

## Week 5: A Constant Hope



"When my husband died in a boat accident during the cyclone, I despaired. I had three children and no income. The Church provided for me a sewing machine and this small workshop where I could sew uniforms and clothes for the community; from my earnings I pay for their schooling and our other expenses. I feel so much joy for the help of the Church and the opportunity from the UnitingWorld partners."



It's tough to make a living in Tonga and other small developing islands states in the Pacific. Women typically work only within the house, and the loss of a husband is particularly difficult when there are children to care for.

Toupou's experience is not uncommon, especially after a disaster. As weather patterns become less predictable, even keeping a small kitchen garden to supplement the family's food is more difficult. **Watch Toupou's story** here.

### **Prayer spotlight**

- Pray for women and girls who shoulder the strain of finding food and water in developing countries, and who are under more pressure as changing climate and disaster impact land use and clean water.
- Give thanks for our partners who are supporting women to develop kitchen gardens using drought proof seeds and irrigation methods, and helping set up clean water initiatives that serve whole communities.
- Pray that we may share their hope and determination and that we may participate in the transforming power of the resurrection in every aspect of our lives.

#### Ideas for personal action this week

Read and share our daily Lent devotional series – find it on Facebook or Instagram.

Eating together is one of the great joys of life in the Pacific, and Pacific women take great pride in the preparation of feasts to which all are invited. How does what you eat reflect care for God's creation?

One major area to consider is consumption of meat.

- Livestock farming generates around 14.5% of global emissions, mainly from methane released by cows and sheep
- Meat production requires vast land and water resources—beef needs 15,000 litres of water per kilogram.
- Deforestation for grazing and feed crops accelerates biodiversity loss and carbon release, contributes to soil degradation and water pollution from manure runoff.

Switching to plant-based diets can cut food-related emissions by up to 50% while using land more efficiently to feed a growing population.

Consider swapping out at least a few meals a week during the season of Lent – who knows, it may become a sustainable habit!

# 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. <a href="https://www.lentevent.com.au">www.lentevent.com.au</a>

Promotional assets are shared on the <u>resources page</u>, including PowerPoint slides, social tiles, a video thumbnail and a banner for your newssheet.





**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 <a href="https://www.40forthefuture.com.au">www.40forthefuture.com.au</a>.



# 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.