

## **SOUTH PACIFIC REPORT**

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### **GEOGRAPHICALLY DISTANT.....SMALL....ISOLATED.....**

but claimed for God by Portuguese Explorer Pedro Fernandez de Quiros on the day of Pentecost 14<sup>th</sup> May 1606..who declared “ I take possession of all this part of the South as far as the Pole in the Name of Jesus... which from now on shall be called, “ The Southern Land of the Holy Spirit”.

### **The 400 Years since de Quiros Declaration**

- The spread of the Gospel in Australia, New Zealand, the Pacific Islands
- By canoe between islands
- By invitation of the Maori leaders
- By settlement in Australia, NZ from Christian nations
- By active participation in cross cultural missions - we have punched above our weight.

### **Today there exists:**

- Fresh interest and impetus from the Pacific
- Strong national mission movements (Missions Interlink) in Australia and New Zealand uniting agencies, trainers (and churches too in NZ)
- Changing cultural realities in Australia and New Zealand
- Large numbers of International students
  - Australia – 14% of the total enrolments – 322,000
  - 1.6% of total population = 4<sup>th</sup> largest number behind...
  - New Zealand - 120,000 or 3.7% of the population.
  - Concentration of Asian peoples, many from difficult access nations
  - Campus and hospitality ministries are focussed on intentional discipleship
- Indigenous people reaching out to indigenes in other nations
- New immigrant communities engaged in mission – Chinese and Koreans to the fore
- Creative patterns of Sending and Funding emerging
- Sharing with the rest of the world in Global mission trends but seeing creative initiatives in holistic mission from anywhere to anywhere.

May God continue to guide us, bless us and use us for His glory.