Over 50 couples have served an ITEP mission beginning with Elder and Sister Wilbur Walton in 1997.

Here are some reminiscences and photos to bring back the memories, thank you missionaries for your contributions.

If anyone else has something to share that we can include in the future then please email me at baileyj@byuh.edu

Aloha,

JB
Four Personal Highs:

1. May of our first year in Kiribati an ITEP conference was held in Samoa where couples from all over the Pacific came together to share experiences and learn from the best. For us it was also a treat to go to McDonalds, shop in a large store and be able to drink the water.

2. Ian Arden flew to Tarawa from New Zealand and held a faculty family retreat on the far side of the Atoll. We traveled by 15 passenger Outrigger with 40+ of us. We could swim in clear water, visit, laugh, feel the spirit as it molded strong families and of course lots of food.

Cooperative Learn was a way of life.

Dedicated faculty and Staff emerged in the ITEP program. When the work is done a Party follows.
3. "Recognition Nite" This was a special time to show the teachers and staff how proud we were of their hard work and advancement in their educational standings. Awards were given, leis were worn, songs sung, it was a fun party, and lots more food.

4. 9/11 was a sad event that occurred while we were in Kiribati. A very special Memorial Gathering was held by President Teburoro Tito and his wife at their home for all US Citizens. Each Religious denomination was represented in song and he personally spoke of his sorrow for our loses as a country and as individuals.

High Priests watching over Moroni High School flock .

The trust they placed in us, their pure belief in Christ and the church helped us grow into better servants of our Heavenly Father. We came thinking we were prepared and left knowing so much more. We love and are so thankful to the members that took care of us and shared their country, culture and love. We truly learned that "Time is a Place not a Concept>“
January 2001 we left Utah as Elder Harman and Sister Judy Bonniksen ready to “TEACH”; how soon we discovered we would become the learners. The people of Moroni High School, Tarawa, Kiribati are a happy-loving family and they took us under their wing.

They shared their beautiful atoll, blue skies and radiant sunsets and helped us locate the Southern Cross. In return we helped them improve their English and broaden their teaching programs.

Our entire mission brought spiritual growth; we were reminded that it is not things, but love of family, the Lord and each other through dancing, singings and lots of eating that build our souls.

We were privileged to be there for the Dedication of the Stake Center. They let us sing in the choir even if our Kiribati was poor. We watched as new chapels were being built and dedicated and with every event a feast was brought forth from their humble homes.
guess who .... And where ....

Elder Gary & Sister Janet Carlston, first ITEP Coordinators in Auckland NZ

going home .... November 2010
AMONG THE MIRACLES OF OUR MISSION TO KIRIBATI

When Pat and I met at BYU-Hawaii for our orientation meeting with Margaret and Darrell Loosley, our ITEP Coordinators, and Roy Winstead and John Bailey, of BYU-Hawaii, we discussed possible ITEP courses we should consider teaching. It was felt that we should first teach an "Introduction to Pedagogy" and start the class immediately upon our arrival in Kiribati. The Loosleys had just visited Kiribati and had left some sample syllabi, as well as course textbooks used at BYU-Hawaii. Realizing our airline weight limitations, they had taken these materials ahead of time. It was a relief for us to know that the needed materials for our first class would already be in our apartment upon our arrival, since my previous college teaching experience had been limited to upper-class and graduate educational methods courses. **When we arrived, the course syllabi and textbooks could not be found!** The teachers at Moroni High School were anxious to start the class, so after a frantic call to the Loosleys, we were assured that the needed materials would be airmailed. However, it would take up to two to three weeks before they would arrive. We started the class with 24 teachers and administrators "flying by the seat of our pants."

**From Pat's Missionary Journal:** Our textbooks, which were supposed to be here when we arrived, FINALLY arrived on September 17th - six weeks and four days after being sent Air Mail from BYU-H. It's good to finally have them! On the other hand, we wouldn't have missed this faith-promoting experience for anything! It actually started while we were still home preparing to leave and purchasing items we knew we would need in Kiribati. Roy had indicated that he would really like to find the video "The King and I" to take to Kiribati. I asked him why he thought he needed it, and he answered, "I don't know - I just feel it would be a good idea to have it. I've always liked the words to the song "Getting to Know You" and think I could use them somehow." Well, whenever we were shopping, we would look for the video, but to no avail. Roy really wanted to find it, but my reaction was, "Big deal! It's a lot more important for us to find enough hydrogen peroxide and aspirin to take!" Then, one day when Roy was doing some shopping on his own, he found the video! He was much more enthusiastic than I was with his "find," but we did get it packed - along with "things" I considered to be more important. When we arrived in Kiribati, we discovered the much-needed textbooks that were "supposed" to be in our apartment weren't there and we were under pressure to start teaching our first class within a few weeks. During those initial weeks, Roy was truly blessed through the insights and inspiration he received in preparing for the Pedagogy class without the aid of a textbook. On several occasions, he would mention how thoughts just "fell into place" as he prepared lesson plans. He used the highly-sought-after video, "The King and I," as an extremely effective and valuable part to his introduction. As quickly as he prepared lesson plans, I
typed and prepared the handouts and other resource materials. As mentioned earlier, the much-needed textbook arrived nearly seven weeks after our arrival in Kiribati. We were absolutely astounded and humbled to the point of tears as we opened the recently-arrived textbook to the "Table of Contents" only to find that it matched almost identically the lessons and presentations Roy had prepared and taught. Not only that, but the "Introduction" included the words to the song "Getting to Know You" from "The King and I"!! This was an incredibly humbling and spiritual experience!! It confirmed to us even more that we were where the Lord wanted us to be!

Ou Pedagogy Class Fall 1999

The people of Kiribati are very special! The teachers at Moroni High School are very dedicated and worked very hard at improving their teaching skills.

Roy & Pat Ottley
ITEP Missionaries
July 1999-November 2000
Robert and Carolynn McLaughlin served in Tonga from November 2006 until January of 2008. They were forced home for emergency surgery after 14 months caused by Robert rupturing a disc lifting an overloaded suitcase of two seniors missionaries returning home from their
mission. We loved the people, the food, the music and most of all the spirituality of the Tongans. We listen to tapes we made of them singing and still get tears in our eyes.

Stationed on the Liahona High School campus for teaching ITEP classes, we still had the opportunity to travel to the islands of ‘Eua and Ha ‘apai being the first ITEP missionaries to take classes to those teachers. Both faculties accepted us with open arms. On Ha‘apai the teachers wanted classes on weeknights, Saturday mornings and even on a holiday. They were like sponges for knowledge. On ‘Eua island we were stuck for seven days due to heavy rains washing out the runway made of crushed coral in an open field. It was a day-by-day situation to see if the runway was fixed and every day it was not they asked if we could have classes that day. The motivation was so high for learning.

On Tongatapu, ‘Eua and Ha’apai islands, Elder McLaughlin taught a class called Foundations of Education. Finding the Tongan nation had no written history of education one of the assignments, by teams, was to research and write their peoples’ history of education. It turned into one of our highlights. The Minister of Education in Tonga provided materials to assist. Each class was shown the work of previous classes and told to refine, add to by more research and back up what they write with sources. A DVD was made of several of the team’s projects and shared with all classmates. It built pride into the teachers to have learned their history and made them better teachers.

An additional course in English, Ed 414-Reading Strategies for Better Comprehension, was developed and approved through ITEP to educated teachers on proven strategies for increasing vocabulary, reading comprehension and increasing grade level reading in students. The enrollment by teachers was overwhelming causing two large sections on Tongatapu island and every teacher enrolled on the islands of ‘Eua and Ha’a’apai. Five hundred and seventy students were offered help in reading with a pretest and post-test given to measure reading level gains. It was a truly wonderful experience to see the teachers gain confidence in their ability to teach
reading and the student’s growth. A thirty-page report was generated showing the reading growth of both teachers and students.

Sister McLaughlin was a reading specialist in the reading strategies and was so caught up in the need of the Tongans in this area and their willingness to learn. She turned their home into a reading lab during summer break, after school and on Saturdays teaching adults and students to read. Elder McLaughlin taught the strategies with her to boys in the Liahona High School dormitory for many weeks and the improvement in their reading skills was documented also. To find the need of English reading skills so great in Tonga and to be sent there by the Lord on a mission was not an accident. The McLaughlin’s both feel it was inspiration by our church leaders.

Another incredible event happened to us. We are both converts. After being married we found the church in 1965 at the ages of 25 and 24. One of the Elders that taught us was Laurie Anderson from New Zealand. He was transferred immediately after our baptisms and we lost touch with him. Later Elder McLaughlin became a bishop and first counselor in the Yakima Stake Presidency. He tried both times to find Elder Anderson but could not. While telling their life story at a luncheon at BYU-Hawaii while receiving ITEP training, John Bailey asked what was the elder’s name. He said he grew up with Laurie Anderson in Auckland, New Zealand and they ran around together. Elder Jay Monson, Director of ITEP at the time, then announced he served his mission in New Zealand and helped bring Laurie into the church and he had his address and phone number. The McLaughlin’s and several others in the room had big tears in their eyes.

