

Mission Report- Simbo

Solomon Islands

14-28 June 2011

From the 14th to 28th of July Nader and I (Imad), were invited to hold a 10 day camp meeting in a remote yet beautiful island called Simbo in the Solomon Islands.

We flew into Honiara on the 14th and then into Gizo on the 16th where we caught a small boat for 2.5 hours to arrive at this beautiful volcanic island of Simbo. Thankfully our boat trip was uneventful. It was amazing to once again see the flying fish literally flying for long distances over the sea waters. Upon our arrival we had to climb a steep hill to arrive at this peaceful spot where Brother Stanley and his family (the organisers of the camp) reside. They had moved up to the hills after a tsunami hit their islands a few years ago. We could still see the effects of that tsunami in some areas.



People came from various parts of the Solomon Islands, from Honiara, Gizo, Malaita and many other parts. At first there were about 40 people attending the meetings but by the second night the numbers increased for the



Lord added to our number daily. The church was not a big one so most days it was full and few people were seated outside on the volcanic rocks.



Few people from other denominations attended the camp and many questions were asked regarding the Sabbath and the truth about God and His Son. Praise God the answers were convincing and some people decided to keep the Sabbath, which they did for the first time at the camp. (On the right is Brother Nick giving his testimony on Sabbath. He was one of those who decided to keep the Sabbath holy and accepted the message about God and His Son.



I find it amazing how God's promises are fulfilled literally. For example God has promised "I have set before thee an open door, and no man can shut it". When the Lord opens the door none can shut it.

Upon our arrival to the Island, the Seventh-day Adventist church pastor heard of the camp that was to be held and warned his members that they are not to attend the camp; hence no one from the church came, at least at first. But the Lord had placed in the heart of Brother Stanley a desire to share the truth with the people of his village. Knowing that the Seventh-day Adventist pastor forbade the members to attend the camp, he requested that a large speaker be placed on a tree and aimed towards the village. Of course the nights there are very quiet since there are no such things as cars or even electricity to have a radio or TV on, hence the voice travels very far and very clear. By the second night we got word that almost all the residents of the village, including the Seventh-day Adventist members, had been listening to our messages with interest from their houses.

By the fourth day we received an invitation from an SDA family to do some presentations in their house since, they said, the pastor forbade them to attend the camp and they would like to respect their pastor's request. Of course we accepted the invitation and few days later we went to their house to find that the lady of the house had invited few people from the SDA church and from the Methodist church to attend our talks. After sharing two messages with them they expressed their appreciation of the message and their acceptance of it.

To our surprise one of the people that were invited to the meetings at the house was the chief of a neighbouring Uniting church village (one hour walk). He was convicted by what he heard and attended the last two nights of the camp.



But the blessings were not over yet. After this chief heard the messages, he went back to his village and shared some of what he had heard with his village people who upon hearing it requested that we come to their village and share the messages with them. Their plan was for us to use their church as a meeting hall. But their proposal was rejected by their Pastor. In spite of the Pastor's opposition, the Chief decided to hold the meeting in an open field in the midst of the village. This invitation we gladly accepted, and after an hour's walk in the bush we found ourselves in their village.



By the end of the second meeting the place was full with people and of course those who did not attend could not escape the message coming to them through the loud speaker. We suspect the entire village heard the messages that night (the volume was turned up). Many questions were asked regarding the



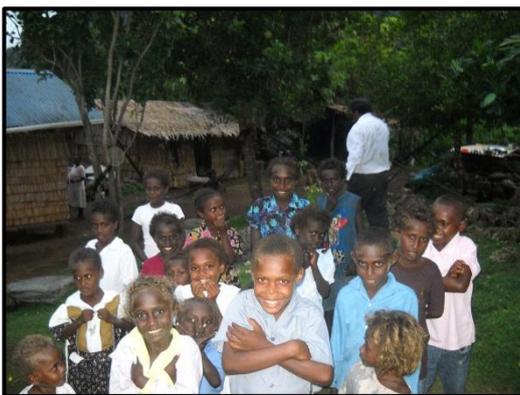
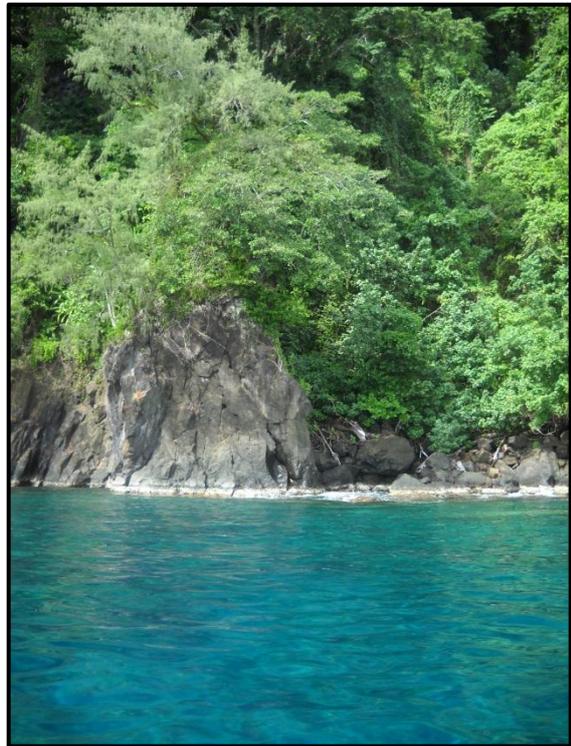
Sabbath and answers were given. After receiving a sincere thank you from the chief and others we returned to our sleeping quarters at about 12:30 am. I never knew how dark a bush walk can get till that evening.

During the camp meeting we experienced the sadness and joy of the two poles of life. The passing away of a close relative of one of the ladies there brought a lot of sadness to the attendees. Yet two days later a baby girl was born in Stanley's family (granddaughter) which brought much joy to the attendees. To our joy the baby's parents requested Nader's permission to name her after his wife, Natasha, which of course was granted



In short the trip was very successful and many people were blessed. Before the camp Brother Stanley and his family were the only ones that believed in the truth about God and His Son, but by the end of the camp many were added to them, few of which came from other denominations. The brethren there decided to leave behind two lay workers to do the follow up work and are planning on sending another lay worker to stay there for few months.

Imad & Nader



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