



Cherice Anquetil

Tongatapu, 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 Cherice

Cherice completed her HSC in 2009 and was excited to participate in a GAP year program assisting Tongan students with English at Mo'unga 'Olive College. Cherice was actively involved with Sunday school and youth group at her local Church in Bonny Hills. Her experience and passion make her an excellent person for this role.

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.

Mo'unga 'Olive College is one of the schools supported by the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga. It is a well established school in Kolonga, Tongatapu. Cherice 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

The Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga is one of the UCA's longer term international partners. The first Methodist missionaries arrived in Tonga in 1822. After a difficult start the work progressed, and by the middle of the 19th century the whole population was Christianized. Tonga was a conference within the Methodist Church of Australasia until 1977 when the Uniting Church in Australia was formed, and the Free Wesleyan Church gained its autonomy. The relationship between the King and the Free Wesleyan Church has been strong since the foundation of modern Tonga under Taufa'ahau Tupou I in 1845. The reigning monarch confirms constitutionally the elected president of the church in office.

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.



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