



Sela Ahosivi

Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Partner Church - Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga

About Tonga

Tonga is made up of 171 islands, although less than 40 are inhabited. The main island of Tongatapu holds the country's only urban and commercial centre. Approximately two thirds of Tonga's population reside in Tongatapu, with increasing numbers flocking to the urban centre. Tongans are ethnically Polynesian and make up 98% of the population. The remaining 2% is made up of Europeans, other Pacific Islanders and Chinese immigrants.

Tonga enjoys warm tropical weather, although the country often experiences cyclones from November to April. As Tonga lies in an active earthquake zone, it is also susceptible to tsunamis.

About Sela

Sela is a second generation Tongan-Australian from Yass, NSW. She has good Tongan language skills and an understanding of "anga faka Tonga" (The Tongan Way). Sela finished her HSC in 2009 and is spending a GAP year in Tonga as a volunteer, providing English assistance to Tongan students as well as having the opportunity to see what life is like in her family's country of origin.

The Project

There is a high unemployment rate in Tonga and education is vital for students' employment opportunities. In addition, a good grasp of the

English language can help students both during and after their schooling. Although Tongan is the native language, high school exams are conducted in English. Students often fail these exams not because they lack knowledge of the content, yet rather due to poor English skills.

Queen Salote College is the main Secondary girls' school supported by the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. It is a well established school near the capital of Nuku'alofa. Sela lives on the girls' school campus, a short walk from the school grounds. She starts at 8.30am with school Assembly and Devotions and then teaches English classes, as well as supporting individual students in tutoring.



Experience Program



Our Church Partner

Education and evangelism are strong features of the work of The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. While the government is responsible for most primary education, the church has six primary schools and at the secondary level caters to the needs of 60 percent of the students in three middle schools, five senior secondary and three district schools. In addition the church has three agricultural schools and a theological college. For the last decade of the 20th century the church adopted the theme of "Witness 2000", which involved an all-out drive to reach young people.

"Education is the number one priority in Tonga. The families work 24/7 to give their children education and to be able to speak English is a really big thing. I saw how privileged and blessed I am to be given a great education and I want to be able to give something like that back, such as teaching the English language to a country I love."

- Sela

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