

- •Tonga officially named the Kingdom of Tonga, is a Polynesian country and an archipelago consisting of 169 islands, of which 36 are inhabited.
- •Tonga is prone to earthquakes due to underwater volcanos and to tsunamis from eruptions from underneath and surrounding areas.

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.







There are 2 missionaries serving in Tonga

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.

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.



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 be the cash

necessaries in this difficult situation. The families were alexpressed appreciation about the love offerings to the Ch

Nazarene and Mango Tree Center. I trust the love gift wil

meet their basic needs for a while."







#### **PRAYER**

- 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.
- Pray for the opportunity to plant a Nazarene church on the Tongatapu Island.
- Pray for the training of church leaders as they continue their education through the Course of Study required for ministerial licensing and ordination.



#### **PRAISE**

- •We praise God for the many Nazarene churches that have given helping hands to the Tongan people.
- •We praise God for the work of the Mango Tree Center and the way it has aided people in overcoming adversity.
- •We praise God for the recovery and healing that has taken place in Tonga since the volcanic eruption in January of 2022.

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.





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.