The McLaughlin’s contacted Laurie Anderson by letter from Tonga and received back a twelve page letter stating he stayed in America and became a CES seminary teachers for thirty years and was leaving with his wife to Mexico City on a mission. The Monson’s were kind enough to host a dinner in their home in Logan, Utah after we all completed our missions. It was a tearful, wonderful reunion to hug the missionary that introduced the Gospel of Jesus Christ to us and express our love for him. Laurie and his wife have since visited us in our home in Yakima, WA. Our mission to Tonga was not by accident. The Lord moves in incredible ways, His work to perform.
OUR CALL TO SERVE AS MISSIONARIES IN HAWAII TO COORDINATE THE INTERNATIONAL TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM (ITEP)

Wilbur and Wilma Walton, Provo, Utah

We arrived home from our mission in England in March of 1996 and had not been home a year when we received a call asking us to serve as missionaries in Kiribati in the Church Educational System setting up an in-service training program for the teachers in the Church school there at Maroni High School. As well as getting ready for Christmas we spent most of the month of December in 1996 preparing for our mission to Kiribati. Because it was a foreign country in the middle of the Pacific with very little medical services and because I had had heart problems and the cancer operation I needed extensive medical examinations. As well as getting dental and medical examinations and get them into the mission office in Salt Lake City as soon as possible. After accomplishing this we waited on the Lord.

I received a call from Elder Vaughan of the CES missionary committee on Thursday January 2, 1997, informing us that the medical team of the Church Missionary Committee had recommended that we not go to Kiribati. They are concerned for my health since I have had a heart attack. We still met on Friday 3 January in the Orientation meeting in Salt Lake City. The CES administrators are planning to ask the Church Missionary Committee to still let us go to Kiribati. As I talked to them I told them if the Lord wanted us in Kiribati it didn't matter what the doctors on the committee said we would be going, and if the Lord did not want us in Kiribati it didn't matter what they we would not be going. I told them it was in the hand of the Lord. I believe this with all my heart. We have put our trust in the Lord and will wait His decision on this matter.

That night when I went to bed I had a dream that Dan Anderson called and indicted that they wanted to call us on a mission to Hawaii to work in the ITEP program at BYU-H campus. When Dan Anderson called the next day I told him about my dream and indicated it was probably something I had eaten the night before. He waited a moment and then said do not underestimate the power of dreams. We talked a little bit more about the potentials of the program and
concluded our phone conversation.

We received a call a couple of days later from Dan Anderson. After my conversation with him pertaining to my dream he had called Roy Winstead, who is the Dean of the College of Education at BYU-Hawaii, and discussed the possibility of Wilma and I being called on a mission to BYU Hawaii to coordinate the development of an in-service training program for the teachers in Church schools in the South Pacific. We were called to be the first coordinators of this program to be followed by many wonderful coordinators in the coming years. Brother Anderson indicated that they were considering the two of us going on a mission to Hawaii to help in the development of this program. He indicated the Roy Winstead had been thinking the same thing, that a missionary couple acting as coordinators would be needed.

He had me call Bill Phillips in Hawaii. Bill is supervising the program for in-service training of the teachers in the 17 schools in the South Pacific through BYU Hawaii. After talking to Bill Phillips and also to Roy Winstead I feel excited about the possibility of serving our mission in Hawaii. Just a few days later Dan Anderson called to verify that our called to a mission in Hawaii to coordinate the in-service training program in the South Pacific had been approved and that we would be leaving in March 1997.

On the 26 February we received a letter from the First Presidency. A mission call to the Honolulu, Hawaii mission. We will be assigned to the School of Education at the BYU Hawaii campus in Laie, Hawaii to coordinate the program from there. It took a long time to get our call. Our papers were sent in mid December.

People may say that my dream was coincidental and had nothing to do with our being call ed to the Hawaiian mission but I know different. The dream was the Lords way of letting us know that Kiribati was not where he wanted us to be on our mission. I feel the call to Kiribati was the Lords way of getting our attention. I dreamed we were going on a mission to Hawaii and now we received a call to go there. You can't change those facts. Just another testimony that the Lord does reveal His word and that He is in charge when you allow Him to be.

Sunday 2 March, 1997, was fast Sunday. At about 7:30 in the evening President Wimmer, a counselor in the Stake Presidency, came to our home and with our family there set us apart. His blessing was beautiful and promised us a successful and healthy mission. (It is interest to note that this blessing of health was the same as I had received on my mission to London after having four heart and one cancer operation and like the London mission I had no health problems on our mission in Hawaii.)

Friday morning the 7th of March, 1997, our son Bill drove us to the airport where we boarded the United airline. We arrived in Honolulu about 12:30 PM where we were met by Bill Phillips, a faculty member at BYU-H and one of his students. They welcomed us with leis and the real Hawaiian Aloha. We drove to Laie where Bill took us to the home we will be living in until the end of July. Sister Phillips had placed a large fruit basket with nuts, flowers, Ice cream in the freezer, and plenty of food to last for a time. The Phillips' then invited us over for dinner. They have a wonderful family and I don't know how our arrival could have been made better. Saturday
we spent getting unpacked and resting up. On Sunday Bill Phillips took us to church and introduced us to a group of wonderful people. The Polynesian people are so loving and humble and it has rubbed off on the rest of the people.

On Monday we went to the School of Education office and met the faculty and staff. It was great to work with them. They were all so warm and friendly. They had petitioned off a portion of the workroom for our office and it will work very well for us. We spent the week getting aquatinted with people and our work assignment.

One of the first events that taught me that the Lord was in charge of this program was when Bill Phillips called me into his office just a few days after we had arrived. He said he had something he would like me to do. He had been trying for months to get a hold of ten different people in the South Pacific to talk to them about the ITEP program and to receive and communicate information. He had been unsuccessful so far and wanted me to try. I took the names, phone numbers and information to be communicated and went into my office. In less than two hours I was able to contact everyone on the list. I went back into Bill's office and reported my success. He got up and closed the door to his office and said that a miracle had occurred and asked me to kneel with him as he offered a prayer of thanksgiving. We both felt at that time that the ITEP program was the Lord's program and it was going to go forward.

We attended the broadcast of General Conference on Saturday and Sunday, 5 and 6 April. In the Saturday 1st session they reorganized the 70's quorums by adding the 3rd, 4th, and 5th quorums that will include all of the area authorities. The 1st and 2nd quorums will continue to include 70's who are General Authorities. One of the impressive things with the conference was the spiritual emotion. So many of the speakers became so emotional that tears fell easily. I'm sure that being on a mission affected the way I felt but I received so much spiritual strength from the General Conference meetings.

Along with working in the School of Education we have the opportunity of working in the Hawaii Temple each Thursday evening as Temple Ordinance Workers. I was also been ask to teach a Book of Mormon class in the Religion Department here since I taught the Book of Mormon for the last six years I was at BYU-Provo.

One of the many miraculous experiences we had while on our mission occurred in Kiribati. We received a fax from John Jeffrey who is the Director of CES in the south pacific and is in Australia. He had asked us to go to Kiribati for a couple of weeks to assist with the student teachers that are there from BYU-Provo and to teach a class. I called John and told him that if that is what the Lord wanted we would gladly go but we did not want to go unless it was needed. He told me it was much needed and would help the ITEP program greatly.

He asked me to call Brother Tune who is the education director on Kiribati and arrange for our visit. Brother Tune was a delight to work with and I suggested also that if there were a couple of government teachers that would like to attend the class I would be happy to have them. He called later and asked if I could handle five. He had talked to the Director of Education on the island and he was delighted to have the chance to have some of his teachers get further train but he
asked if we could handle five. That will be a new adventure for us and we are looking forward to it.

On Friday, 24 July 1998 we left for Kiribati and arrived 7 am Sunday, 26 July. We had with us a number of suit cases full of items for Moroni High School and the missionaries. The inspector at the airport was not going to let us bring in most of these items when the Supervisor, a young woman, came over and ask what the problem was. I told here that the items were for Moroni High School and she inspector to let us go through. Talking to her later we found out she had graduated from Moroni High School. Just another we the Lord sees that His work is carried out.

We were met by Senior missionaries and driven to Moroni High School. We were housed in small houses built for the missionaries that were very nice and comfortable. At 3:30 pm we met with the teachers that I would be teaching. There were 17 from Moroni High School and five from the public schools who the Kiribati school board had asked to take the class.

The class I was to teach was the introductory class on teaching disabled children. I decided to teach the class starting with prayer and a short spiritual thought given by a Church member in the class even thought we had five non-members there. It set a spiritual atmosphere that helped in teaching. I felt inspired to use the Book of Mormon on many occasions to show the love of Christ as a theme for the class. That the disabled are children of God and deserve our love and assistance became the topic of each class.

As well as teaching the teachers there we also observed student teachers from BYU-Provo. They were outstanding student teachers, who immersed themselves in the culture, learned some of the language, learned their songs and dances, and left a lasting impression on the students and faculty at Moroni High.

We spent the next two weeks teaching and preparing lessons. I enjoyed the friendship of the teachers in my class and hope what has been covered will be helpful to them. One of the non-LDS government teacher, Tiete Neemia, seemed to be more involved and would ask questions about the Church in the class. Most of the answers to her questions came from the LDS members in the class.

On Saturday, 8th of August we had to say our good-byes to our new friends in Kiribati and boarded a small plane for Majuro, Marshall Islands were we boarded a plane for Hawaii. We have had a wonderful time and found many new eternal friends. We were supposed to be picked up by one of the student workers for the School of Education who had forgot and again the Lord did his thing. We had waited for a while and then I started to call around. I called the student on the phone that was to pick us up but could not get him. I then called Roy Winstead the Dean of the School of Education at BYU-Hawaii who told us to take a taxi and the School would pay for it.

