

Words and Deeds – Let's do more

This is a sample of our Pacific Partners Newsletter which is mailed about every two months. To get your copy visit www.pacificpartners.org and click 'Join'

Dear John

One of our Partners in New Zealand made a wonderful gift to the people of the Islands at Christmas. \$5000 to buy food for needy families in Tonga and the Solomon Islands.

The donor contacted us before Christmas. Most of our Listener Home fellowship groups had closed for the holiday, and our radio people were at their busiest time as they prepared for round-the-clock live programming over the Christmas weekend.

So I phoned Loni, our discipleship and pastoral care leader in Tonga. "Is there any way you can find enough of your people to go and buy this food and distribute it in time for Christmas?" I asked. "Of course!" he replied. (Tina and Judah, our leaders at Gud Nius Redio in the Solomon Islands, were both out of telephone reach so we couldn't get in touch with them in time for Christmas.)

We sent Tonga's money, and Loni and his listener volunteers went to work. They went to the town market and visited farmers to buy the best fresh produce, which they assembled into standard, Tongan family sized, piles of food (these probably look a little different to the food parcels your church distributes!).

Loni later emailed, "As you know that we already distributed the food on Monday and we have a long day. We start at 10.00 in the morning and finish at 11.00pm everyone was exhaust but bless and even moved to continue visiting some of the families next year. There were 11 helper not counting the children were join in the mission.

There were several amazing thing happen: Some of the families (poor) open up their heart and receive the Lord as their saviour among those families are Mormon. That's the highlight of our visit being blessed by the **new souls win to the kingdom of God**. Some of them probably will be coming under the discipleship wing [of Pacific Partners] next year [when home fellowship groups start again in February 2012].

One family that join us in distributing food were moved by the need and they commit to keep help 3 families next year (providing food) for them. There were I must say most of the people we meet that's the first time for us to see each other and I believe with what we did we built a bridge to reach them and I'm looking forward to keep in touch with them next year."



Loni with some market vegetables



A standard family food parcel

In the Tongan way, the food was presented with a little ceremony – speeches and prayers for the family, as everybody sat on the ground outside. Loni and his people used the opportunity to explain that the love of God, through Jesus Christ, was behind the generosity of the overseas donor, and behind their own desire to help their neighbors.

Those gifts were a powerful demonstration of the real meaning of Christmas. People who have been raised to see God as One who demands from us through church attendance and strict rules, heard about His great love-gift - His Son to become our Savior and Lord.

Is Pacific Partners becoming an aid agency? No.

Radio is all about words. And in the Islands there is always much talk about God, but little seen of His grace and love and power. It's critical we also find ways to demonstrate the grace, love and power of our Lord - to practice what we are preaching, so people can see as well as hear about Jesus.

The Bible says: *“What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don't show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone? Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well” – but then you don't give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? So you see, faith by itself isn't enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.”* (James 2:14-17 NLT)

We are so thankful that the Lord moved the heart of this Partner this way. It was our privilege to serve them, by being a channel for them to serve the Lord with their giving. **That's what Pacific Partners is – a channel for you to serve the Lord and be part of His great missionary work in the Islands.**

Words and Deeds!

We sent Loni's email and pictures to the donor and they responded, *“Wow we are inspired! God has some mighty amazing ways of reaching people. Thank you so much for being a channel for giving. We are blessed!”*

The Lord is glorified; the donor is blessed; the people are blessed; and so is Pacific Partners for making it possible.

Thank you, and may God bless you.

Your prayers and donations (words and deeds) are proclaiming and demonstrating the Good News of God's love through Jesus Christ, to His people of the South Pacific Islands.



Some of the children who helped



A prayer and the Gospel is shared

A large, stylized handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Graham'.

Graham A Carter
President, Pacific Partners

PS: **Pacific Partners is a channel for each of us to serve the Lord** in the South Pacific Islands. Through our words and deeds. **Let's do more!**