

Reverend Mataere Pau`u Muaror



by Kafi Muaror

Rev. Mataere Pau`u Muaror or Rev. Mua as he was commonly known served The Methodist Church Ministry faithfully for over 20 years.

He could not have envisioned a life in the service of our Heavenly Father, as he was very successful in the Corporate world as an Accountant. More on that later.

But thanks to the many people in his life, who had a hand in his change of destiny, his wife especially, his siblings, few friends and inspiration from above, he was dedicated to serving his mission faithfully till the end.

Rev. Mua began in humble circumstances, serving as the Catechist of a small congregation at Kinoya for a couple of years, after being confirmed a Preacher in 1990.

He had a passion to study further and in 1996, he graduated with a Diploma in Theology from Davuilevu Theological College.

Again in 2000, he graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity from Pacific Theological College earning him "DUX" and ordained a Minister the same year.

His quest for knowledge also took him to the University of Manchester in 2000-2003 where he graduated with a Masters Degree with honors as well.

At the time of his passing, Rev. Mua was Lecturer of the Old Testament Studies and Hebrew at Davuilevu Theological College. He held that calling since the beginning of 2001.

Apart from Lecturing, he also conducted Church Services, performed christenings, weddings and funerals to many in the Rotuman community.

Rev. Raki Tigarea, Rev. Jioje Elaise and Rev. Geraldine Varea are among the many who graduated during his term at Davuilevu.

Born in Oinafa village, Rotuma to Petueli and Kamoe Muaror, he attended Primary school at Paptepa, before moving to Malhaha High School from 1962 to 1966, now renamed Rotuma High.

He was a keen line fisherman in his teens, always providing fresh fish for the family dinner irrespective of weather conditions. The other is net throwing "kiri" though he never learned this dying art of fishing on the island.

He also loved farming, always helping dad in the farm even sleeping on weekends amid mosquitoes and wild bull ants, just to make sure dad wins a prize at the Rotuma day Agriculture Show. A feat both achieved a couple of times which made dad a proud and very happy man indeed.

Rev. Mua had an even keener eye for bookkeeping. Helping dad balance the books of the little Burns Philip store in the village. A-on- the-job training that would benefit him greatly in the Accounting world of business.

He once shared a story about his first job interview in Suva in 1967. When he failed the interview conducted by a Mr. Love, of The Customs Department he said to Mr. Love, " Sir your surname is Love, and can you have a bit of love in your heart and give me the opportunity to prove I can do the job?" He got the job alright his first as a clerk.

Following were his work profile and achievements:

1967 - 1975 : Ministry of Finance, Customs Department

1975 - 1997 : Ministry of Home Affairs, Police Department

1997 - 1981 : Ministry of Finance, Govt. Supplies

1981 - 1986 : BA in Accounting from University of the South Pacific, USP

1987 - 1989 : Lecturer of Accounting at USP

1989 - 1990 : Ministry of Finance, Treasurer Dept, Inspection Branch

1990 - 1993 : Ministry of Home Affairs, Police CID Head Office, Principal Accountant

He started worked as a clerk (age 26 years) and worked his way through the ladder till registration as a Principal Accountant based at the CID Headquarters of the Police department and responsible for all "white - collar" crimes in Fiji and Rotuma under normal work arrangement and transfers.

Rev. Mataere Pau`u Muaror married Mani Ranige on 26 September 1970 at Tumavia, Nakelo, Tailevu by Rev. Radini. They are the proud parents of 4 children: Mere, Gabriel, Isireli and Patrick, all married, with 8 grandchildren and 2 more additions in August and October.

Rev. Mataere Pau`u Muaror has served his Father in Heaven faithfully and enduringly well till the end. He will be greatly missed by his wife and wonderful family, his brothers and sisters, the community and The Church.

May he rest in peace till The Morning of the First Ressurrection.