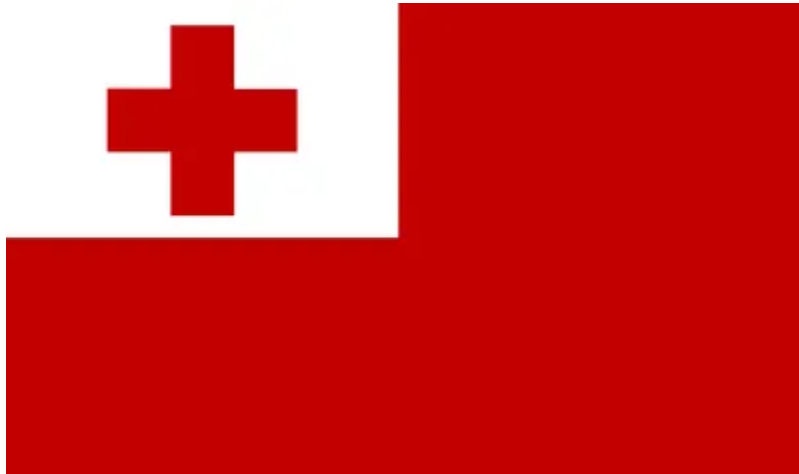




# Tonga

Tonga officially named the Kingdom of Tonga, is a Polynesian country and an archipelago consisting of 169 islands, of which 36 are inhabited.



Flag of Tonga

The Church of the Nazarene began work in Tonga in 2000. Tonga is a Polynesian kingdom of more than 170 South Pacific islands. Many of these islands are uninhabited, and most are lined in white beaches and coral reefs and covered with tropical rainforest. The main island is Tongatapu. The country has a population of 105,695 (about the seating capacity of the Los Angeles Memorial Coliseum). One of the important works of the Church of the Nazarene in Tonga is the Mango Tree Center. The center ministers to disabled children and their families in the name of Christ. By demonstrating the love of Jesus, missionaries are serving the disabled who are isolated by their community. They also serve their families who are suffering under shame and guilt. 113 families with children who have disabilities have found help and hope every week this year, through the Nazarene Mango Tree Center.

 <b>1 Ministry Center</b>	
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	There are 2 missionaries serving in Tonga	
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(The following is a story from: Please read and summarize as powerpoint is running. The first part is included to introduce the article.)

[Targeting Relief in Tonga through Cash Disbursements | Nazarene Compassionate Ministries \(ncm.org\)](#)

Targeting Relief in Tonga through Cash Disbursements

APRIL 7, 2022 · AMY HECKMAN

On January 15, 2022, an underwater volcano near Tonga erupted with violent force. The eruption lasted approximately eight minutes, releasing a cloud of ash that billowed more than 20 kilometers high. The force of the eruption quickly caused a Pacific-wide tsunami, swamping coastlines and causing casualties and damage in Japan and Chile, with waves reaching as far as North America. Communication to Tonga was cut off for weeks. Three people were killed in the disaster.



In affected areas of Tonga, the thick volcanic ash damaged or destroyed family homes, food gardens, and marine life. The prevalence of saltwater and power outages in some areas severely impacted people's ability to access safe drinking water.

The Mango Tree Respite Center, a Nazarene compassionate ministry in Tonga, provides rehabilitative services to 130 people with disabilities and offers support for their families. Close to 80 of those families were directly affected by the eruption. Initially, the staff purchased water bottles to distribute to families with a loved one enrolled in the ministry. After a more thorough assessment, however, the leadership team at the center realized that families faced many different kinds of need. Instead of trying to customize the response to each household, the staff chose to empower parents to meet their family's needs through cash disbursements. The funds provided for about five weeks of support and gave each family the ability to procure the supplies or items they determined were most important.



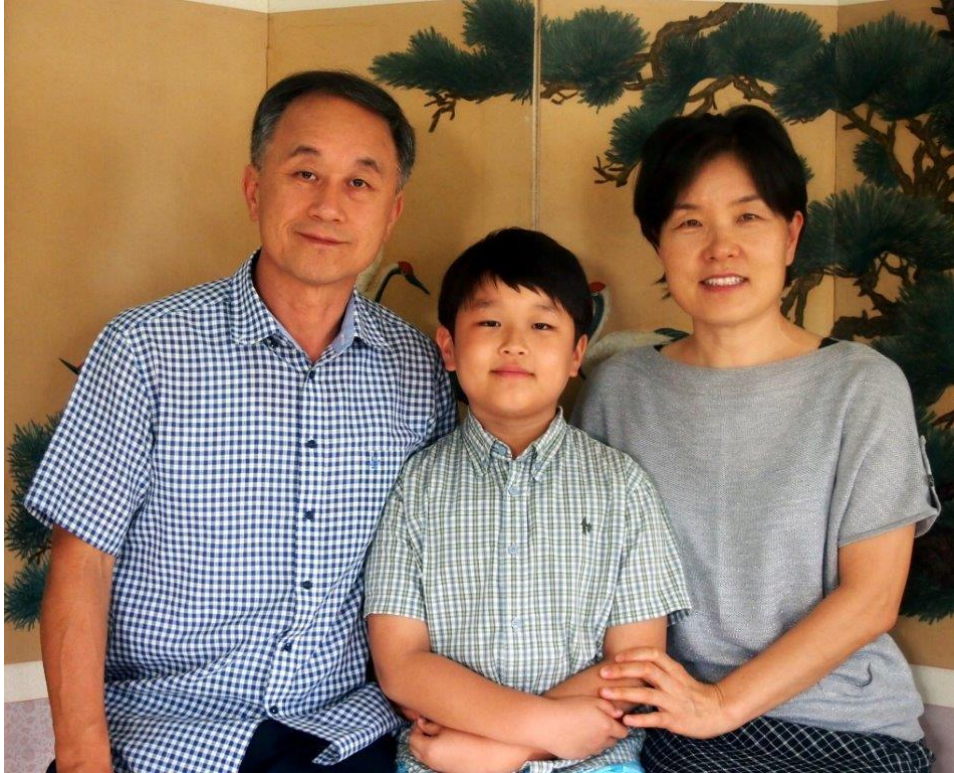
Rev. In-Kwong Kim, Mango Tree's director, shared this report after the distribution:

