



## Tee Makoni

Vava'u, 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 Tee

Tee is a second generation Tongan-Australian from Victoria. She has had limited contact with her family's country of origin but does have good Tongan language skills and understanding of "anga faka Tonga" (The Tongan Way). Tee was keen to spend some time in Tonga as a volunteer to provide English services to the country, as well as to have 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.

Mailefhi Si'uilikutapu College is the main Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga Secondary school in Vava'u. It is coeducational and provides boarding facilities. This school has been keen to have an Australian volunteer for a long time and have welcomed Tee with great delight into their community.

Tee 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 3 classes English 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.

## Tee's Australian Support

Tee is supported by Balwyn Rd Uniting Church in Canterbury, Victoria. This congregation provides her with financial, emotional and spiritual support.

Your support would also be appreciated!

## Contact UnitingWorld

Address: PO Box A2266  
Sydney South NSW 1235  
Phone: +61 2 8267 4267  
Web: [www.unitingworld.org.au](http://www.unitingworld.org.au)



## Yes, I'd like to support the work of Tee Makoni in Tonga.

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