We had been visiting with a couple who were from Majuro who had come to pick up a relative who came in on the plane we had come in on. They found out that they were having passport problems and it would be a couple of hours before their relatives would be cleared. When they heard that we were going to have to take a taxi they insisted on driving us to Laie. We offered
them money but they said they would not take money from missionaries and it was their way of living the gospel by helping the missionaries. Their names are Tatakiio and Takson Chutaro, converts from Majuro. Their 17 year old son Dickson was with them. They could not speak English that well but Dickson who is a senior in high school helped with the communication were we needed it. They were guardian angels for us that night. We thanked the Lord for his blessings of safe travel, a wonderful experience in Kiribati, and for the wonderful help from Brother and Sister Chutaro in getting us home.

Couple of weeks after returning from Kiribati I received a letter from Brother Tune, the Country Educational Director of Kiribati for the Church. He informed me that one of the non-members attending the class I taught had joined the Church. The following is a quote from his letter.

“You may be interested in knowing that one of our non L.D.S. government teachers, Tiete Neemia, was baptized a week after you left. I discovered from talking with her that the missionaries had been teaching her the discussions, but not until she got involved in your class that she began to really have deep feelings about the Church. She knew God directed her to take your class so that she could receive an assurance of the truthfulness of the gospel. She said the class had a great impact on her conversion. For your information, her husband is now taking the discussions.”

When I read this my heart leaped within me with joy. What a great experience it is to be involved in this marvelous work and a wonder, the restoration of the Gospel. The Lord manipulated the events so that I would be in Kiribati at the right time doing the right thing so that the conversion of this good sister could take place. I love to stand back at times and ponder how the Lord has used me and give thanks for the opportunity to be one of His disciples. We may say at times the we were lucky and the Lord above is saying "luck had nothing to do with it." We never know when we may be an influence for good or ill in others. It is for this reason that we should be living the gospel at all times in all places. I feel the Lord's love continually

We continued to work on developing the ITEP program to where the Lord wants it. We did a little at a time, step by step, and it moved along. We hoped that by the time our mission was over we would have the program in place and functioning. I enjoyed working with the School of Education faculty. They have a great vision of the future for the south pacific and because of their willingness to travel there and teach ITEP classes, much good is being accomplished.

Our mission was full of exciting activities and miracles. Satan placed a number of barriers before us in the development of the ITEP program but with the help of many wonderful individuals in Hawaii and throughout the Islands and with the help of the Lord we continued to have success. When we left our mission we were full of love for the people and the work we were involved in. We know that the ITEP program will be in good hands for it is the hand of the Lord. Our eternal thanks to the Father in Heaven and our Savior for allowing us this wonderful experience even if we were not worthy of it.
ELDER DOUGLAS AND JEAN WOOD – Liberty, Utah

The huge audience numbered about 800 people. We could see that 798 of the folks had black hair, a warm brown skin and they were dressed nicely. This Sunday morning we were attending church services. We were inside a large white brick building and despite the calendar stating it was indeed January, a large bank of louvered windows on both sides of the chapel were wide open and most people were dressed in short sleeve shirts and blouses. All the talks and songs were in a foreign language. The adults and the youth sang with gusto yet most had no need to look at their hymn books!----------Despite being thousands of miles from home in a place we have never visited before, we felt most welcome.

The above narrative was not a dream but in a few weeks this was to become a reality for us because in October 2008 we received a surprising call to serve a mission to the kingdom of Tonga for the next 18 months!

We have been home now, about 7 months from our Tonga mission. But we recall at our first Stake Conference on Vava’u Island, deep in the South Pacific, that we were indeed the only 2 Americans among the 798 Tongan saints. It was to be a most memorable and life changing experience for us as a couple and as missionaries serving for and among some of choicest saints of the Lord. Since we could not speak the language, we became acquainted with some special sisters who interpreted for us. The smiles around us were welcoming and of course the gospel messages and music made us feel right at home.

Our primary call and assignment was to serve as I.T.E.P. (International Teacher Education Program) teachers. We were assigned to the island of Vava’u (Va VA ooh) where we resided on the campus of the church operated Saineha High School. However, we had a variety of experiences that touched us during our service there. The follow are a few examples.

1. **TEACHING the STAFF** - We prepared for the Saineha staff many class materials and taught these classes: **Ed 300** (Human growth and Development); **Ed: 330** (Classroom management and discipline); and **Secondary Art Methods 414R.** We taught the education classes on the Saineha campus but also again at the Koloa middle school on Lifuka Island in the Ha’apai group. Since these groups were small, we prepared much of the material for independent study. We found those who committed and followed through did a great job and were anxious to learn and improve their teaching skills. The Head Teacher at Koloa Middle School told us that the teachers taking the
Methods class enlisted the whole school to try some of the suggested teaching methods. They made us feel so “needed” when we visited, it was a joy to go and be with them.

We were facilitators for distance learning classes: Two of them were Organizational Theory and Human Resources for teachers. We were impressed with teachers who attended and the support of the Principal, Linda Havea and her assistants, Etta and Puta. The classes were always a positive experience and we felt that the teachers were truly concerned about the children and wanted to help them learn and be more responsible.

2. TEACHING the STUDENTS - Sister Wood taught piano keyboard to students and accompanied the senior choir in practice and during the school graduation program. Both of these experiences provided opportunities to get to know some of the students and provide support for those who wanted to develop more of their talents. Two students in the piano keyboard chose to come after school to practice and we were able to get one of them for their personal use a keyboard from the Church Music Department. It was fun to see the excitement when the keyboard arrived.

At the request of the principal, Linda Havea, Elder Wood assisted in Art instruction to Forms 3, 4, 5 and 6 Students. (USA grade equivalent is 9, 10, 11 and 12) This he did in mentoring and assisting with the regular art instructor. Most miraculous, this was Elder Wood’s occupation before this mission, an instructor of secondary and college young people in the visual arts!

3. TESTS AND APPLICATIONS - We were able to give the English Proficiency Tests to students and teachers and others in the community including some from other neighboring high schools. This test was necessary in applying to BYU-Hawaii. After giving the test a few times, Sister Wood started working with many returned missionaries and staff members in helping them complete the student BYU-Hawaii Admission Applications. As we got to know these people better, we realized more and more the difficulties they had to overcome in order to go on to higher education. Besides the language requirements, money of course was an issue. There were not many jobs for money on the Island so those who wanted to go to school had to rely a great deal on extended family. They also had to get a visa…. By traveling to Fiji and then waiting. It was not an easy thing to do and we were impressed by those who were willing to work so hard to get the opportunity.

4. MISSIONARY WORK – Often we would leave the classroom to drive to the “bush” and inspect and provide cleaning materials for the full time small missionary houses. This gave us a great opportunity to work closely with the Elders and Sisters encouraging cleanliness and orderliness in their living conditions and obedience in following missionary rules. The missionaries would often visit us on “P” day. Sister Wood soon became the mission nurse for the Zone treating everything from illnesses to accidents such as when Elder Thompson (from Utah) fell down a cliff while hiking Mt. Palau on P day and cut up his arm. We loved when the Elders would come and share with us a spiritual message from time to time. It was also a special time to hear about their work out in the villages. We sometimes attended their baptisms and could see the joy this brought to the lives of both the missionaries and the new members.

Pres McMurray asked us to help in many respects including attending and speaking at zone conferences and other activities to assist in furthering the work in the Zone. Seeing these young
missionaries grow spiritually increased our strength and determination to help the teachers and
students be better prepared during their school experience.

5. WARD ASSIGNMENTS – We were blessed to work with the youth in the ward. We taught a
Sunday school class the entire mission. This was our only church meeting using the English
language as we were the teachers in the Neiafu 3rd (Tonga speaking) ward. Sister Wood also
worked with the Young Women organization and was the pianist for the sacrament meeting and
other functions. And we did visiting and home teaching.

Mission Highs:
* We had many choice experiences in Tonga. One must include the visit of Apostle Richard
B. Scott in the spring of 2009. Our school auditorium was decorated brightly throughout. A
huge banner proclaimed: “With inspiring awe we hallow your presence to Saineha.” A royal
traditional custom was done when a layer of handmade and decorated tapa cloth (from the
bark of mulberry trees) was placed on the sidewalk entrance for Elder Scott to walk upon as he
entered the building. The island had not had an apostle visit for over 12 years. Elder Scott
attended, conducted and spoke at several church meetings and also attended a Tongan feast.
We were thrilled to ride with him to the feast where he visited with the missionaries as well.
His kindness and love radiated wherever he went and he made us feel special as well to be
serving there in Tonga. He even visited in the homes of members and some nonmembers. A
special visit with a brother Sione is recorded in an article in the October 2009 Liahona
magazine that documented this wonderful experience and the later baptism of brother Sione.

* Working daily with the wonderful people of Tonga. We will list some names here but
space restraints will find many will go unnamed but not appreciated and not forgotten. It was a
real education to come to understand the history and culture and lives of the Tongan people.
We will always remember the students in our ward Sunday school classes: Teisa, Tau, Mavae,
Alilia, Ofa, Luisa, Carolina, Finau, Ta’paita, Tevita, and others.

* We will always cherish the entire faculty at Saineha High School—and all the educators
we worked with in schools and the teachers and principals conferences throughout Tonga and
the CES leadership in Utah and the South Pacific. And also all the many faithful young
missionaries we labored with side by side.