*"We have successfully finished distributing the cash gifts of 77 families with disabilities who were affected by the volcano eruption and tsunami in Tonga. I wrote a letter saying that this love gift came from the Church of the Nazarene and put it into an envelope with the cash gift. And, in the letter, I advised them to use the cash to buy their daily necessities in this difficult situation. The families were all happy and expressed appreciation about the love offerings to the Church of the Nazarene and Mango Tree Center. I trust the love gift will be used to meet their basic needs for a while."*

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As residents in Tonga continue to recover from the volcano—rebuilding their livelihoods and repairing their homes—the Mango Tree ministry will continue to provide people living with disabilities and their families with much-needed nurture, assistance, and hope.

	<p><b>PRAYER</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Pray for the end of the COVID-19 pandemic so that doors may be opened for children with disabilities to receive rehabilitation therapy as they did before the pandemic.</li><li>• Pray for the opportunity to plant a Nazarene church on the Tongatapu island.</li><li>• Pray for the training of church leaders as they continue their education through the Course of Study required for ministerial licensing and ordination.</li></ul>
	<p><b>PRAISE</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• We praise God for the many Nazarene churches that have given helping hands to the Tongan people.</li><li>• We praise God for the work of the Mango Tree Center and the way it has aided people in overcoming adversity.</li><li>• We praise God for the recovery and healing that has taken place in Tonga since the volcanic eruption in January of 2022.</li></ul>



**SERVING IN  
Tonga**

- ***In-Kwon and Jeong-Seok Kim are missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene and serve in Tonga, South Pacific. They were born in Korea.***

*(Give the following information orally. It is not on the powerpoint.)*

- In-Kwon received a B.A. degree in English Education and a Secondary Education Teaching Certificate from Korea University in Seoul, Korea. He received a M.S.W in Social Welfare from Choong-Ang University in Seoul, and in 2005 he was presented with a B.Min from Laidlaw College in Auckland, New Zealand.

- Jeong-Seok received a B.A. degree in English Education and a Secondary Education Teaching Certificate from Kyung-Hee University in Seoul. From Laidlaw College in Auckland, New Zealand, she received a Dip.Couns. in 2006.
- For more than ten years, In-Kwon and Jeong-Seok helped the disabled children In Korea.
- They then studied theology and counselling in New Zealand and In-Kwon was ordained by the New Zealand district in 2006.
- From 2007, they took on leadership of the Mango Tree Centre.
- The Kims have three children, a granddaughter, and soon another grandchild.

Taken from: [Missionary Profiles \(nazarene.org\)](http://nazarene.org)

(Summarize – the 4 points are on a slide)

The Mango Tree Respite Center is a ministry of yours through the Church of the Nazarene in the Kingdom of Tonga.

The Center ministers to handicapped and disabled children and their families in the name of Christ.

Among other disabilities, a large number of children in Tonga are born with cerebral palsy and island families face great challenges in dealing with the effect.

The vision of the Mango Tree Respite Center is to help provide care for these and other handicapped children and their families, many of whom can lead full lives if there is intervention.

The following are 4 areas of focus for this ministry:

(1) Respite Care: Providing comfortable and hygienic respite care to people with disabilities as well as their families.

(2) Vocational and Educational Service: Providing vocational training and educational service to help people with disabilities and their families to overcome or minimize the obstacles.

(3) Rehabilitative Home Visit Service: Offering rehabilitative and minor health care for people with disabilities and their families, paying special attention to the difficulties caused by a disability.

(4) Provision of Wheelchairs and Making Aids: Providing wheelchairs and creating aids and home modifications that will enable people with disabilities to live with self-esteem

Taken from: [\(20+\) Mango Tree Centre | Facebook](#)

### **Ideas for mission meeting**

Serve one of more of the following:

Squash, coconuts, bananas, and vanilla beans make up the main cash crops, and other important crops include yams, taro, cassava, corn (maize), watermelons, pineapples, breadfruit, limes, and tomatoes. Tonga is known for its agriculture.

King/Queen for a day

Monarchy – Tonga is the smallest and one of the last countries where monarchy still exists. Conduct your meeting as a king or queen. Dress accordingly.

Mango Tree opportunities:

Ask the congregation if they are involved in a group like the Mango Tree. Does your church have handicapped children in the congregation? Are there organizations that your children's teachers are involved in helping these children? You can go on Facebook and do a search for Real Talk. This is a group that meets at the Cleveland First Church of the Nazarene that deals with issues with people with disabilities. They have a meeting once a month at the church. If you live close enough, you may want to attend one of their meetings.