

# TONGA



Tonga has a population of approximately 104,000 (2009) Official figures from the latest government census of 2006 show that the four major church affiliations in the kingdom stood as follows: Free Wesleyans (37%), LDS Church (17%), Catholics (16%) & Free Church of Tonga (11%).

There are 5 Brothers and Sisters in Tonga: 2 families and a single brother. Each of the families have 3 young children and all currently live on the main Island of Tongatapu.

Some of the children are approaching Sunday School age so we look forward to starting a Sunday School in the coming year (God willing). However, one of the families is moving to the northern island group of Vava'u about 30 minutes flying north of Tongatapu.

Over the past 12 months there have been a number of visitors from both Australia and New Zealand who have visited and assisted our Tongan brethren for which they are very grateful. Tonga remains an accessible destination for family holidays, especially during the southern winter, and any contact with the brethren on the island would be most welcome.

Looking forward, a married Brother and Sister from New Zealand will, God willing, be committing 2 years as residents to the work in Tonga starting in 2011.



## JAPAN

When you hear the word 'Japan', do you see visions of mist-shrouded hills or lightning-fast bullet trains? Do you think of suit-clad businessmen or kimono-clad geisha? Whatever image you have of Japan, it's probably accurate, because it's all there. Japan is a clean, organised, modern country to live in. Although a high population, the area around our little group in Gifu is a peaceful & picturesque area of Japan with a pleasant climate.

The culture of the Japanese is old compared to many western countries, & they are very proud of this. They see Christianity & the Bible as part of western culture, & look down on it, as the general culture of the west is shallow & course to the traditional Japanese. This has made it slow to gain contacts among the local people.

The Hope of Israel has been actively taught in central Honshu, Japan for over 15 years. Bro Paul Riggio lives in Gifu 60 km NW of Nagoya, & actively "gives an answer for the Hope that is within him" to all who ask why he is in Japan.

During that time although working full time, Bro Paul has taught & baptised 4 people into the Hope of the Gospel, and the "Ecclesia" in Japan is an enthusiastic group of 5 brethren & sisters. Bro Paul Riggio from Australia teaches English & lives in Gifu with his wife Sis Naomi, who is ethnic Japanese. Sis Cynthia Itou (nee Bournaparte) recently moved into the Gifu area to be with her brethren & sisters. She also brings with her, her 2 sons.

Most meetings are held at bro Paul's dwelling. The times of the meetings may vary due to the working times of the members. This little group would be encouraged by your visits.

For more details write to:- [japan@acbm.org.au](mailto:japan@acbm.org.au)



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