

VISION

A world without poverty and oppression

MISSION

Working to transform communities for the poor and marginalised

PURPOSE

Supporting partners in developing countries; creating awareness in New Zealand about aid and development issues

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SATITOA SCHOOL — SAMOA

The Satitua Village Primary School was completely demolished by the September 2009 Pacific Tsunami. BANZAid took on the project of relocating the school to a safer site, and rebuilding with improved facilities.

The new buildings were officially opened on the first anniversary of the tsunami - 29 September 2010.

BANZAid Manager, Paul Thompson, writes about the excitement of the opening day.

“We didn’t get much sleep the night before.

There was a terrific thunderstorm that went on for about four hours. We were staying in a beach fale. The beach fale is a platform on stilts, with a thatch roof and plastic sheets for walls, and give little protection in the rain and wind. We were up pre-dawn to join the anniversary commemorations.



It was a privilege to join the hundreds of people remembering those who died in the tsunami

as we gathered in front of the Lalomanu Church at the exact time the tsunami had struck. Tears flowed as a memorial stone was unveiled, and again in the church as each family shared the pictures and the stories of their losses. Samoan resilience was shown too, in shared laughter over some of the stories.

Following the service we continued around the coast to Satitua for the opening of the school. The village and the building team had been working until late the night before to complete the finishing touches.

Prayers and speeches from both sides were followed by the cutting of the ribbon by the CEO of the Samoan Education Ministry, before we

were served with lunch.

After lunch the dignitaries left, and it was time for the village to thank all those who had taken part in the building. The pig population of Satitua was seriously depleted as presents of meat, mats and

baskets were given to the building team and all those who had been helping them! The village had provided accommodation and food for the builders for the whole time they were on site, and now they were being given a traditional thank you for their hard work over the last

four months. Alongside this BANZAid gave a cash present to acknowledge the work they had done and the saving that this represented over what it would have cost us to build using commercial contractors.

As each was thanked they picked up their gifts and departed. When it was down to the Satitua people and the New Zealand Baptist party we were taken down to the village meeting fale, where we thanked the village for their part in making this project a **success, and there was a special ‘Thank you’** from the village to us: Chiefly Matai titles were conferred on Rodney Macann and Paul Thompson.

The project started when Samoan members of our NZ churches came asking for help for their people. Five NZ Samoan pastors were at the opening, supporting Rodney Macann and representing the NZ Churches.

It was great to see the excitement on the faces of the children as they started classes in the new facilities the next day!



Tuesday 29 September 2009 a magnitude 8 earthquake struck off the south coast of Samoa ... The following tsunami was so close that there was little chance of any **warning...** 143 people died.

In development terms a community project model is the ideal that should always be aimed for



The Tsunami

Tuesday 29 September 2009 a magnitude 8 earthquake struck off the south coast of Samoa just before 7 in the morning. The following tsunami was so close that there was little chance of any warning. The damage was extensive, with whole villages wiped out. In Samoa 143 people died. The stories of the survivors are both harrowing and amazing.

In November a New Zealand Baptist team visited Samoa. As we heard the stories and saw the damage, we realised

that the miracle was more **people didn't die.**

Satitao, on the southeast corner of the island of Upolu, was one of the worst hit villages. The school was completely destroyed. If the tsunami had hit during school time many of the children would have died.

BANZAid, working with the Samoan members of our New Zealand Baptist churches, applied to the New Zealand Aid Programme for some of the funds that the NZ Government was offering

through non-government organisations (NGOs). As we talked with the Samoans about possible projects they strongly requested us to rebuild the Satitao school. They saw this as an important part **of the village's move to a safer site.**



How to Build a Million Dollar School with \$250,000?

That was the question that faced us as we tried to balance the plans drawn up by our technical team in consultation with the Samoan Education authorities with the funds that we had available. On the face of it the plans costed out at NZ\$1.3 million, which was far more than BANZAid could reasonably contemplate raising for the project. We had NZ\$250,000 in hand, and anticipated raising a certain amount more but the target of \$1.3 million was beyond our reach.