* We were strengthened so much by the instruction, direction and examples of other
couple missionaries such as Elder and Sister Salverson, Carlsen, Thompson, Garret, Sperry,
Clayton, Gordon, Hawley, Sing, Ka’ili, Checketts, Chisholm, Mataele, Tau’a’alo, Sister Ten
Hoopen and temple President and Sister Shumway. And of course our Mission President
Elder and Sister McMurray who helped us all with their unbelievable, tireless, faithful, and
inspiring service.

* Finally we would like to give tribute to the many missionaries that preceded us to
Tongan. Many of you blazed a great tradition of missionary service. At Saineha High School
preceding us as ITEP missionaries were Elder and Sister Harrison, Fawcett, Clark, Worlton,
and Crandell. However, many other missionaries have served and taught at Saineha:
Hei’muli, Lefevre, Moore, Schrimsher, Steele, Boyce, Christensen, Day, Ellis, Jensen, Jones,
Ogden, Parry, Smith, Stevens, Stanger, Umina and others. Some of these folks left education records that we found in the ITEP files and they proved to be very useful as references in our classroom teaching preparations. Thank you so much!
Our mission with ITEP was spiritual as well as inspirational and allowed us to travel the Islands of the South Pacific. The Polynesian people were very devoted to the Gospel of Jesus Christ and wanted, very much, to improve their teaching in the Church school and influence the students to do their best.

We enjoyed visiting the schools and were amazed at the work the missionaries, on the islands, were doing to help better educate the teachers. We felt such love for their dedication in serving in some very remote places. Here are a couple of stories as we served during the years of 2003 – 2005

Finding Help at the Kiribati Airport
We were visiting the remote island of Kiribati when it came time to leave Elder Cottle phoned the airport to confirm our flight -they said yes we were confirmed. We got the airport and stood in line for a while when someone said, "I don't think the plane is going to Fiji today." Panic! We crowded to the front of the line. We couldn't understand what the Air Nauru person was saying and he couldn't (or wouldn't) speak English to us. However, we understood enough to know there was no flight to Fiji and it may be as much as a week before the next one. What to do?
You want to know how our Father in Heaven watches out for missionaries. Just at the moment of our deepest despair, thinking another week on this island and missing all our CES appointments, a voice on my shoulder said, "Need some help old chap?" Enter Norman Cross, a CES contractor and 15 year resident of Kiribati who "just happened" to be at the airport to see some friends off. We told him our plight and he went to work. Jabbering away in a language incomprehensible to us, he then ushered us into the inter offices and started making phone calls. It turned out there was one flight out today, and the only one this week, and it was going to Brisbane, Australia – more jabbering. Yes Air Nauru would exchange our Fiji ticket for a Brisbane ticket at no cost (thanks to Norman) but we required a visa to enter Australia. More
A Noteworthy Happening  (10/03) by Elder Cottle

In preparation for our recent trip to the South Pacific I purchased a spiral bound maroon colored notebook to keep notes, comments and instructions from each of our various ports of call. It worked well. At each meeting with a missionary or staff member I took copious notes, including names, phone numbers and specific instructions - sort of a comprehensive to do list for when we returned home. I also keep a daily journal, noting all the exciting and wonderful things that occurred daily. The sort of the things you use to build memories. Since Sister Cottle noticed what a complete job of record keeping I was doing, she did not duplicate my effort. All went well during the trip. As we boarded the plane in Auckland for the long flight back to Honolulu I unloaded, from my carry-on travel bag, the things I might use on the flight, before storing the bag overhead. Along with the usual books and crossword puzzles I decided to add my notebook - thinking I might take this opportunity to update my journal. Almost 9 hours later we landed in Honolulu. For the next 40 or 50 minutes I gave all my attention to getting through the bewildering maze of custom and immigration requirements and securing our luggage. All went well. The Laytons were waiting to return us to Laie. It was late (1:00 a.m.) when we arrived home so I didn't complete my unpacking until morning. As I unzipped the side pocket where I keep my notebook a sudden sinking feeling enveloped me - I had left my valuable maroon notebook in the seat pocket on the airplane. What to do! A quick phone call to Air New Zealand produced the dreaded recorded message. We jumped in the car and headed back to the airport. On the way my mind was already trying to reconstruct the notebook's content. Mira, at the Air New Zealand counter, was most helpful. She took a description of the notebook (I realized I didn't even have my name inscribed within) and checked in the Lost and Found. No notebook. The plane was already in the air back to New Zealand but she said she would e-mail the people
in Auckland and have them do a complete search of the plane when it landed. We went back home and awaited her phone call. In the meantime I began to reconstruct my notes. I included, in my daily prayers, a petition to our father-in-heaven to help me overcome this loss so that I could fulfill the requests of the faithful CES staff members in the South Pacific. I could remember some things but felt like much was still missing. Most difficult to replace were the names (the Polynesian name spelling blows my mind) and requests of staff members we meet with in the various CES schools. But I plodded along. Then the dreaded phone call arrived. "This is Mira from Air New Zealand, nothing was found on the plane. We have re-searched all our lost and found locations both here and in New Zealand and no notebook. I'm sorry, but we're calling off the search." Well, that was that! But life goes on and I began, in earnest, to try and replace the notebook's contents.

Another week goes by. On Friday, 10 days after our return flight, I arrived home to the following phone message. "Hello, this is Mira from Air New Zealand. The most amazing thing just happened. As I walked by the lost and found counter I noticed a spiral bound maroon notebook. I know it was not there a couple of days ago, but it's here today. Let me read you some of the notes inside to see if it is yours." As soon as she started to read the first name I knew the lost had returned. Halleluiah! We drove down to the airport to pick up the book. Mira (I don’t think she is LDS) said to me. “For the first few days after the flight I checked the lost and found daily and no notebook.” I don’t know where it came from Elder, but someone must have prayed awfully hard for the return of the book.”

Well, I know who was doing the praying – I don’t know where the book was but I do know why it turned up. It is just one more small example that our Father-in Heaven does answer our prayers and, at the same time, watches over forgetful missionaries. Boy am I glad to have that notebook back!
Elder and Sister Ronald C. and Kathryn A. Davison, from Mapleton, Utah served at Moroni High School on the island (atoll) of Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati in the Central Pacific, for 18 months in 2004-2005 as ITEP/CES missionaries and adjunct professors from BYU-H. All experiences are spiritual and many of these were special.

Our trip to the Gilbert Islands started out with a radar repair job delay in Hawaii and getting to stay a free night at the Waikiki Resort, which resulted in our plane being over loaded before we could get free from the friendly Hawaiians.

Our arrival at Moroni greeted us with a failing electrical system due to a maintenance misunderstanding about putting rain water in the new "genset" or generator’s starter battery. The rain water had been collected from roof tops contaminated with salt that caused the battery to fail and not start the generator. About two dozen teachers and 480 secondary students were left with problematic fans, lights, teaching tools, air conditioners, and using rain water for showers, cooking, septic system, toilets, garden, and soccer field irrigation. We soon discovered that teachers working under those conditions all day were not keen to attend college classes after school. So we turned to bribery, and baked Cinnamon rolls which worked as bribes for a few days. Then we decided to replace the battery which made the teaching day better but did not improve class attendance.

Then the newly installed 20 cubic meter/day reverse osmosis water supply plant failed just as the installation crew were departing the airport for Brisbane. The three technical user manuals were written in English which no one could read. We soon discovered that the plant has to be periodically flushed to clear the jelly fish, etc. out of the sand filters, and that the flushing had to be done with a lot of our precious pure water. The flushing required a new valve which didn't take long to install after getting approval to put the $½ million warranty at risk. Then a Power Point translation of the User’s Manual needed to be prepared.--Miracle #1

The water intake or submersible pump was out over the reef about 100 meters from shore, and fed a 4” PVC inlet pipe and electrical cable laying on the reef trying to withstand the rigors of the Pacific Ocean waves and of course it lost every contest. We decided to put the pump in a sealed, salt water artesian well, 2-meters deep and about 10 meters off shore. We dug a closer well, 4-
meters deep, but tapped into the island's aquifer that was not appropriate. Digging by hand in solid coral during the day time’s high equatorial temperatures makes for a pretty tough job, so we decided to dig in the cool of the moon light, during low tides. After several weeks the hole was completed, and yielded enough clean, salt water to supply the water plant. We produced enough high-quality fresh water for the school, dorms, cafeteria, staff housing, large garden, and soccer field.--Miracle #2

The school facilities became so nice that the campus was the choice of the Taiwanese Ambassador Staff for early morning walks, afternoon baseball games, and late evening board games when we they were not entertaining and feeding us at every restaurant on the island.

Then one of the new, large, fiber-glass, above-ground, primary effluent (sewage) tanks burst open, sending 1000s of gallons of raw sewage down the drive way past most of the staff housing units. This job was beyond the CES job description, in the equatorial heat, so a tough Aussie was persuaded to repair the tank so we could get back to our flushing activities.--Miracle #3

For General Conference, we loaded the dorm girls into Toyota vans at 4am for the 6-mile trip along the reef to the Stake Center. They would sing every church song they knew by the time we arrived. Once, when it rained and flooded, the little sweet hearts wrapped their Deseret Industry wedding gowns around their shoulders to wade out into the 50-foot diameter “potholes” to retrieve my spare tire and wrestle it back onto the van. We taught the evening teacher education and Institute classes, and the day time seminary, homemaking, physics, chemistry, and statistic classes to the most agreeable students, teachers and staff that walk the face of this earth. We often wished that they could have been more punctual but they taught us a lot about patience and endurance. We learned to love them as true brothers and sisters.

