

Subj: Response from Betsy
Date: Monday, November 8, 1999 9:23:33 PM
From: expandex@hotmail.com
To: Nathan44@aol.com
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This was really interesting, Barry, because I had no idea that New Caledonia is a French territory, nor did I know what places were included in the Fiji Mission, but as soon as Lili read "New Caledonia" aloud from the list of place names I had an immediate powerful feeling that that's where she'd go (told her my feeling too). Of course the impression was strengthened when we learned more about the place.

I did know that Caledonia was an ancient Roman name for one of the countries of Great Britain, but I couldn't remember which one-- and that didn't clue me in to its French Connection, either. Anyway, and you may already have known this, Captain Cook gave the island its name, because it reminded him of Scotland, which is of course the British isles country the Romans called

Caledonia.

I don't know if Lili knows about the corn plant (I haven't heard her speak of it and her interest is greater than her knowledge, natch), but I'm sure she'll respond to your query tomorrow or soon. She's gone to bed for the night, which is where I'd better go now.

Love,

Betsy

P.S. I can't resist sending my favorite "Libby of the Day":

Susanna & her two babies & Lili & I went to SLC today. Lili was crammed in

the backseat between the two little ones; she thought it was going to be fine and had volunteered to sit there, but I think she was frazzled by the end, even tho' the kids were very easy as kids that age go. Anyway, at one point Libby was driving Lili nuts poking at her (Lili's) watch constantly, out of fascination (and some envy, I think). Lili asked her repeatedly to stop and finally said something not at all unkind, but very firm and

effective. Throughout the whole drive, both up and back, Libby had been cuddling Lili's arm, leaning on it, etc. Quite some time after the watch episode, Libby suddenly said, "It's very hard to be close to your arm [indicating Lili's watch]."

>From: Nathan44@aol.com

>To: expandex@hotmail.com

>Subject: Re: Comes the official word

>Date: Mon, 8 Nov 1999 09:26:51 EST

>

>Thanks for the news.

>

>When we got the initial word, I told Virginia that Lili was not likely

>going

>to be on Fiji itself, since it's not a French speaking venue....but likely

>the mission included New Caledonia, which is. Nice to get the

>verification.

>

>Some years ago we read of some social problems in New Caledonia, perhaps

>relating to unemployment in the (nickel?) mines there, conflicts between
>the

>indigenous people and immigrant labor, or something like that. Since it
>hasn't been getting much press of late, maybe that means things are
better

>now.

>

>Since Lili is into tropical plants, maybe she can tell me the true name of
>the house plant commonly referred to as the "corn plant." Obviously, it's
>not really maize, since it doesn't die automatically at the end of a
>growing

>season, even though the size, shape and positioning of the leaves is very
>similar to maize.

>

>I had one corn plant already (probably rescued from an office discard and
>revived, though I don't really remember). The Broussard family up the
>street

>threw out a very leggy, spindly, too-tall corn plant last summer when
they

>moved out of their house in anticipation of its destruction. (They razed
>it

>and are now building a new one twice as big on the same lot.) I pulled it
>out of their trash, brought it back here, cut off all but the bottom ten
>inches, and repotted it. The top pieces I just stuck in the ground
>underneath the deciduous magnolia tree on the east side of the house,
after

>stripping off all but a few leaves and cutting those back.

>

>Mirabile dictu, when we were bringing the tender plants into the
greenhouse

>last week on the eve of the first frost, I discovered that three of the
>planted stems had actually taken root! I potted them up and will watch
>them

>grow with interest.

>

>Here's hoping that Lili's missionary efforts similarly take root and
>flourish
>in the warmth of New Caledonia!
>
>Love,
>
>
>Barry

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Subject: Response from Betsy

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