

**AMP 5-22-16 | 9:00 - 9:30am**

**Today's Service**

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service and into his kingdom. Pray especially for those that reached by Robert's tract ministry.
- That Pastor Jon preach in God's power as he preaches on 1 John.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the godness, power, and love of God.

**RPC Outreach**

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.
- That God would build the community of RPC: baptisms, prayer meetings, softball, bible studies, etc.

**Regional Church**

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (retiring June) (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (retiring August) (Mt. Vernon, NY), Regional Home Missionary (Starting September 2016).

**Fiji | Basic Country Facts:**

**Operation World Denomination Statistics**



Christians	Deno ms	Pop %	Affiliates	Ann Gr
<b>Protestant</b>	14	45.91	392,000	0.6%
<b>Independent</b>	16	10.59	90,000	3.3%
<b>Anglican</b>	1	0.80	7,000	0.4%
<b>Catholic</b>	1	11.59	99,000	1.6%
<b>Marginal</b>	3	2.83	24,000	2.2%
<b>Doubly Unaffiliated</b>		-6.67	-57,000	0.0%

**Ethnic Breakdown:** iTaukei 56.8% (predominantly Melanesian with a Polynesian admixture), Indian 37.5%, Rotuman 1.2%, other 4.5% (European, part European, other Pacific Islanders, Chinese)

**Major Languages:** English (official), Fijian (official), Hindustani

**Religion:** Protestant 45% (Methodist 34.6%, Assembly of God 5.7%, Seventh Day Adventist 3.9%, and Anglican 0.8%), Hindu 27.9%, other Christian 10.4%, Roman Catholic 9.1%, Muslim 6.3%, Sikh 0.3%, other 0.3%, none 0.8% (2007 est.)

**Population:** 909,389 (July 2015 est.)

**Life Expectancy:** male: 69.79 years female: 75.2 years (2015 est.)

**Government:** parliamentary republic

**Economic Conditions:** Fiji, endowed with forest, mineral, and fish resources, is one of the most developed and connected of the Pacific island economies. Earnings from the tourism industry, with an estimated 755,000 tourists visiting in 2015, and remittances from Fijian's working abroad are the country's largest foreign exchange earners.

Fiji's sugar remains a significant industry and a major export. The sugar industry reforms since 2010 have improved productivity and returns, but the industry faces the complete withdrawal of European Union preferential prices by 2017. Fiji's trade imbalance continues to widen with increased imports and sluggish performance of domestic exports.

**GDP Per Capita:** \$8,800 (2015 est.)

**GDP - composition, by sector of origin:** agriculture: 11.9% industry: 19.6% services: 68.4% (2015 est.)

**Education:** Primary school education in Fiji is compulsory, and free for eight years. In 1998, the gross primary enrollment ratio was 110.5 percent, and the net primary enrollment rate was 99.4 percent.[1] As of 2001, attendance was decreasing

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due to security concerns and the burden of school fees, often due to the cost of transport. Following the government coup in May 2000, more than 5,000 students were reported to have left school.

Fijian Education is a combination of multiculturalism and multi-racialism and allows for the guidance and administration of numerous religious organizations. The Ministry of Education in Fiji is taking major steps to subsidize the educational fees and other costs related to it and hence bringing it under the affordability of everyone.

The Fiji Education System is taken care of by the government but most of the schools are managed either by the local committees or by a single racial community. One can get admitted to the secondary schools by appearing in the competitive exams and the student has to pay a nominal fee, the balance being subsidized by the government.

Technical education is mostly under the University of the South Pacific. The Pacific and Fiji Island government funds the budget. The learning experience is enhanced much more by broadcasting the lessons through the satellite so that the interior pupils also gain the University benefits. Technical, Agricultural, Medical Education, Teachers training and all the various Fiji education are provided well by the Fijian institutions and universities. A second university, the University of Fiji, has also been established. (wiki)

**Religion:** According to the 2007 census, 64.4% of the population at the time was Christian, followed by 27.9% Hindu, 6.3% Muslim, 0.8% non-religious, 0.3% Sikh, and the remaining 0.3% belonging to other religions. Among Christians, 54% were counted as Methodist, followed by 14.2% Catholic, 8.9% Assemblies of God, 6.0% Seventh-day Adventist, 1.2% Anglican, with the remaining 16.1% belonging to other denominations.

The largest Christian denomination is the Methodist Church of Fiji and Rotuma. (The general secretary is Revd Tuikilakila Waqairatu.) With 34.6% of the population (including almost two-thirds of ethnic Fijians), the proportion of the population adhering to Methodism is higher in Fiji than in any other nation. In 2012, permission was granted by the government for Methodists to hold their annual conference, for the first time in four years, with the conditions that the conference not coincide with the national Hibiscus Festival and should only last for three days, and that no political matters were to be discussed, only church matters. (wiki)

### **Prayer Points:**

- British colonial greed left a long-term legacy of rival ethnicities and segregation in Fiji:
  - a) Indigenous Fijians have long resented imported Indian indentured labourers, from 1870 onward. At times, Fijians were a minority in their own country. This challenge has resulted in a positive restoring of many traditional Fijian ways, but also a negative protectionist bias in politics and land issues.
  - b) The Indian communities work hard to build up what they have and yet feel little security in a nation where they cannot own land and where systemic racism undermines their efforts. Their treatment by the British and then by Fijians discredits the gospel in the eyes of most Indians. Pray for a spirit of repentance and reconciliation and for a society marked by freedom and equality. (OW 1)
- Fiji's social and political problems are many. Alcoholism and broken homes are major social ills that need to be addressed nationwide. But greater still is a political issue – there have been four coups in the last two decades; every time the country seems about to turn the corner, another coup disrupts and destabilizes progress. Pray that righteousness and justice might be established and the rule of law and democratically elected governments observed. (OW 2)
- The Methodist Church has been the de facto state church in Fiji for 150 years as well as the faith of the majority of ethnic Fijians. It has also been tightly aligned with the nation's political structures – to the detriment of the gospel. Methodism's past failure to adequately condemn the endemic racism and racially motivated coups has prompted splits within the Church. A lack of spiritual vitality has spurred a large-scale exodus to newer denominations. But there has also been change in recent years as issues of renewal and reconciliation have come to the fore. Pray for new life and right priorities for this highly influential denomination. (OW 3)
- New churches with spiritual dynamism and evangelistic vision have surged in growth in the last decade; Pentecostal groups are the most notable among these. Also within the Methodist, Anglican and Catholic churches are strong evangelical/charismatic movements. There are many claims of great revival in Fiji, and there is undeniable fruit of God at work in remarkable ways, as individuals, communities and even the environment see transformation. (OW 4 Intro)
- Less-reached peoples. The Indians of Fiji form the largest non-Christian community in the Pacific. As few as 3% of them claim to be Christian. The greatest challenges for Indian-majority churches are developing (and retaining) mature and experienced leaders and integrating with the rest of the body of Christ. (OW 5 Intro)