They are inviting our family back to their paradise, privately, to manage a 15-year reforestation project for their national forest or senile coconut groves. We will continue to dig for better photos. Thank you for your efforts on our behalf.

Ron and Katie Davison
801-400-4529
Dear John,

I'm so sorry to be so late in responding to this request. It got lost in the shuffle. Since serving as ITEP missionaries in Tonga at Liahona 2003-2005, we spent a year in England where Del taught for Queen's University, then 18 months serving a CES mission processing PEF applications in Chile (the site of our young missions) and now we are serving in Washington DC at the Barlow Center which houses the BYU-Provo interns in DC. We're teaching institute classes on several university campuses as well as here at the B.C. Life has been very good for us. Unfortunately our Tongan journal and photos are at home in Pennsylvania. I have attached a very recent photo so we're six years older than when we were in Tonga. Mary Lou

[Photo of Del and Mary Lou]

Start here.

Teaching the LDS teachers in Tonga was truly a rich and rewarding experience on so many levels. We smile as we think of dear people who fill our hearts. With Del's teaching experience in psychology with a focus on human learning and memory, and Mary Lou's teaching experience mostly on the Middle School level, we were able to team teach with Del giving the theory and Mary Lou bringing that theory into a practical classroom setting made us a good pair. After a lifetime of working in our own worlds, it strengthened our marriage as we worked through how to present the BYU Education curriculum to the teachers. It became great fun.

Two of our most rewarding classes to teach were Book of Mormon and Human Growth and Learning. In the Book of Mormon class Mary Lou took the lead with Del as a discussant. The teachers were assigned to prepare 30 minute lessons to teach a partner on a concept from our scripture block. After 30 minutes the teacher would become the student of her partner, then Mary Lou would fill the remaining time with additional information. They had been taught to use the steps that we had learned at the MTC for teaching an effective lesson so that would be
more likely to use this in their classrooms. As we would circulate through the room, or act as a partner in a pair, we were touched by the very personal insights that were being shared. We could hear of lives being changed as attitudes were refined by the gospel as taught in the Book of Mormon and we always came away uplifted by their sharing. Then we started to hearing about how they were using this in their lives. One class member had been asked at the last minute to teach a class in Relief Society. She quickly picked her favorite scripture, put it into the structure of our lesson plan, and taught a successful class. Another student said her 7 year old son told her last minute that he had to give a talk in Primary that day. She wrote down her class outline. He chose a principle to teach and put it together in minutes and presented it from his heart. Quite a change from most Tongan kids who are drilled in their memorized talks which are presented flawlessly. His was flawless, but not memorized.

Since Del is a psychologist and Mary Lou is a Family and Consumer Scientist, the Human Growth and Learning class was our favorite as we taught developmental stages, and ways to work to support children's learning. Class discussion was always animated and thoughtful, since Tongan families are controlling families, our new framework was new to most of the teachers. Then one day I heard one of our male students talking to a friend saying something to the effect that since he had learned in class that his two year old's behavior was perfectly healthy and good, and that she would someday become a more civilized person, he could enjoy her for who she was. The result was that for the first time, she would run to greet him as he came home from work, all smiles, instead of looking worried. He was excited and was trying to help his friend enjoy his own toddler more.

We were thrilled when Liahona High School was ranked first in the nation the two years we were there and credit much of that to the wonderful administrators we worked with and their efforts to put current pedagogy into practice. We enjoyed supporting their efforts. We will be forever grateful the Lord saw fit to send us to Tonga.

Elder and Sister Ellsworth
LDS Seminaries & Institutes
2520 L St NW, Suite 100, Washington, DC 20037
Phone: 202-448-3396   FAX: 202-448-3398
E-mail: ellsworth @etown.edu
www.ldsces.org/washingtondc
Gerold and Kathy Erickson – now in Pesega, Samoa:

Gerold - Church Service:

- Served a mission to Southern States [Alabama, Georgia, and South Carolina]
- Bishop of Dutch John Ward for 6.5 years
- Counselor in the BYU 90th Ward 3 years
- Served in all Priesthood leadership capacities Elders, and High Priests

Career:

- Worked in Education for 30 years [all in Daggett County Schools]
- Elementary Teacher and teaching Principal for 19 years
- Superintendent of Schools for 11 years
- Air Force, Defense Language Institute, Taught English as a foreign language in Viet Nam

Education:

- Snow College AA Degree
- Utah State University, BS Elementary Education
- Brigham Young University, MEd School Administration

Kathy:
I grew up on a farm in Sanpete County. Graduated from Snow College. Worked at the parachute plant in Manti for a year then went on to Utah State. I married Gerold and then finished my student teaching.

Our first girl was born 2 months after I graduated in elementary ed. We had one more baby girl and then Gerold went to Viet Nam for a year. When he got home, we moved to Denver to finish out his Air Force time. (Had another baby girl) We then moved to Manila, Ut where we had our 4th baby girl. We were there for 2 years then moved to Dutch John.  We finally got 2
boys while we lived there. We lived there for 15 years and then moved back to Manila for about 13 years. I never taught school full time, but taught some art classes in the high school for 4 years. I was a teacher's aide for a few hours a day for 2 years before we moved. I have worked in the RS and Primary and really enjoyed the small communities. I have also conducted the music (can't sing) and played the organ for sacrament meeting. We are looking forward to working with the Samoan people.
When Pat and I met at BYU-Hawaii for our orientation meeting with Margaret and Darrell Loosley, our ITEP Coordinators, and Roy Winstead and John Bailey, of BYU-Hawaii, we discussed possible ITEP courses we should consider teaching. It was felt that we should first teach an “Introduction to Pedagogy” and start the class immediately upon our arrival in Kiribati. The Loosleys had just visited Kiribati and had left some sample syllabi, as well as course textbooks used at BYU-Hawaii. Realizing our airline weight limitations, they had taken these materials ahead of time. It was a relief for us to know that the needed materials for our first class would already be in our apartment upon our arrival, since my previous college teaching experience had been limited to upper-class and graduate educational methods courses. **When we arrived, the course syllabi and textbooks could not be found!** The teachers at Moroni High School were anxious to start the class, so after a frantic call to the Loosleys, we were assured that the needed materials would be airmailed. However, it would take up to two to three weeks before they would arrive. We started the class with 24 teachers and administrators “flying by the seat of our pants.”

**From Pat’s Missionary Journal:** Our textbooks, which were supposed to be here when we arrived, FINALLY arrived on September 17th - six weeks and four days after being sent Air Mail from BYU-H. It's good to finally have them! On the other hand, we wouldn't have missed this faith-promoting experience for anything! It actually started while we were still home preparing to leave and purchasing items we knew we would need in Kiribati. Roy had indicated that he would really like to find the video "The King and I" to take to Kiribati. I asked him why he thought he needed it, and he answered, "I don't know - I just feel it would be a good idea to have it. I've always liked the words to the song 'Getting to Know You' and think I could use them somehow." Well, whenever we were shopping, we would look for the video, but to no avail. Roy really wanted to find it, but my reaction was, "Big deal! It's a lot more important for us to find enough hydrogen peroxide and aspirin to take!" Then, one day when Roy was doing some shopping on his own, he found the video!! He was much more enthusiastic than I was with his "find," but we did get it packed - along with "things" I considered to be more important. When we arrived in Kiribati, we discovered the much-needed textbooks that were "supposed" to be in our apartment weren't there and we were under pressure to start teaching our first class within a few weeks. During those initial weeks, Roy was truly blessed through the insights and inspiration he received in preparing for the Pedagogy class without the aid of a textbook. On several occasions, he would mention how thoughts just "fell into place" as he prepared lesson
plans. He used the highly-sought-after video, "The King and I," as an extremely effective and valuable part to his introduction. As quickly as he prepared lesson plans, I typed and prepared the handouts and other resource materials. As mentioned earlier, the much-needed textbook arrived nearly seven weeks after our arrival in Kiribati. We were absolutely astounded and humbled to the point of tears as we opened the recently-arrived textbook to the “Table of Contents” only to find that it matched almost identically the lessons and presentations Roy had prepared and taught. Not only that, but the “Introduction” included the words to the song "Getting to Know You" from "The King and I"!! This was an incredibly humbling and spiritual experience!! It confirmed to us even more that we were where the Lord wanted us to be!

The people of Kiribati are very special! The teachers at Moroni High School are very dedicated and worked very hard at improving their teaching skills.

Roy & Pat Ottley  ITEP Missionaries
July 1999-November 2000
The major thrust of our ITEP calling centered around the implementation of Administrative, Supervisory and Counseling courses for Fiji teachers and administrators. It also included the teaching of courses to assist the staff in completing Bachelor Degree Programs and Teachers Certification.

Mike and Karalee Salveson were instrumental in getting a 30 credit hour Administrative/Supervisors certification program approved through BYUH Education Dept. He also attempted to get a Counseling Program approved and did arrange for the initial counseling course to be taught by a counseling professor from BYUH.

The approved courses, texts and syllabus for each paralleled the same curriculum taught in the Education/Administrative department at the U of U in Logan, Utah.

