



Leslene Woodward

Kiribati

Partner Church - Kiribati Protestant Church

About Kiribati

Kiribati is hot and humid as it straddles the equator. Kiribati has very few natural resources and the government has placed greater emphasis on education. Due to the islands' geographical isolation, it is difficult to train skilled members of the community. It is also incredibly expensive to send people elsewhere to train. Tangintebu Theological College provides local training for Pastors, however suffers from limited resources.



About Leslene

Leslene has served as a volunteer in Bali, then as a Librarian and English teacher at Tamil Nadu Theological Seminary in South India, where she also began her postgraduate studies in Librarianship.

In her 70's, Leslene is passionate, committed, flexible, enthusiastic, compassionate and skilled. She has a background in Journalism, Law and Librarianship.

The Project

The Library for Tangintebu Theological College in Kiribati was initially very small, uncatalogued, in boxes and largely unusable.

At the request of the new College Principal, Leslene stepped in to set up the College Library, which will provide students with a strong resource base. Leslene works closely alongside the locals, building capacity and strengthening relationships. Through her efforts, the Library is now available to students, however her work is far from over!

Once Leslene completes the initial Library set up, another volunteer will be needed to train local people in how to run the library.





Achievements

3,000 books have been catalogued, with unnecessary books being disposed (some in Russian!).

Leslene has helped students to see that the library has resources they can actually use. She also continues to assist students with their English language skills.

"I am very pleased to see the students are using the books more; some of our heavy reference books are in constant use...very encouraging."

- Leslene

Our Church Partner

The Kiribati Protestant Church is a Congregationalist Protestant Christian denomination in Kiribati. With approximately 40,000 members the church is the second-largest religious group in Kiribati and accounts for approximately 36 percent of the population of the country.

The Kiribati Protestant Church is actively involved in youth and Sunday school programmes, women's activities, mission to seamen (a joint venture with the Roman Catholic Church), chaplaincy work, vocational training for young men and women, and secondary schools. The pastors of the church are trained at Tangintebu Theological College

For more information about the project and our partner church visit

www.unitingworld.org.au

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