

Intercultural Ministries

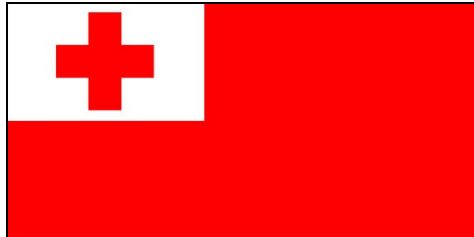
Southern California District Council Assemblies of God

August 2009

National Tongan Conference

On July 16-19, I represented the National office for Intercultural Ministries to the National Tongan Conference. It was held in Newark, CA and was host to approximately 500 Tongans from around the country. Several representatives from Tonga were also present.

I have had an almost 20 year love relationship with Pacific Islanders. Their humility, love for their culture and language, and especially their



absolute devotion to Jesus and His Kingdom was evident through-out the conference. Many of the Tongan pastors were former students of mine while our family served as missionaries to Fiji.

I never would have thought that many of them would be living in

the U.S. or that they would be pastoring Tongan churches in America. These pastors are my friends.

I have learned so much from each one. Their hospitality and generosity are much needed in our culture today.



Semesi Fakatou



Vice President
National Tongan Fellowship

Executive Elections

4 New Executive Officers were Elected:

President:

Filimoni Ma'au (Honolulu, Hawaii)

Vice President:

Semesi Fakatou (Oakland, CA)

Secretary

Tottie Taito (San Bernardino, CA)

Treasurer

Viliame Teu (E Palo Alto, CA)

These men are great leaders with the hearts of true servants. When they were elected, I felt like I understood what James, the leader in Jerusalem felt when he said, "It seemed good to us and the Holy Spirit," (Acts 15:28.)



Meet Moses Cao

Moses and his father were used during the war in Vietnam to bring the gospel to many people. The church today is growing and thriving in Vietnam, partly due to the faithfulness and sacrificial ministries of the Cao's. We are honored to have them as Pastors in Southern California. Pray for them! These are tender hearted and humble men who want to reach and teach the Vietnamese community in Southern California.

Meet David Thomas



Pastor David Thomas has been leading and directing the Persian ministries in Southern California for many years. He was a Pastor in Tehran, and is now Pastoring in Irvine, Ca. Remarkable stories are being told by Persian believers who came to Christ, many through visions and dreams. Over the last three to four years, I've had the privilege of meeting and assisting a number of Persians believers scattered through-out America. God used Persia (Iran) to bless his people many years ago. As Christians, we know that God has not forgotten the Middle Eastern nations. Many are our neighbors, parents of those our children play with. Pray that God will continue to use and bless Pastor David and other Persian men and women who are reaching out to their Persian friends here in the United States. "for God so loved the World".

Younger Generations

I have noticed that a younger generation of Tongan believers are being raised up to enter new venues of ministry and opportunity.

- Many are attending the School of Urban Ministries, Oakland, CA.
- Several are now going into prisons and ministering to Islanders (and others) in the penal institutions. They have a passion, fire, and zeal that point to Jesus and the power of the Spirit.



Pray for our Leadership

If ever you have questions regarding any of the individuals I mention, or have questions about how to be involved in their churches/ministries, please call me. I would be pleased to put you in touch with them.

Russ Peavy

Director of Intercultural Ministries
Southern California District AG



When you pray, pray for our brothers and sisters from the Islands of the Pacific. Pray that God will continue to rise up new leaders to serve both nationally, and

in local churches.

When you ask Jesus to continue to work in your hearts, be ready to be impacted by believers from the Pacific!

They are a 'sign' that God is present, that the church is meant to be 'multicultural', and that together, we form a beautiful mosaic representing the nations of the world! Fafetai!!!!