We met with the Prime Minister of Samoa who was very helpful. He suggested that we move from a contractor based model to a community project based model.

The traditional model in Samoa for community buildings such as churches, schools and community fales is that the village council employs a chief builder

and supervises the work. The builder and his assistants are paid partly in kind, and the village people contribute volunteer labour as much as possible.

This was the alternative that we needed. There were advantages for us:

- The community project model maximises the use of volunteers.
- While manpower was never the biggest part of the cost, this minimised labour costs and suited **village 'in kind' contributions.**
- In development terms a community project model is the ideal that should always be aimed for. This ensures community participation and community ownership of the project.

The Mayor and the village council were very happy with the idea and took responsibility for supervising the builder and supplying the workers. A builder was

appointed (we checked out his reputation as a good builder, and went to see some of the places he had built). A number of the village residents work as carpenters and were recruited to the team.

We negotiated with a supplier of building materials who gave us a discount and free delivery of all materials to the site. Free delivery to the site, on the far corner of the island from Apia, was worth thousands of dollars! Our grateful thanks to Andrew Ah Liki of Bluebird Lumber & Hardware who saw this as a part of their contribution to the tsunami reconstruction effort.

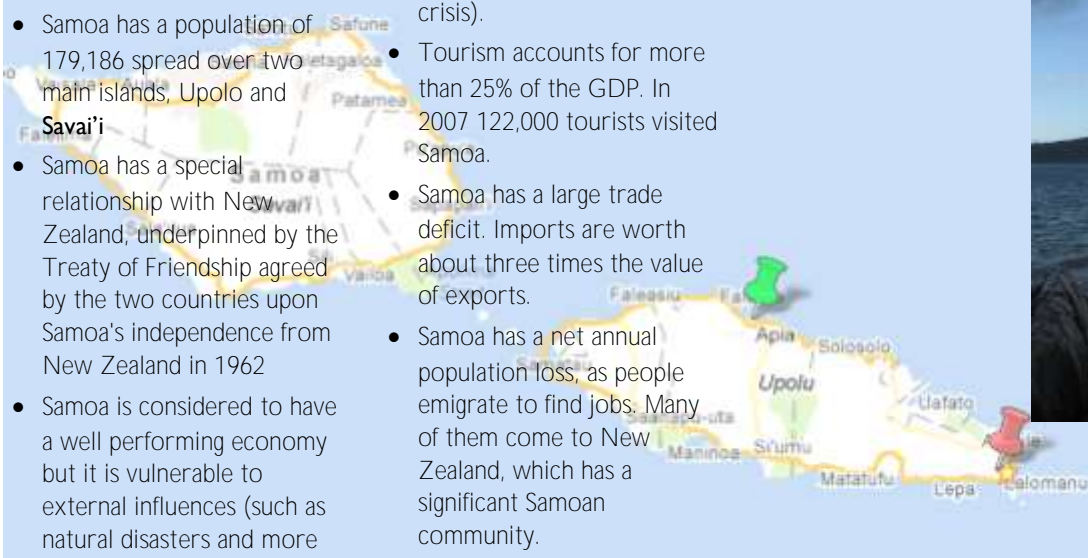
In the end the school was completed for NZ\$500,000. The extra was met from further donations from NZ churches, a further grant from NZ Minister for Foreign Affairs, and contributions from NZ Rotary Clubs and TEAR Fund NZ.

Samoa



The facts

- Samoa has a population of 179,186 spread over two main islands, Upolu and Savai'i
- Samoa has a special relationship with New Zealand, underpinned by the Treaty of Friendship agreed by the two countries upon Samoa's independence from New Zealand in 1962
- Samoa is considered to have a well performing economy but it is vulnerable to external influences (such as natural disasters and more recently the global economic crisis).
- Tourism accounts for more than 25% of the GDP. In 2007 122,000 tourists visited Samoa.
- Samoa has a large trade deficit. Imports are worth about three times the value of exports.
- Samoa has a net annual population loss, as people emigrate to find jobs. Many of them come to New Zealand, which has a significant Samoan community.



