

A Call to a New Exodus: an Anti-Nuclear Primer for Pacific People, Suliana Siwatibau, and David Williams, Suva Fiji: Pacific Council of Churches, 1982, pp. 96.

This is a well-timed publication to answer a badly felt need. It conveys basic information – pictorially, diagrammatically, and in writing – about the nuclear-free-Pacific issue. Many Pacific Islanders have not been informed about the dangers and effects of nuclear war, let alone about the way in which the world's greater powers have abused their region, through bomb testing, waste disposal, and the deployment of nuclear arms (with their plentiful nuclear submarines). This book does a superb educational job in supplying this information gap, and it can be hoped that the work will be disseminated as widely as possible throughout all Pacific communities.

It is serviceable in walks of life. Politicians can use it to draw attention to international political problems, of vital concern to their nations, and particular constituencies. Church leaders, school teachers, and many communities leaders, working at the grassroots, will find the book invaluable for study groups, school projects, and generally raising consciousness about human survival. The style is simple, the layout easy to follow, and non-literate persons can obtain a lot, simply from the photographs.

The book (at a modest K5.80) contains 21 chapters, organised into four major parts. The first part simplifies technical questions on the nature of nuclear energy, the effects of radiation, etc., the second, with economic, social, and political questions (e.g., who controls nuclear power?), the third covers the nuclear debate, and the fourth asks what people can do about the problems of nuclear threats to the Pacific. The book does not stop short at the study of scientific and political considerations. It is not just part of a (by now, worldwide) campaign for nuclear disarmament. Its authors try to develop a theologically- and biblically-based understanding of peace, and a practical platform to pursue alternatives to nuclearisation (with all the high-level technology it implies). In other words, content, and not just lip service, is given to peace. Thus, in this important book by two “church persons”, one a Fijian woman, the other an expatriate, working in the same country,

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we can find out how the church can take a crucial, even a leading part, in “the way out” (Exodus) of the nuclear nightmare.

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