

Lonah Fisher & Asenaca Lesuma

OF TAVEUNI, FIJI

BY MARGARET SNIDER

Lonah Fisher, 9, and Asenaca Lesuma, 10, live on an island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. Even though Taveuni is the third largest of more than 300 islands in Fiji, you can drive from one end to the other in less than half a day. Mangos, papayas, bananas, pineapples, and coconuts grow here, and Primary children sing “Popcorn Popping on the Mango Tree”—Lonah’s favorite song.

The tagimocia flower grows at the top of the highest mountain on Taveuni, near a lake, waterfalls, and a rain forest. This rare and beautiful flower is said to grow nowhere else in the world. But unlike the tagimocia, Lonah and Asenaca are not isolated as they grow in the gospel. They both come from loving families and attend the Somosomo Taveuni Branch. They live near each other—but in different villages—and they attend different schools.



Lonah attends Taveuni Central Indian School, where she is taught half the day in English and the other half in Hindi. She is fluent in both languages and also knows some Fijian. At Asenaca’s school, the students study and speak in English in the mornings. In the afternoons they speak Fijian as they learn about Fiji and its history.

