

Niua Fo'ou Island

Niutoputapu Island



The Kingdom of

Leading
the
Way

in
Village
Leadership
Training...

Vava'u Group

Ha'apai Group

Tongatapu Island

'Eua Island



Where Time Begins...

ON BEHALF OF THE PACIFIC...

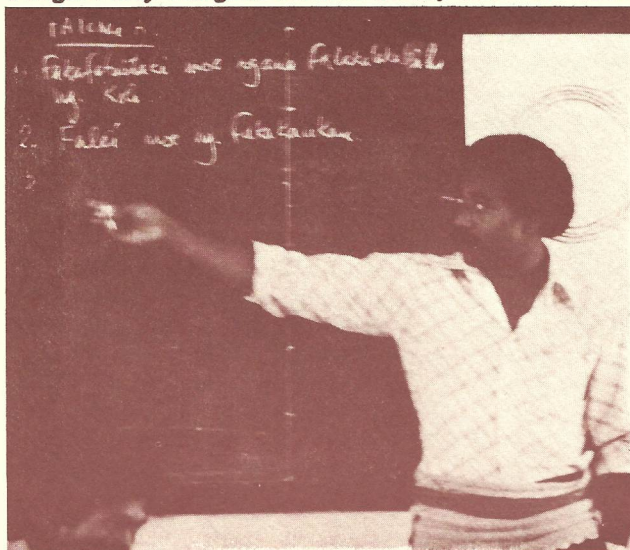
The Kingdom of Tonga is in a unique position to be a demonstration on behalf of the Pacific Island nations. It is located in the Pacific Ocean, south of the Equator and west of the International Dateline. The slogan of the Kingdom is "Tonga, where time begins." Tonga is made up of 150 islands scattered over 140,000 square miles; 36 of the islands are inhabited and they are divided into five districts: Tongatapu, Vava'u, Ha'apai, 'Eua and the Niua. The population is 95,000.

Tonga is a constitutional monarchy ruled by King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV. It is unique among the island nations in having maintained its self-government without being colonized through the whole of its recorded history. The Tongan people have a long tradition of navigation and pioneering influence in the South Pacific. Tonga's cultural ties to Polynesia are evident in art and music, as well as in food and agriculture, and there is a major emphasis on "The Pacific Way" of life and value system. Tonga and the other Pacific Island nations are characterized by their strong Christian tradition and culture which is seen in the sense of community, village, family and nation and is demonstrated in "on-behalf-of" service. A stable and cohesive community value system is one of the gifts of "The Pacific Way" to the world.

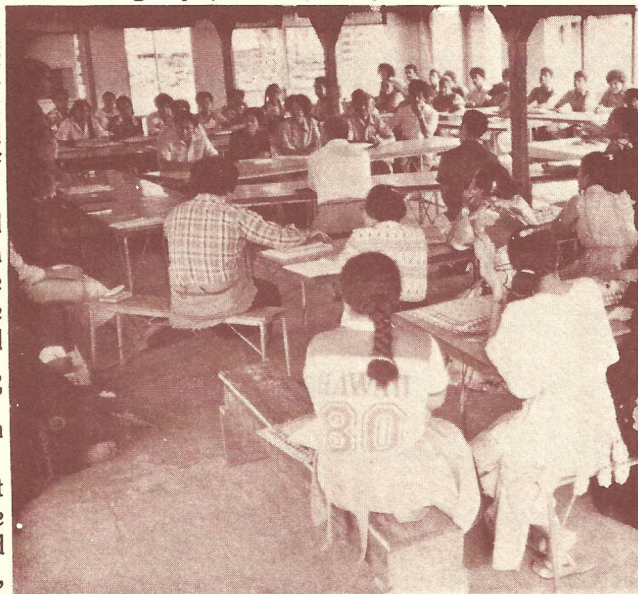
Tonga is typical of the nations of the Pacific in that materially they are among the poorest in the world. The issues facing Tonga include isolation, drastically reduced foreign aid, complex and costly infrastructure needs, limited resources, trade imbalances, growing population resulting in serious unemployment especially among the youth, and limited land for cultivation, as well as difficulty in delivering basic services to 36 islands and their remote villages. Tonga is concerned about how to face these issues and create its own national comprehensive development plan as well as be a demonstration to the Pacific.

IN LOCAL LEADERSHIP TRAINING...

