



John Norman

Western Samoa

Partner Church - Methodist Church of Samoa

About Samoa

Samoa lies in the Polynesian region. The country consists of two main islands and eight small islets. The main island of Upolu holds nearly three quarters of Samoa's population, as well as the capital city Apia. Samoa enjoys a tropical climate, with a rainy season from November to April. Whilst all the Samoan islands have volcanic origins, only Samoa's westernmost island is currently volcanically active.

Although Samoa has experienced European influences for centuries, it has maintained its historical customs, social and political systems, and language. The "fa'a Samoa" (Traditional Samoan Way) is still the dominant force in Samoan life.



About John

Leaving his wife Bernice and their four grown up children and families behind in Australia, John has agreed to take on a theological teaching position at Piula Theological College in Samoa for two semesters.

John has extensive experience in both theology and education. He has worked in a number of cross cultural positions in Tonga, China and Thailand. John is a devout student and has continued studying education and theology throughout his employment positions. His passion for learning and his theological qualifications will make John an excellent lecturer and support person for students at Piula Theological College.

The Project

Piula Theological College is a well established institute that has been providing theological training under the supervision of the Methodist Church of Samoa for many years. They offer four academic programmes; Certificate of Theology, Diploma of Theology, Bachelor of Theology and Bachelor of Divinity. Although classes are mostly delivered in both English and Samoan, all assignments and exams must be completed in English.

John is assisting with the teaching of the Undergraduate Diploma in Theology, as well as supervising individual students in their thesis work. His theological and English language contributions will be very beneficial to the students at Piula Theological College.



Experience Program



Our Church Partner

The Methodist Church of Samoa developed enormously in 20th century as it sought to become financially independent and to rid itself of illiteracy and ignorance. The political independence of Samoa in 1962 was followed by the autonomy of the Methodist Conference in 1964.

Since then notable changes have taken place and the number of ordained ministers has increased with lay people participating in the work of the church. Present programmes of the church extend to areas such as land development and home economics. The life of the church is based on the tradition and culture of the people. Education at all levels is a priority and the Methodist Church of Samoa has a primary school, three secondary schools, a technical college and a Theological College near the capital. It also has very active women and youth departments.

John's Australian Support

Since John has just returned from working overseas for a long period, he is not currently connected with and supported by a specific Uniting Church in Australia.

John's placement relies on the generosity of our donors.

Contact UnitingWorld

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