



# HOUSE OF SARAH

.....providing a listening ear, a warm heart and a helping hand to those in need.....

**BULA VINAKA, TALOFA LAVA, MALO E LELEI,  
NAMASTE, KIAORA**

Happy New Year and welcome to the first quarterly issue of the House of Sarah (HoS) newsletter for 2019. A lot of events have taken place over the last 4 months and we would love to share them with you in this 1st copy of our newsletter for 2019. Have a blessed Lenten season. Vinaka Vakalevu.



*The Most Rev'd Fereimi Cama*

## **ARCHBISHOP FEREMI CAMA A MALE ADVOCATE**

The Reverend Fereimi Cama, vicar of St Peter's church in Lautoka succeeded the Most Reverend Dr Winston Halapua as the 7th Bishop of Polynesia and archbishop of the province of Aotearoa, New Zealand and Polynesia. "The House of Sarah celebrates having Archbishop Fereimi as the head of the Diocese of Polynesia," said Sereima Lomaloma, Trustee of the House of Sarah. Sereima added that Archbishop Fereimi was one of the earliest male advocates who was trained by the Fiji Women's Crisis Centre (FWCC). "we look forward to continuing our partnership in addressing just relationships in the church". Shamima Ali, co-coordinator of the FWCC had this to say about Archbishop Cama's election, "He has a lot of opportunities to promote gender equity and women's human right's in the church and its congregations at all levels. As the head of the diocese and a male advocate, he is in a position to revolutionize the church in promoting equality and human rights for all. Hopefully he will be mentoring female clergy for future episcopal leadership after him."



*PVAFFs Community Activists*

**THINK EQUAL, BUILD SMART, INNOVATE FOR CHANGE,  
BALANCE FOR BETTER**



# WORKING WITH YOUNG PEOPLE

House of Sarah besides working with women has extended its horizon to working with the young people in the Anglican Church. On the 16th of March this year, House of Sarah began with commemorating International Women's Day at St Christopher's Church in Naulu. Twenty youths both females and males from different parishes attended. Reverend Dr Carmen Scheuerman from Davuilevu Theological College facilitated the workshop.

The purpose of the workshop was mainly to educate the young people on human rights, gender based violence and above all what the Bible says about the above-mentioned issues. The workshop also was to help build the youths for their future and help them change their beliefs and attitudes on gender based violence. The following are some of the feedback from the youths who attended the workshop:

"Rev Carmen's words were so powerful. She encouraged me as a Christian and as a young woman. She reminded us that life is not a bed of roses it comes with a few thorns but we should always trust God. Rev Carmen helped me gain my self-confidence through her teaching about Mary Magdalene and how as young women we can bring about change."  
-Charlotte Krishna

"I was very honored as a young man to be part of the commemoration of International Women's day. I thought I knew it all but this workshop actually opened my eyes, I learnt a lot and with me I took back a lot of important and interesting ideas that I am going to share with my fellow friends especially about gender equality (think equal) and gender based violence." -Napolioni Seru.



**"WE CANNOT ALWAYS BUILD THE FUTURE FOR OUR YOUTH, BUT WE CAN BUILD OUR YOUTH FOR THE FUTURE."**

*Franklin D. Roosevelt*





# Commissioning of SARAH CARERS

During the month of March 2019, six Sarah Carers were commissioned: Esita Vuki and Shobna Christabel at St Matthew's, Vuli Kelo at St Paul's Naviavia, Tute Fung and Elisapeci Nailuva St Thomas Labasa and Latileta Talemaitoga St John's Wailoku.



Commissioning of Sarah Carers at St Johns Wailoku:

From left to right (Lay Minister-Samu Viaviaturaga, Rev Latileta Tuiwaiwai, Sarah Carer- Latileta Talemaitoga, Volunteer HoS- Rutendo Felistas Mahachi, Sarah Carer Support link- Christina Tearawa, Rev Mereti Rabonu and Rev Vilive.)