The NZ Volunteers

A team from Christchurch was on the site in August 2010. Some of the team were only there for a few days, others for up to two weeks. These teams paid all their own costs, and contributed financially to the project.

"All roof trusses up last nite, corrugated iron roofing going on now, all rubbish off site & things look so good!"

That was the text message in one morning from a member of the team. The team reported:

"One thing that was amazing was the speed at which the Samoan team was able to work at.

They were serious about getting the school ready for the anniversary of the tsunami putting in long days and working through the heat.

"The New Zealand team was a good mix of expertise and a willingness to learn and put in a big effort. Some of the jobs we got into; finishing the roofing trusses; finishing the roofing; finishing the roof batons for classroom ceilings; moving concrete blocks, tidying up the site and prepping the laid concrete blocks for painting.

"The village families took turns to provided breakfast and lunch every day for the full team (about fifteen builders and locals plus our team)."

The teams particularly thanked the Taufua family for allowing them to stay in the Taufua family home as well as providing many meals.

A team from Windsor Park Baptist was on the project in September 2010:

"This was a chance for us to 'get our hands dirty' so to speak, and to be involved beyond the walls of our church. The Samoan builders really wanted to work with us, and worked us hard and long days to push ahead for the school opening at the end of that month. We worked alongside the Samoan builders to build and hang the classroom doors; paint the interior classrooms and exterior of the school.

"From the people side. . .this was a chance for our team 'to be real', and to connect with people; with the Tuafua family that graciously took us in like family and looked out for us; with the builders on site, who even took us to their homes to meet their families; with the teachers at the school. This was a chance for our team to hear first hand the hard stories of the Samoans deeply affected by the tsunami, and there were some real hard stories heard."

They were serious about getting the school ready for the anniversary





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Project: Satittoa School Reconstruction Project

Statement of Income & Expenditure (November 2009—December 2010)*

INCOME	NZ\$	NZ\$
Donations		
Individuals	33,290	
Churches	76,418	
Trusts	82,293	
Other Organisations	87,894	
Total Donations		279,895
Grants		
MFAT Samoa Tsunami Relief Grant	150,000	
MFAT Supplementary Grant	75,000	
Total Grants		225,000
TOTAL INCOME		504,895
EXPENDITURE		
Travel		26,916
Postage & Freight		11,153
Project Management/Consulting		25,350
Materials		231,629
Earthworks, Landscaping & Fence		142,584
Builders		42,023
Village		22,423
Miscellaneous		295
TOTAL EXPENDITURE		502,373
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)		\$ 2,521

* Full accounts available from the *tranzsend* national office, P O Box 12149, Penrose, Auckland

Find Out More about Global Poverty

Visit the BANZAid website for more. More about the projects that BANZAid is supporting. More news of current issues in development. More resources about development.

The Projects section of the website has information on our projects, both current and past. Here are real stories and photos from the people who benefit from the work that we are doing.

The News section has our own news stories, and also feeds from global development media.

The Resources section of our website is for people who want to know more about the issues of global poverty and development. Here you can find articles on issues, and links to statistics and analysis of what is being done around the world. Here you will find:

Articles - this section has articles on a variety of development issues. We look at the issues from a Christian and Biblical perspective.

Downloads - there are three sections of downloads: **Documents**: reports from our projects, and basic documents about BANZAid policies and projects; **Study Materials**: downloadable documents on some of the hot issues in development, such as the impact of the financial downturn; **Videos**: downloadable videos that you can use in your youth group or Church.

Photos - here are albums of photos from our projects. These

will be regularly updated as we get new photos.

Videos - view videos here, both the ones that are available in the downloads section and others on poverty issues.

Links - the list of links starts with other Baptist organisations. We then have links to other sites with a Christian approach to development issues, before going on to a range of wider organisations, both New Zealand and international. Included here are some news sites, covering both current disaster situations and also relevant news of development issues.

New material is regularly added to the website. When new material is added we promote it with our email newsletter, to which you can subscribe through links on the site, or send us an email asking to be added to the list (info@banzaid.org.nz).



www.banzaid.org.nz