The first Pacific Training School (PTS) was held in Nuku'alofa, Tonga in January 1982. The PTS is a three-week leadership training and village development school to prepare Pacific Islanders to do their own development. The PTS was an occasion to pull together faculty from across the Pacific as well as to create a Faculty-in-Training for Tonga. Forty Tongans became faculty and worked intensively on curriculum and training during the School.



Local faculty member leading training session



PTS Seminar discussing issues facing Tonga and the Pacific

The faculty core held an Advanced PTS in Nuku'alofa in May 1982, where they studied educational methods and did research on the needs of Tonga and the Pacific. Six of the participants went to an international research assembly in Chicago at their own expense. One of the six stayed for the eight week Academy training and returned to Tonga in December 1982.

In September 1982, the ICA opened an office in Nuku'alofa, and the faculty began 'Research Seminars' to prepare for village development work. Guests were invited from public, private, and voluntary organizations in Tonga to discuss topics including agriculture, education, commerce, development planning and health. At the same time, training began to prepare the faculty for the PTS in Vava'u and the Advanced Training in Suva. In February 1983, a large training centre was obtained. Though a very old building, it is in the first stages of renovation. It provides residential space for full-time trainees and ample meeting space for the village service guilds and for training sessions.

The Kingdom of **Tonga** Leading The Way...

IN LOCAL VILLAGE DEMONSTRATION...

Nineteen villages opened preschools during the first month following the Pacific Training School in the Vava'u Island Group in January 1983. 180 people participated, representing the 37 villages of Vava'u and including government and voluntary agency employees. The curriculum emphasized motivation and planning skills for self-help village projects. The participants worked in teams and went to all 37 villages three times during the school for practical field experience.



Participants went to all 37 villages to assist in initiating projects

The intent of the first village visit was to do a Village Needs Survey using interview and observation techniques. During the second visit, participants held a Village Meeting in which the villagers listed their issues and concerns and wrote proposals for small projects. Each village selected one priority project which they launched the next week during the Village Action Day. In addition to preschools, sanitation, water projects and agricultural demonstrations were initiated. The village leaders formed themselves into geographic responsibility groups in order to assist each other with their projects. The Village Service Guilds in Vava'u have planned District Demonstration events including preschool teacher training, a health fair and agriculture training with the Department of Agriculture.

ON BEHALF OF DEMONSTRATING THE FUTURE...

Tonga has been invited to participate in the International Exposition of Rural Development in New Delhi, India in February 1984. The Exposition, sponsored by The Institute of Cultural Affairs and the United Nations Development Programme, will document from actual field experience the most effective methods of rural development presently being used in the participating nations. Emphasis will be on the importance of local participation and initiative as keys to success.

The Village Needs Surveys, which began in Vava'u in January 1983, will be conducted in all the island groups by September 1983. These surveys will document the needs in the villages of Tonga. At the same time, the Survey will provide the opportunity to see and include inexpensive effective projects that are presently in existence and working at the village level.

Dr. Sione Amanaki Havea, President of the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga, is a member of the IERD Global Advisory Board. He will chair a national committee which will select key projects from the many effective village development efforts going on in Tonga. These projects will be featured at the Tonga National Development Symposium in November 1983. The Symposium will share the learnings about village development efforts among the projects and organizations who are doing development in Tonga. The involvement of the public, private and voluntary representatives who are providing services and support to villages will be an important part of the Symposium interaction.



Arriving by boat at the villages for the Village Needs Survey

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THE INSTITUTE OF CULTURAL AFFAIRS is a private voluntary organization offering services through research, training and demonstration methods. Its programmes are designed to catalyse grassroots participation in improving the quality of life by serving the world-wide need for self-development in local communities and organizations. People learn practical, problem-solving methods which help make their villages self-sufficient, self-reliant and self-confident.

The ICA approach does not impose cultural, religious or economic standards on a group. Instead, the people themselves determine their own directions, drawing up and implementing the plans through their own efforts. The focus is on helping people help themselves with methods and skills for local development.

The ICA originally operated as a programme arm of the Ecumenical Institute, Chicago. As the demand for community and village development programmes increased, the ICA was set up as a separate entity in 1973 to work directly with local community groups, corporations and agencies. Its programmes in more than 40 nations are carried out by local volunteers and full-time staff members of the Order:Ecumenical.

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