On 5 February an enthusiastic group of Sarah Carers from different parishes, including the new ones from the West and Suva-Ovalau met in Suva at M.A.S.T for their planning workshop. As said, 'all time management starts with planning.' The Sarah Carers met to discuss on their annual plans in their respective provinces. More so, before the planning the group went through a training by Ms. Luisa Moce on active listening, hearing the voice of God in their line of work and about the Holy Spirit. For the sake of the new ones Rev Anne Drummond also took the group through a lesson on biblical reflections in line with gender based violence.



## MY PERSONAL EXPERIENCE AS A SARAH CARER

When I was asked to attend the Sarah Carer Workshop to replace someone who could not attend, I could not have imagined what was in store for me and how it has enriched my life. Learning through participating, sharing, group discussions and listening to real life stories made me realize how comfortable I was in my own situations with little regard to my sisters and innocent children being violated and abused. It has made me more aware of those around me who may need my help through providing a listening ear, a warm heart and extending a helping hand to those who are facing difficulties in their relationships. I have learnt to appreciate being blessed with a good life. a good and loving husband and family. I have gained knowledge and skills i need to help those that need help and encouragement. Being blessed and commissioned on the 3rd of March 2019 in my Parish Church of St. Thomas in Labasa is a great boost for me. It has given me more confidence knowing that I have the support and encouragement of the Church which will enhance my role and responsibilities as a Sarah Carer in my community. Vinaka. - Mrs. Tute Fung



# SAFE HOME, SAFE CHURCH, SAFE COMMUNITY

*Launch of the Start Phase*



Eight months after the commencement of the House of Sarah project encouraging Fijians to take a lead in preventing violence against women in their homes and community, the launching of the Awareness Phase was held on 23 January 2019. Twenty-five community activists (CAs) in Wailoku, Newtown and Matata have been trained already. Some changes in attitudes, mindsets and behaviour are already evident. "Before the SASA! Faith training, I am the boss of this household," said a participant. "We have six sons. If they don't do what I tell them, I beat them. The same goes for my wife. Since the training, I now realise how wrong I am in the way I behave towards my wife and children. I am making small changes and our relationship is getting better. "



## *Community Action Group Workshop*



Joint learning sessions with the Community Action Groups have been conducted. Community Action groups comprise partners who will help the House of Sarah in the community implement the SASA! Faith. They include Social Welfare, Media, Health, Education, Peer & Security



## *Capacity-Building by Raising Voices*



In preparation for the Awareness Phase, a capacity-building workshop for PVAWFFS staff was carried out by Hope Harriet of Raising Voices, Uganda and Farah and Shabina of UN Women Fiji. Also in the training were two people from Kiribati : Mr Karawa, Programme Manager for the project on Strengthening Peaceful Villages and Mrs Mauea, Primary Prevention Co-ordinator in the Ministry for Women & Social Services



# WORKSHOP'S ON GENDER THEOLOGY AND WOMEN'S HUMAN RIGHTS



*Holy Family Parish,  
Waidradra.  
24th - 25th April  
2019*

The participants were introduced to the Biblical Teaching of equality in the eyes of God and guided to making connections between biblical teachings with gender equality and gender based violence. It was followed with basic understanding of behavior that promote gender equality.

The feedback received from participants was that the training was very informative and helpful and that the program met its objective and their expectations. The information shared was vital for their knowledge as wives, mothers and a women in their community and family.



*St Stephen, Wainaloka, Ovalau*

## ECUMENICAL DAUVEIVUKEI SERVICES (COUNSELLING SUPPORT)

An ecumenical network of women will be providing Dauveivukei services in the community. They include Deaconess Lesila Raitiqa (Methodist Church), Mrs Elenoa Pickering (Assemblies of God), Sister Mariana Turega (Catholic Church), Major Anne Irwin (Salvation Army) and five from the House of Sarah. Reverend Mereti said, " Having a group of women from across the churches ensures that there are choices available to those who are in need of someone to listen to them and walk alongside them."

House of Sarah  
Ground Level, Moana Anglican Services and Teaching (MAST) centre, Suva FJFJ  
Pff: +679 3100665 | Email: admin@houseofsarah.org