

Changes in the Fiji Islands

Many years ago, when the Fiji Islands were first civilized, a great interest developed in bringing commerce to this primitive society.

This was a daunting prospect, considering that the natives had a particularly harrowing reputation for brutality. Yet seeking to take advantage of the opportunity, a young merchant visited the islands in the hopes of getting in on the ground floor.

It just so happened, as he entered the home of a certain chief, that he noticed a Bible prominently displayed, which he took to be evidence of missionary influence. This prompted the young man to comment, "What a shame that you have listened to the foolish nonsense of the missionaries."

The chief, taken aback by this remark, responded by saying, "Do you see the large white stone over there? That is a stone that just a few years ago we used to smash the heads of our victims."

Then, pointing toward the center of the village, he asked, "Do you see that large oven over there? That is the oven where just a few years ago we used to bake the bodies of our victims before we feasted on them."

The chief then leaned into the face of the young man and added, "Had we not listened to what you call the nonsense of the missionaries, I assure you that your head would have already been smashed on that rock and your body would already be baking in that oven."

The power of the Lamb of God who was sacrificed on the cross! The message of His death on the cross is one of love and reconciliation. Whenever it has been genuinely heeded, peace has replaced animosity, kindness has replaced brutality, and acceptance has replaced hostility. Its transforming power dismantles old ways of life and replaces them with the peacemaking ways of God.

That's because God has given each and every believer the task of bringing peace to our world.

All this is from God, who through Christ reconciled us to Himself and gave us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18 ESV).

Having been reconciled to God ourselves, we are now commissioned members of God's peacemaking task force.

– Beecher Hunter