

OBITUARY

Dr. Faleniu ASAUA

September 9, 1938 - February 4, 2006

With no-one to turn to, except GOD

Brought up on a one square kilometer land mass (Apolima Island), the odds were against a young boy full of hopes and dreams, whose father's sudden death rendered his family penniless. In order to feed his family and put his siblings through school, Faleniu became a plantation labourer.

Later on, as an Agricultural Department clerk, his "palagi" boss, Mr. Gunliff, recommended him for a scholarship to study medicine at the Fiji School of Medicine (FSM). However, upon discovery of the fact that Faleniu did not sit the secondary school examinations required for university entrance, FSM readied him for expulsion. His former boss intervened, and by the hand of God, Faleniu continued on to graduate as the *Best All Round Graduate*, also receiving a gold medal in *Preventive Medicine*.

Despite his interest in Internal Medicine, he accepted a scholarship to specialize in Pathology, during which he completed the five-year course in only four, at Otago University (NZ). Working with professors at the Auckland Medical School (New Zealand) while working as a Pathology Registrar provided him with invaluable experience.

He became the first Samoan born and bred consultant pathologist, heading the Samoa National Health, Central Laboratory and Pathological Department for more than two decades altogether.

During his lifetime, he worked as Director of Community Services for the University of the South Pacific (Suva, Laucala Campus) and ironically as an external examiner and lecturer for FSM. He also published works on cancer and endometrial hyperplasia.



Outside the medical field, the Congregational Christian Church of Samoa of Aai o Niue was where he served as a *A'oa'o fesoasoani* (lay preacher) and Chairman until his passing away.

Surviving him are 6 grandchildren and 5 children: two medical doctors, an electrical engineer, an accountant and an entrepreneur - eleven lives moulded and shaped by their father's determination and faith in God.