Mike also implemented an International Distance Learning experience so an instructor in Hawaii, Salt Lake or wherever desired could teach students in various Island settings through internet, conference calls and skype with facilitators at each site. As a result, many of the teachers in Figi were able to take the courses that would help them in their particular role as supervisors, administrators or counselors.
Many of the teachers in Figi were excited and interested and several took 12-15 hours of courses toward certification. When we started there was only one school employee in Figi who had an administrative course on their transcript.

One individual in the group was a "Golden Contact"! His attitude and enthusiasm really stood out. You could see the light turn on in his eyes as ideas were discussed and you could tell he was really motivated to try the ideas! Vito Qaqa Mitchell was at the time an assistant to Tipo Solomone in the administration at the Primary School. Tipo was Country Director and Principal of the Primary School and the Church College.

Qaqa was so touched by the ideas presented at the classes that usually the following day the suggestion was presented to the Primary School Teachers, and accepted and implemented. He became an administrator and had such rapport with his staff and with the students and parents. The School began to change almost overnight! The Area and Church leaders and the couple missionaries were so impressed with his Leadership that he was given the position of Principal of the Primary School.

A short story to illustrate his desire to become a qualified school administrator as shared to Sister Wheeler and myself in our office:

At an administrators meeting I shared an article from the Figi Paper with the people there. It was an article requesting applications for a Principals position at one of the Figi schools. I gave each person a copy and told them that here is an example of what districts are looking for in school leaders. Unbeknown to us, Qaqa applied for the position. Out of 23 applicants for the job, they picked him #1 and tried on three occasions to talk him into going with them!! As a result of that experience, he gained a great deal of confidence in his saleability as a school leader.

We loved the people we worked with in Figi!! They have touched our lives forever!!! Thank you for the opportunity to serve as ITEP missionaries!!!

Dick and Fay Wheeler
Memories of Kiribati

By Elder & Sister Winegar (Oct. 07 to Apr. 09)

By Elder Winegar

Working with the teachers at Moroni High School was a very enjoyable/rewarding experience. After being in Kiribati for about six months, I was called to be a counselor to President Nelson Bleak, president of the Marshall Islands Majuro Mission. This of course resulted in splitting our time between the missionaries and the Moroni High School Faculty and Administration.

Besides teaching/facilitating classes, we attended all the school functions and got to know many the students quite well. On one occasion while walking across campus, one of the students came up behind me and put his arm around me and asked me how things were going. I quickly realized the person was Arieta, the student body president. This little act of kindness really touched my heart. When I returned home that afternoon, I told Sister Winegar that I guess that I had in a small way “arrived” when a student would feel comfortable enough to show affection and want to have a brief chat.

On occasion Lita, Principal at Moroni High School, would come to my office with an administrative concern that she had. I felt it was an honor that she was comfortable about discussing school matters with me. She is an outstanding principal and is very much appreciated and respected by the faculty.

Working with about half of the missionaries in the mission, was something that we very much enjoyed. Especially when the mission leaders would somehow find a reason to drop by for a short visit and to see if Sister Winegar had any cookies; of course she generally did. To see the missionaries grow in the gospel and to become effective leaders was a joy for us. On one occasion, we got word that a couple of the missionaries had this nut of a guy that came after
them with a knife! They were able to escape safely, but still quite scary. Such is missionary service.

It was always a joy to watch baptisms that were held in the ocean. Sometimes the waves were so high the missionary had to time the baptism with the huge waves. Walking on the coral with the person to be baptized, always created an uneasy feeling. We still have memories of an older baptismal candidate being carried down into the baptismal font by her son.

Through hard work, the mission had over 900 baptisms in 2008, with over 500 in the Kiribati segment of the mission. It was not uncommon for a dozen people to be baptized on a Saturday.

The Kiribati people love to have social events with dancing and tons of food. It was interesting to pick and choose at food and try to determine what would be best for us to eat. Seeing a big barbecued pig on the table along with raw fish was always a special treat for us to witness. Breadfruit and special breads were always enjoyed. The good folks would always scurry around to find us a knife, fork and spoon since they knew we were not used to eating with our hands.

By Sister Winegar

Moroni High School is like an oasis in the middle of the island. When we served our mission on Temple Square in Salt Lake, people would comment about the special spirit they felt on the square. I felt this same spirit on the Moroni Campus. When we would leave the campus to buy food or do other errands, we would sigh with a feeling of relief as we re-entered the campus.

Moroni students conveyed a special spirit and appreciation for the gospel due in large part to the leadership of Lita, the principal and Rusila, the Vice Principal.

My church calling was working with the 10-11 year olds in primary for activity day. I had 4 girls and 3 boys. I taught them to play “Uno”, “Old Maid”, “Fish”, and “Cat’s Cradle”. We played with water balloons, colored, read stories from “The Friend”, made Family Home Evening stories etc. I remember one particular touching experience. My daughter sent me a cake mix with frosting and sprinkles for my birthday. I baked cupcakes and let the girls decorate the cupcakes with the frosting and sprinkles. They meticulously decorated each cake. When they left with 6 cupcakes each, one of the girls said, “Sister Winegar, you make us feel so rich”. They were so grateful for simple things. I nicknamed them “The Shell Girls”, because they would bring me shells from the ocean.

Another special experience; we made friends with the Moagare family and would frequently visit them. They loved to have us visit. The week before we left the mission, Kiribannanag asked me, “Sister Winegar, what is your real name?” I replied, “My name is Sharon.” She said, “Oh I love that name, it’s such a pretty name”. Well, a few days later she said, “My niece just had a baby girl and I was wondering if you minded if she named her Sharon?” I said it would be a special honor. So now I have a little namesake in Kiribati.
We loved working with the missionaries. They kept us young. They stopped by often for cookies. Serving in Kiribati was a life changing experience. Not a day goes by that I don’t think about something or someone in Tarawa.
It was very difficult for us to leave our family to serve as ITEP missionaries. When we first arrived we hadn't been in touch with any of our children for over a month. One night, as we were feeling pretty blue, our phone that hadn't been working rang. When we answered it, it was one of our sons. It was so good to talk to him. When we hung up, Sister Lords said, "I'm going to call Sister Bradshaw while the phone is working." When she picked up the phone to call, the phone didn't work. There is only one way that phone worked, and it was because of divine intervention.

Our time as ITEP missionaries in Fiji was truly a spiritual and life enriching experience. We learned to love the people we served. We went there to teach the teachers and came away as the ones who were taught. We learned something about faith and dedication as we observed the teachers and members, as they lived the gospel each and every day.

One of my fondest memories came as I was visiting classrooms and heard students spontaneously begin singing, I Am a Child of God, as they were working on their studies.

When we arrived several teachers at both the elementary and secondary levels were teaching their classes by writing on the chalkboard what they wanted the students to know. The students would copy from the board the information. The next day the students were tested to see if they learned the facts the teacher had given them. There was little interaction between the teacher and the students. There was very little discussion, questioning or interaction.

The teachers who were involved in ITEP were very anxious to learn new methods of instruction. They really wanted their teaching methods to have a greater impact on the students and they worked hard to make much needed changes.

Happily, we watched over the time we spent there and saw our teachers grow and expand their methodology. Classrooms became much more student centered and instruction more
individualized. Teachers were enthusiastic about their teaching and the students accomplishments.

One of the young men who worked for the church was having a difficult time financially. The flat we were renting had a maids quarters that wasn't being used, so we offered to let him stay there. He moved in and we became very good friends. He was the only member in his family and being new in the church didn't know much about how active families lived.

We had many long and enjoyable visits where we shared our experiences and learned about what it is like to be an Indian convert to the church in Fiji.

He had some serious problems that resulted in him leaving church employment. A disciplinary council was held and he needed support which we were able to provide. Mostly we were there to help him go through the steps of repentance and return to full fellowship in the church.

We were excited to watch him grow and progress. It was a wonderful experience to accompany him as he received his endowment and other temple blessings. We felt great satisfaction that he was married in the temple and is raising his family in the gospel.

The student teachers from BYU-Provo enriched our ITEP experience. Their up to date teaching strategies and enthusiasm provided a boost to the local teachers. I used them to demonstrate teaching techniques and classroom management methods.

Our group of student teachers included a newly married couple, two single women and one single man. Soon after they arrived the single brother returned to the states because of family needs at home.

They rented a nice house where the other four lived. While they slept a group of young men broke into their house and robbed them of anything that was valuable. No one knew the robbers were in the house until the next morning when they discovered their computer's and camera's missing. We felt they were protected through divine intervention.

Sister Lords helped organize files and take care of each students records and reported grades to the ITEP co-coordinator in Hawaii. She also made treats for each class Elder Lords taught.

A single sister missionary with no companion and Sister Lords used the "Learn My Words" literacy program to teach sisters to read English. They came asking for help to learn to read their scriptures in English. We had sisters from Fiji, Rotuma, Korea, Samoa, Tonga, Kiribati, and India. These sisters worked hard and were faithful in coming to class every week. We became very close and as they learned and we taught, our faith in the gospel increased.

One sister from India read her written testimony in English at Stake Conference just before we returned home. After she read it, she just stood there at the pulpit and smiled and smiled. It brought tears to Sister Lords, as she knew how hard this sister had worked to be able to perform this task.
We were grateful to be able to travel to Tonga and Samoa to help with the training of teachers and to participate in ITEP conferences. Sister Lords felt she grew in self-confidence and self worth as she served.

