

GOLDEN OLDIES MISSION

SEPTEMBER *Fiji* 2018

SPECIALIST INTRODUCTORY MISSION TRIPS FOR SENIORS

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Our Scheduled Mission Programme

Here is our current programme, but as always, please be aware that the programme may change due to circumstances beyond our control while on the mission!

<p>Saturday 15 September</p>	<p>The team travel from either Auckland or Christchurch to Nadi, Fiji on Saturday afternoon. In the evening, the combined team fly from Nadi to Suva, arriving in Suva around 9pm. The team is based at the Anglican Bible College for the next 8-nights.</p>
<p>Sunday 16 September</p>	<p>The team will attend the Suva Cathedral for the morning service. This afternoon the team will experience travelling on an open-air bus through the city. We plan to meet the 'Chicken boy' and hear the amazing and inspirational story of a lady raising a young man who was previously raised as a chicken under his grandmother's house. The team will have a chance in the evening for some team orientation and planning before the mission starts fulltime on Monday.</p>
<p>Monday 17 September</p>	<p>Each morning the team start with a 'Lotu' – a time of team devotional and preparation for the day ahead. We start with a session on Fiji culture, led by the new Dean of the Cathedral and his wife. Then the woman from the House of Sarah Ministry will meet with us to talk about their ministry. This ministry specialises in woman's abuse issues and how the church is dealing with these challenges throughout Fiji and the wider Pacific. After lunch we travel into the heart of the Suva, a harbour city to purchase our Fiji 'Number Ones' Fijian-styled clothing, that we wear during our mission trips. Tonight, the team are hosted by a remote squatter village up in the hills on the outskirts of Suva. This village is where the team from previous years has supported the purchase of a Woman's fishing boat too. They love to dance so be prepared!</p>

<p>Tuesday 18 September</p>	<p>The team travels to visit the oldest church on the Island and hear about how this small congregation support ministries in this local town. Sadly, the historic church is too dangerous to enter, but they will meet and greet us outside.</p> <p>Then a short walk through this bustling town to the local Medical Centre and Maternity Hospital. The Golden Oldies have supported this over-stretched and sparsely-resourced hospital with donated medical equipment from donations received.</p> <p>The afternoon is spent at St Christopher’s orphanage, where we will meet the sisters, children, and volunteer supporters. The team will have time to talk with the children and experience life here in the orphanage when they get home from school. A free evening!</p>
<p>Wednesday 19 September</p>	<p>Today we will visit squatter settlements.</p> <p>The team will learn about the land tenure issues, squalor housing, subsistence farming, fishing, and woman micro-businesses. One village we visit is very isolated and the team will trek along tracks through the coconut plantations to meet the people of this village</p> <p>The team then travel to the ‘Tin Cathedral’ -a term given to a squatter village’s ‘Cathedral’ that was built in a week! It’s a great story, and recently with Overseas Aid, this village has just completed their new church next to their ‘Tin Cathedral’. This village is developing a children’s bible school programme as well, and we are taking books to support them.</p> <p>Finally, this afternoon we will visit the Government-run Old People’s Home, located in the WW2 Army Barracks. This is quite an emotional and challenging visit with elderly people with physical disabilities like amputees, blind or deaf, co-habiting with those with mental health issues and dementia. The staff here are incredibly gracious, and again the Golden Oldies donate medical equipment to support them in their work here.</p> <p>Tonight, the team are hosted by Fiji Indian Church and running an evening service for the Golden Oldies. The youth play the music for this Praise and Worship Service and then the Church will host us for a meal afterwards.</p>
<p>Thursday 20 September</p>	<p>The day is spent at an Anglican School that provides pre-school, primary and secondary education. The high school also specialises in offering second-chance education for young adults who want to return to school. Young men and single-Mums attend, and the school has grown from 80 to 350 students over the past 5-years. We will spend time with the children-students in their classrooms.</p> <p>Tonight, we are hosted by a suburban squatter village. They provide a cultural extravaganza with their food, music, and Fijian dancing. It’s a totally different style of squatter village to what the team experienced earlier on in the week, with different set of challenges.</p>

<p>Friday 21 September</p>	<p>We are venturing to a remote fishing village at the mouth of the largest river system in Suva. It involves travelling in narrow Fijian long boats down the river, through the mangroves to the ocean.</p> <p>Here we will spend the day with the village community and their Primary School and Kindergarten. The team will be allocated classrooms to spend time with the children, and the children will perform some traditional dances and songs as well.</p> <p>The day finishes with a visit to an Outpatients Clinic and a 16-bed under-resourced Hospital striving to cater for 80,000 people from the surrounding villages. We are donating medical equipment to this Hospital as well.</p> <p>A free evening.</p>
<p>Saturday 22 September</p>	<p>A chance for the team to explore and experience the wonderful and famous Saturday Suva fish and vege-fruit-flower markets.</p> <p>We also get a chance to go with the locals to 'Pure Fiji' that open their factory shop for the locals only on a Saturday morning.</p> <p>Today is a final chance to do some shopping.</p> <p>Tonight, the Bible College and Golden Oldies will host a Thanksgiving Service and Banquet dinner to thank the many people who have been involved in the mission over the past week. Last year the Banquet was a real highlight.</p>
<p>Sunday 23 September</p>	<p>Saying our farewells, we will travel to Nadi on the Coastal Coral Pacific Highway passing through many coastal and inland villages along the way.</p> <p>The team first stop is at a Pacific Harbour village for a church service and village luncheon hosted by the parish.</p> <p>Then travelling onto Sigatoka. The church here reveals another Golden Oldies Mission project. A Kindergarten Ministry has been developed using the church as its base during the week. The Church is now recognised as having the most successful pre-school programme in the region, with a waiting list for children to attend. It has also increased the numbers attending the church on Sundays.</p> <p>In honour of the Golden Oldies the Church has rescheduled their Sunday Service to have a time of fellowship with the Golden Oldies on their arrival there mid-afternoon. A sister Church way up the valley are also travelling down on trucks to meet us as well.</p> <p>We then finish the trip to Nadi where the team will stay for their final 2-nights at a beach frontage resort.</p>
<p>Monday 24 September</p>	<p>A day to relax and reflect on the mission.</p> <p>Some of the team will relax quietly at the resort or explore the local region, while others will venture out on a day trip to a tropical island to experience something of the beauty of the tourist region.</p> <p>Tonight, we have a chance to say our final farewells and offer our reflections on the mission we have travelled on together.</p>
<p>Tuesday 25 September</p>	<p>An early start, as we depart Fiji and return to NZ.</p> <p>Auckland group arrive 12-midday; Christchurch group arrive 1.30pm.</p>

Photos stories will be placed Monday-Friday on our website: goldenoldiesmission.com