayer, planning, preparation, and great faith, knowing that He goes before us. **THERE** we **SHALL** see Him!

**We look forward to what God has in store for the Pacific Region as we labor TOGETHER in 2023!**

**APPRECIATION**

I cannot close this Letter without expressing my appreciation to each one of you. Your very own burden, passion, ministry, and sacrifice does not go unnoticed. The respect you give us is humbling. Your faithful updates and reports, as well as your personal notes of encouragement to my wife and I, are received with gratitude.

We will not be daunted by the challenges in front of us. We *will* go forward together in His Name with unwavering faith, giving the whole of ourselves, without reservation.

As January opened with JOY in the LORD, may DECEMBER close with GLADNESS.

With Sincere Gratitude,  
*Roger D. Buckland*  
Regional Director