We found it very hard to leave our friends in Fiji when we returned home. Knowing that it would be unlikely we would see our Fijian friends again. We have been able to keep in contact with many of our friends there through e-mail which has been a blessing.
Elder and Sister Tait...Fiji

Elder and Sister Tait are from Corona, California. They have been married for 37 years and have 3 children and 6 grandchildren.

Elder Tait taught Middle School for 36 years. He has his BS degree from Brigham Young University in Zoology and a Masters in Education. He has served as Elder’s Quorum President, High Priest Group Leader, Young Men’s President, Stake High Council, and Bishop’s Counselor. He enjoys gardening, studying any gospel topic, skiing, boating, travelling, and playing with his grandchildren.

Sister Tait taught elementary school for 19 years. She received a BA from California State University, Fullerton and a Masters in Curriculum and Instruction. She has served as Primary President, Young Women’s President, Relief Society Counselor, and Relief Society Instructor. She enjoys cooking, reading, walking, travelling and spending time with her family.

“Bula Vinaka”
Elder and Sister Tait.
Dear Mr. [High School Principal],

Please allow me first to briefly introduce myself. I am Mele O. Taumoepeau, former Principal of Liahona High School, a co-ed high school with a total enrolment of about 1350 in Years 7-13, owned and operated by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the island Kingdom of Tonga in the South Pacific. I had been a student, teacher and administrator in this school since 1970 up until 2008, when I was appointed to my current position as Assistant Area Manager for all LDS Church Schools in the Pacific Region. Hence for most of my adult life, I have been intimately involved with this school.

It therefore gives me great pleasure to share with you the world of difference that the "Strategies to Inspire Active Learning" by Merrill Harmin made in our school. Dr. J. Collins Meek introduced Dr. Harmin's active learning strategies to the school and the LDS Church Education System (CES) Tonga while serving in our islands as an educational missionary.

What Dr. Meek, whom we affectionately continue to call ‘Elder Meek’ was able to accomplish through Merrill Harmin’s “Strategies to Inspire Active Learning” was ‘revolutionary’ in every way. It jolted those of us engaged in teaching and administering, for example, to a stark realization of the grave injustices we had traditionally often inflicted upon young innocent children in the name of ‘education’. It exposed the laden ills of our school traditions and cultural beliefs. It challenged our unquestioned assumptions about children and education in general and specifically about effective teaching and learning. It laid bare the warring tendencies between our ‘espoused values’ as a school and school system and our daily practices. Ultimately, it propelled us compellingly in the direction of change-revolutionary change.

Before long, the school was awash with a new spirit, a new outlook on teaching and learning, a new belief system, a new mental model, a new way of teaching and learning where the child became the focal point and everything that happened in the school centered around his need, his learning style, his growth and development, his general welfare. Consequently, the school culture changed; teaching practices changed; administrative practices changed; school performances and results changed; school pride changed, all because Harmin’s strategies helped align our Mission, Vision, Goals, Objectives, Values, Teacher’s Commission, Essentials of Edification, among others, with our daily practices, both in and outside of the classrooms. Giving preeminence to the child’s ‘Dignity’, ‘Energy’, ‘Self-Management’, ‘Community Relationships’, and ‘Awareness’ (DESCA) was unequivocally an excellent tool for meeting our purposes as a school.

The school has continued to flourish as an institution of learning and to be blessed by the impacts of Harmin’s strategies. In just five years for example after their introduction to the school in 1998 by Elder Meek, our students’ passing rates in the external examinations had almost doubled, from 42% in the Pacific Senior Secondary Examination, in 1998 to 81% in 2003. The number of students with full passes had also more than doubled, from 41 in 1998 to 103 in 2003. These however were not the only successes we enjoyed. All aspects of our school improved. Our students won championships in national and international competitions in English, Maths, athletics and sports, art, music, drama, agriculture, industrial arts and so forth.
because everyone was happy at school. Children and teachers alike felt safe, respected, appreciated, supported, encouraged and so on and so forth.

It will probably take an entire book to tell what have happened to our school and school system since the introduction of Harmin’s strategies but the best thing about them is they work well with all other programs that have since been introduced to the school, like ‘Sheltered Instruction and Observation Protocol’, the ‘Teaching Emphasis’, ‘Assessment for Learning’ and so forth.

I will be more than happy to speak with you further on this subject.

Wish you all the best with what you are intending to achieve with your school.

Most sincerely,

Mele O. Taumoepeau
John, With Jeannette's permission here is the secret that changed Jeannette's English class from students who were not really trying because they had given up hope, to a group who "dug in" and learned English well and subsequently passed their required Michigan English test which allowed them to go to BYUH.

After many days of teaching English to students who were convinced (by their previous failure to pass the Michigan English Test) that their personal case was hopeless, Sister Meek was inspired to share with them her private and personal experience with exam failure.

The students were dumbfounded because they had the fixed perception that palangis (Caucasians) routinely passed all exams and went on from there to succeed in college and in life. At the same time, the students had the fixed perception that their own case was hopeless, that having flunked the all-important Michigan English Test in Form 6 (Grade 12), they were "doomed" for life with respect to further education. Sad. Tragic actually.

Here is Sister Meek's account to her "failure" students:

"Have you noticed this somewhat large golden ring on my finger?" [Being the all-observant Tongans that they were/are, they all had of course noticed the ring and were reticent to ask this "new palangi teacher" about it.]

Sister Meek went on:

"The small writing on this ring says, 'Million Dollar Club.' It means that I was able to sell a million dollars worth of houses at the beginning of my real estate career."

The students all thought that meant that Sister Meek had earned a million dollars in income. No amount of explanation would clear this up, so Sister Meek had to let that go, and went on:

"In order to be allowed to sell houses, and get this ring, I had to get a real estate licence from the authorities. And in order to get that real estate license, I had to study hard and I had to pass three different tests. These tests were hard."
Then the blockbuster announcement from Sister Meek:

"I failed all three tests!"

The students could not believe that a palangi teacher could fail a critically-important test. Sister Meek went on:

"I said to myself, 'I don't care what the opinion is of the people who marked my tests, I am going to study again and write the tests again and pass them so I can get my real estate license and have a goop job.'

That you could defy a test marker, and do something about a critically-failed test, was a brand new concept to these 'obedient-to-what-authorities-decide' students.

Sister Meek plowed on:

"So I studied and studied some more, and sat the tests again. This time I passed the first test! This time I also failed the other two tests. Again!

"I didn't care. 'I'll show them,' I said to myself. So I studied and studied some more and this time I passed the second test. It was really hard, and I passed it!

"And then I failed the third test. For the third time I failed!

"I said to myself, 'I am going to pass these tests no matter what anybody says!'

"So I studied and studied and studied and studied really hard, and sat the third and final test for the third time. I had made up my mind that it didn't matter how many times I failed that test, I would just study some more, harder and harder, 'til I passed.

"And I did! I finally passed my third test!

"And that's how I got my real estate license to sell houses. And that's how I got good job, worked hard and sold a lot of houses, and got this "Million Dollar Club" ring."

The students sat in silence, absolutely dumbfounded.
Some started to cry.

From that moment on, the class was transformed into a bunch of hope-filled, hard-working students, almost all of whom went on to BYUH or other tertiary opportunities.

Love, Brother Meek
}========================================
You have my permission.

Love, Jeannette
As ITEP Coordinators, it was our pleasure to visit the wonderful ITEP Couples in their various assignments at the Church Schools. To do that, we flew on many different 'kinds' of airplanes (jets, jet props, propeller, WW II re-dos) and by ferries and any other means necessary!

When we wanted to go to the schools in Samoa, it was necessary to fly to Pago Pago, American Samoa (on Hawaiian Air), always arrive in the middle of the night, and then transfer to a smaller single engine plane for the flight to Upolu.

On one trip, our large Hawaiian Jet hit an 'air pocket' which dropped the plane several feet instantly. The crew had just finished gathering up most of the late dinner refuse, but several passengers still had their coffee. When the 'blimp' occurred, coffee flew everywhere, mostly on the ceiling, but also on some passengers. Luckily, we were all still strapped in as they asked us to be during dinner and the following 'clean up.' It was the biggest 'drop' we had ever experienced in our flying, but the captain come on and said that he didn't know what 'that was,' but he expected a smooth flight for the rest of the way.

Upon arriving at Pago Pago, it was a beautiful warm evening, and we made it through the throngs of people always there waiting for relatives to arrive, and over to our small airplane connection. In about an hour we were on our way to Upolu (about a 30 minute flight versus a six hour ferry ride which was the alternative the next day). It was just us, two other passengers and the lone pilot. We were seated right behind the pilot.

Within about 10 minutes, a violent thunderstorm hit the plane and rain soon pelted the window so it was impossible for the little window wipers to do any good. Lightning and thunder continued each few seconds and the little plane was thrown to and fro. (It was much more violent than any 'ride' we had ever experienced at any amusement park anywhere in the States.)

Sister Monson clung to my arm and said, "We're going to die, aren't we?" I told her that at least if we did, we'd die together and that we were on the Lord's errand, so we were in His hands. The tumultuous ride went on for another 20 minutes or so and then suddenly, we bounced down
the runway. How we ever landed on the runway without any radio contact whatsoever, no lights visible in the downpour, I'll never know. When we reached the terminal (no covered walk-ways in the islands), we five just sat there in silence. Soon, the pilot said, "it doesn't look as though it's going to stop soon, so we'd better try to get inside." We climbed out and all were soaked clear through by the time we made it to the terminal entrance. Just inside the door, I asked the pilot how he ever landed that plane. He glanced at my badge and said, "Elder Monson, I wasn't flying that airplane."

