

Sent: Wednesday, October 7, 2009 10:24:23 AM
Subject: Update from Samoa

Dear Honolulu Church of Christ Family,

On behalf of the Soli Family and the Nu'uuli Church of Christ, we'd like to THANK YOU all for your assistance, donation and prayers during this difficult time. Phone calls and emails came pouring in from all around the world to see if our family was ok. No church member perished in the Samoan islands during the tsunami, and we praise GOD for HIS protection! Although we lost a lot of our relatives and friends, we serve a living and loving GOD who is still in control and in that, we find peace and comfort.

As of Monday, the death toll rose to 183. In these small islands, it means everyone either has a relative or knows of someone who died because of the earthquake/tsunami. In American Samoa, majority of the island is still without power. The FEMA and the government are working around the clock to fix this problem. They sometimes have problems with their water supply and so to be safe, they boil their water to purify it. Although most of the church members were not directly affected (for example, they did not lose their homes), a greater part of them are now unemployed as businesses in the town area and the canneries are closed due to massive damages and remains without power. These people were already living below poverty and now struggle to provide for their families. FEMA and Red Cross will assist and prioritize only those who were directly affected by the tsunami, leaving the others who were indirectly affected to fend for themselves.

Some of the church members in (Western) Samoa are now homeless. This part of Samoa is an independent nation and therefore, will not receive assistance from the U.S. government. Donations will be shared with these dear brethren of ours. Our dad's village in this part of the island was completely wiped out. Last I heard, it's been 3 days since they last received any assistance, such as clean water, food and supplies.

Three days after the Samoan Islands was devastated with the tsunami, 10 filled boxes of canned food, rice, diapers, toilet paper, etc donated by some servants of HIS in Hawaii arrived in American Samoa. This was divided among 18 families. We also received monetary donation which was used to purchase more goods for 23 families. The families in Samoa cannot thank you enough for your help in feeding their families especially the children. Donations continue to flow in and we're so thankful for all your love and concern for the Samoan people. Your assistance and acts of kindness goes a long way. Help is still very much needed and we pray the situation will get better soon and for God's abundant blessings upon all of you for answering the call!

In Christian love,
Soli Family