

# NMI Central

NAZARENE MISSIONS INTERNATIONAL

8 June 2022

## Asia-Pacific Region



## 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. 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.



1 Ministry Center    There are 2 missionaries  
serving in Tonga

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## **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.
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## **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.



## Targeting Relief in Tonga through Cash Disbursements



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 (over 12 miles) 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 Center 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 had 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.

To read the full article, click [here](#).

### Could You Serve?

Is God calling you to serve in Tonga through physical or occupational therapy? Click [here](#) to learn more.



See the past archive of NMI Central publications [here](#).



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