

AUGUST 1, 2009

Minute for Mission

Pacific Conference of Churches Asks for Prayer



Participants were given lavish gifts when they left the General Assembly of the Pacific Conference of Churches. Photo courtesy of the PCC

Suva, Fiji, is the home to the Pacific Conference of Churches (PCC), an ecumenical organization that encompasses nearly all the Pacific island nations. Members include nearly all the Christian denominations in the region.

The theme for the PCC General Assembly held in Pago Pago, American Samoa, in 2007 was, “Atua, empower us to be liberating communities.” The attendees discussed many topics that are of immediate concern to the region — HIV/AIDS, good governance, ecumenism, human rights, globalization and trade and, perhaps most important, climate change.

Global warming is having drastic consequences for many island nations. Several communities have had to be relocated due to rising sea levels, higher tides and stronger storms and storm surges. The island nations of Tuvalu and Kiribati will undoubtedly vanish before the end of this century.

The conference members asked for nothing from their United States partners except for prayer and advocacy with our government for policies that will mitigate the problems associated with global warming. The PCC continues to work to find homes for the thousands of environmental refugees that will soon be a reality.

PRAYER: Creator God, we have not been good stewards of this earth. We have fouled the air and the water. We are driving our brothers and sisters away from their homes and into uncharted waters, far from the lands of their ancestors. Empower us to stand beside these people, to love and pray and act in such ways so as to begin to restore this planet to that which you created in the beginning.

David Walter, long-term volunteer
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