



**UnitingWorld**  
connecting communities for life

**lentevent**

5 MARCH - 17 APRIL 2025

40 days of faith-filled  
action for God's Creation

## Week 3: When Disaster Strikes: Folau's story

*"Preparations are underway for the construction of the new church as a Lighthouse for refuge and for worshipping God. I am a carpenter; I was selected to be part of this construction, and despite my disability, I still have the courage, because God provided a miracle for me when I survived the tsunami."*



The local church in Tonga is the centre of the civic and spiritual life of the village. When it suffers damage in a cyclone or other disaster, it's often the first place the people rebuild - sometimes even before they finish fully securing their own homes. That's because it's such a significant symbol of faith and resilience. It's not only the sacred place where God dwells, but it's where the people gather to draw on each other for strength.

Mr Folau's village on Attata Island was completely destroyed in the 2022 tsunami and it was unsafe for the community to return. His ancestors had lived there for generations. He said that leaving the island broke his heart, but that he knew for the sake of the safety of his family, they must leave and start a new life on the mainland. Part of finding the strength to begin again was knowing that he could be part of the rebuilding of the church. He and others have been stockpiling supplies and Folau will help oversee the new building, which will have pride of place in the new village that has been constructed on land donated by the King of Tonga in the north of Tongatapu. [Watch his story here.](#)

### Prayer spotlight

Please pray for our church partners in Tonga and other places around the world where faith is the key to civic and community life. Church leaders have the responsibility not only of nurturing the spiritual life of their congregations, but are often called upon to offer practical leadership in times of crisis. They are well networked and are present in places that are often hard to reach; they are relied upon by the government to share important messages, rally people together and mobilise communities for action. Most of our church partners around the world are severely under-resourced for this work. Please pray for generosity from those of us who can give to support them.

Give thanks for Uniting Church people who have caught a vision of God's vast web of interconnected people sharing resources, praying for each other and creating practical change. Pray that they will be encouraged by stories of people of faith working together.

### Ideas for personal action this week

Read and share our daily Lent devotional series – find it on [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

#### What difference do your personal travel choices make?

- Transport accounts for about 25% of global CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, with cars being a major contributor.
- A full bus can replace up to 50 cars and a train can replace hundreds, cutting emissions per passenger by up to 80%.
- Reducing car use decreases air pollution, traffic congestion and demand for road expansion.
- Could your church offer a carpool option for people to attend services? If you left more time, could you take public transport instead of driving? Could you plan your week so that you need to take fewer short trips to the shops?

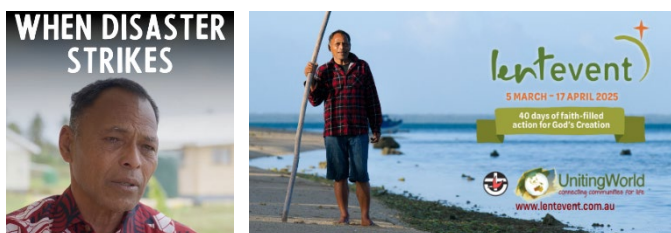
Action: check the carbon footprint of your personal travel choices (try [www.climatehero.org](http://www.climatehero.org)). Explore how changes you can make can impact your carbon footprint.

## Suggestions to help your church to take part in Lent Event

### Put it in your news sheet and socials

**Lent Event.** Join UnitingWorld for 40 days of faith-filled action for God's creation from 5 March-17 April, to stand with people fighting on the frontlines of climate change in the Pacific, Africa and Asia. [www.lentevent.com.au](http://www.lentevent.com.au)

Promotional assets are shared on the [resources page](#), including PowerPoint slides, social tiles, a video thumbnail and a banner for your newsheet.



**Show the videos** during your worship services and pray for the work of UnitingWorld and our partner churches (you can follow the Prayer Spotlight provided here).

Share our **daily Lent devotional series** on your church socials – [Facebook](#) or [Instagram](#).

If you received **Lent Event brochures** in the mail, distribute them to your members. Let us know if you want more.

Help us reach our fundraising target by **making a donation** or taking up a special collection.

Set up a **team fundraising challenge** through our new 40 for the Future platform. Find out all about it and register at [www.40forthefuture.com.au](http://www.40forthefuture.com.au).



***There's a global challenge driving poverty, inequality and injustice.***

***Climate change.***

*It affects every one of us, but not equally. Those who contribute least to climate change are the most affected.*

*The only way to tackle it is together – we all have a part to play.*

*Register now to take on a 40 day challenge.*

*Transform the way you eat, shop, travel or use energy. Set a fundraising goal and inspire your family and friends to sponsor you.*

For more information or if you need any assistance:  
[www.lentevent.com.au](http://www.lentevent.com.au) | [info@unitingworld.org.au](mailto:info@unitingworld.org.au) | 1800 998 122