We were on the Lord's errand and His blessings were surely evident in that never-to-be-forgotten experience.

We saw many other miracles during our two years in the wonderful ITEP Program, which forever changed our lives in countless positive ways.

Elder Jay and Sister Jane Monson
1385 N 1500 E
Logan UT 84341
May and Myron Benson served in Samoa from August, 2004 – February 2006

Samoa will be forever in our hearts. While working with the Samoan teachers at CCWS in Pesega we were exposed to many heartwarming and heartbreaking experiences, ones that exceeded our greatest expectations.

We enjoyed teaching education classes to the teachers and we never failed to be amazed at the way pertinent materials seemed to become available to us just as we needed it. We became very close to the teachers and many times we were visited at our home by those who needed to share a heartbreaking situation they were involved in. Samoans believe Americans, especially missionaries, can solve all problems. We learned to rely on the spirit to guide us in giving them the best counsel or advice for their particular situations.

We had never seen anything but a “white” Christmas since we were both raised in Utah. We wondered if we would still feel the same “Christmas Spirit” in a warm humid season, with none of the traditional sleigh riding, skiing, and snow activities. We soon realized what we really knew all along, was that Christmas is all about loving, sharing, service to others and worshipping He who was born on Christmas night so many years ago.
We had a let up in our teaching responsibilities during the Christmas season as the schools were closed, but it turned out to be a very busy time as we participated in several rewarding experiences.

The young missionaries were also away from their homes at Christmas, some for the first time, and the Senior Couples were very excited when the Mission President asked up to prepare a Christmas banquet for them. Two months prior to this, we had contacted our wards and stakes to send various items such as socks, ties, etc. as they were sorely needed by the young Samoan missionaries who had so little. The response was great. One ward even monogrammed socks with names on for all 219 missionaries. Boxes arrived. We filled the socks to the brim and set about making preparations for the meal. We served not only turkey and ham along with the traditional trimmings but many Samoan foods such as taro and pork. The meal was superb, gratitude was expressed many times, testimonies were born and the Spirit was in abundance.

A few of the Senior couples had noticed some very poor villages. We decided to select one to assist at Christmas time. We began to gather toys and we were helped by friends, families and former missionaries who sent boxes when we told them of our plans. We bought bags of rice, canned meats, other foods, toys, balloons and many copies of the Children’s Illustrated Book of Mormon, New Testament and Old Testament Stories and made popcorn balls and cookies to distribute. We loaded everything into two vans and when we arrived at the village, the children began to gather around out of curiosity. We began to sing Christmas Carols and they joined in with Jingle Bells. Soon it seemed the whole village was there. We talked to them for a while about the birth of the Savior and then told them we had something to give them for Christmas. They were so excited to get something, even the adults were excited as we handed them a popcorn ball. It was a very touching experience and there was not a dry eye among us as we got into our vans and drove away.

We repeated the experience with a different village the next year and it was again a very gratifying experience. The village was very isolated and they all seemed so friendly and happy to see someone visit their village. Christmas couldn’t get better than this.
ITEP MISSIONARY LIST 1997-2010
(thanks to Elder Salvesen)
(if anyone is missing let us know – or if you have their contact information)

New Zealand – Coordinators

631 E. 1150 North
Logan, Utah 84321
gary.carlston@aggiemail.usu.edu

HAWAII - Coordinators

Michael & Karalee Salvesen: 2007-2009
5540 Hollow Road
Logan, Utah 84321
mdsalvesen@msn.com
home: 435-245-3009
cell: 435-

1385 North 1500 East
Logan, Utah 84321
monsonj@gmail.com
home: 435-752-7256
cell: 435-760-0368

Melvin A. & Una Jean Cottle: 2003-2005
Cardston, Alberta, Canada

D. Lawrence (dec) & Cleone Cook: 2002-2003
Syracuse, Utah

David & Phyllis Walch: 2001-2002
Enterprise, Oregon

Darrell & Margaret Loosle: 1999-2001
Meridian, Idaho

Wilbur & Wilma Walton: 1997-1999
Provo, Utah

KIRIBATI

12353 Margaret Rose Dr.
Riverton, Utah 84065
garywinegar@msn.com
sharonwinegar@msn.com
Home: 801-302-8683
39566 North Laura Ave.  
Queen Creek, Arizona 85242

Ronald & Kathryn Davison: 2004-2005  
Mapleton, Utah

Richard & LeeAnne Whitaker: 2002-2003  
Albany, Oregon

Toquerville, Utah

LeRoy & Patty Rae Ottley: 1999-2000  
Hillsboro, Oregon

Howard & Madge May: 1997-1998  
Pangee, Idaho

**FIJI - Suva**

Barry & Jacqueline Stenlund: 2009-2010  
2310 Miller Farm Road  
Woodburn, Oregon 97071  
jacquelinestenlund@yahoo.com

1305 North Porter Place  
Gilbert, Arizona 85234-2529  
wheelerfay@yahoo.com  
home: 480-892-3472  
fay’s cell: 480-236-6051

1737 East 1500 North  
Logan, Utah 84341  
Mail4Gram@aol.com

Royden & Sally Kohler: 2004-2006  
St. George, Utah  
fijikohlers@yahoo.com

Irvin & Pauline Burbank: 2003-2004  
Victoria, B. C., Canada

Kenneth & Carmen Lords: 2001-2002  
Winnemucca, Nevada

Ashton, Idaho
St. George, Utah

SAMOA

Church College of Western Samoa- Upolu (Pesega)

Elder & Sister Squire: 2009-2010
Arizona

Larry & Marylou Kimball: 2008-2009
532 South 600 West
Payson, Utah 84651
kmarylou@msn.com
home: 801-465-2750

James & Irene Smart: 2006-2007
440 North 1200 East
Orem, Utah 84097
jimsmart@comcast.net
home: 801-226-1453
cell: 801-368-6042

Myron & May Benson: 2004-2005
Newton, Utah
maybenson@hotmail.com

Elder & Sister Allred: 2002-2003
Roosevelt, Utah

Kent & Penny Larsen: 2001-2002
Wellsville, Utah

St. Joseph, Missouri

Floyd & Sister Sucher: 1997-1998
Provo, Utah

Church College of Savaii (Vaiola)

David & Lynn Montgomery: 2009-2010
1207 Glenwood Road
Kamiah, Idaho 83536
lynnndave@wildblue.net
208-935-2071

James & Sara Emily Lindquist: 2007-2008
8317 Loganberry
Anchorage, Alaska 99502
jedlindquist@gmail.com
907-360-4580
907-868-2858
Escondido, California
aandrbrady@aol.com

Richard & Maralyn Dotson: 2003-2004
Cedar City, Utah

M. James & Jeanene Custer: 2001-2002
Ashland, Oregon

Delta, Utah

Cyril & Mary Louise Van Orden: 1998

TONGA

Liahona - Tongatapu

Ronald & Wendy Sing: 2009-2010
1762 N. 900 West
Orem, Utah 84057
rwsing@msn.com
801-224-0053

Michael & Phyllis Embley: 2007-2008
209 Fardown Ave.
Sandy, Utah 84121
mikeembley@gmail.com
pembley@gmail.com
801-278-5656

Leon & Susie Young: 2005-2007
Logandale, Nevada
elderyoung@gmail.com

Delbert & MaryLou Ellsworth: 2003-2005
Marietta, Pennsylvania
ellsworth@etown.edu

Chico, California

Alberta, Canada
docmeek@gmail.com
themeekteam@gmail.com
801-280-6016

Tonga Middle Schools – Tongatapu, Awa, Haapai

Jerry & Marilyn Hawley: 2009-2010
310 Valley Valley View Dr.
Richfield, Utah 84701
David.crimin@imail.com
435-896-5654

Robert & Carolynn McLaughlin: 2006-2008
6119 Summitview Ave. # 14
Yakima, Washington 98908
Drbob7@gmail.com
Home: 509-895-7313
Cell: 509-901-9595

Saineha High School- Vavau Tonga

Doug and Jean Wood: 2009-2010
3927 North 3300 East
Liberty, Utah 84310
jeananddoug@netzero.com
801-745-3083

722 South 700 West
Brigham City, Utah 84302
Highflyer722@yahoo.com
435-237-9137

Stanley & Francine Fawcett: Jul- Nov. 2005
Holden, Utah

Harlan & Mary Alice Clark: 2003-2005
New York City, NY
hmaclarkl@yahoo.com

Fred & Doniece Worlton: 2002-2003
Sandy, Utah

Albert & Carolyn Crandell: 2001-2002
Mesa, Arizona

Cedar City, Utah

Blaine & Sister Moore: 1997
Spanish Fork, Utah

TRAVELING SPECIALISTS

Keith & Sister Checketts: 2009-2010
Logan, Utah

Don & Marilyn Jensen: 2007-2008
1740 East 1400 North
Logan, Utah 84341
jenseniki@gmail.com

Mt. Sterling, Utah
boycerg@yahoo.com

Leavitt, Cam & Loni: Feb-Jul 2005
Lethbridge, Canada