



**UnitingWorld**  
connecting communities for life

**lentevent**

5 MARCH - 17 APRIL 2025

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

## Week 2: Frontlines of A Changing Climate: A snapshot from Tonga

*"We have so many challenges to overcome, yet we also have so much hope and love to share. I hope you are blessed by our stories over the next six weeks and encouraged to stand with us and others around the world as we work together to build a better future."*



Rev Taisia (Sia) Fifita-Heimuli is an ordained minister with the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga and mother of two (soon to be three!) She lives on one of Tonga's outlying islands, Eua, and is passionate about the future of a country right on the frontline of a changing climate. Tonga is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the impact of disaster, rising sea levels, drought and flood. More Tongans have moved abroad than now call the islands home; those who remain face complex challenges as they grapple with faith in the midst of disaster, the future of their land, and the nature of their identity as islanders.

[Watch our Snapshot of Tonga video here.](#) It showcases the vulnerabilities and strengths of people who have much to teach us about hope in hardship.

### Prayer spotlight

Almost half of Tonga's GDP comes from remittances (money sent home from family members working overseas). While the Tongan government is seeking ways to strengthen its economy, this is difficult due to global pressures and the devastating and repeated impact of disasters. Changing climate is also undermining traditional livelihoods like fishing and farming. Pray for families who are separated by the need to find work in Australia, New Zealand and the United States.

Pray for diaspora communities here in Australia, particularly those who are part of Uniting Church congregations. Pray for their leadership, and for ways that your congregation could partner with and support these communities.

### Ideas for personal action this week

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

Carefully plan your meals, use proper storage, and eat your leftovers. This helps reduce food waste and cuts global emissions. How?

1. If global food waste were a country, it would be the third-largest emitter after the U.S. and China.
2. Wasted food contributes 8–10% of global emissions. This is because decomposing food in landfills releases methane, a gas 25 times more potent than CO<sub>2</sub>.
3. Using food wisely means cutting energy used for food production—1kg of beef requires 15,000 litres of water, and global food waste accounts for 30% of agricultural land use. Processing and transport also gobble energy.

Need some good news about this?

- Second Bite! Places like <https://secondbite.org> are actively helping raise awareness about the environmental impact of food waste, and they're holding big companies accountable while providing support to those in need.

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

### Put it in your newsheet 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