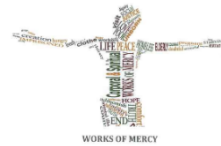




2023 Annual Report



First Young Vincentian Workshop (Feb 2023)
'A'ahi ki Lapaha July
'A'ahi ki Hihifo - Sept
'A'ahi ki Ma'ufanga - Nov





SOCIETY OF ST VINCENT DE PAUL

Toutaimana Catholic Center

.....Hala Vaha'akolo

Nukualofa, TONGA

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FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE SOCIETY

2023 has been a year of continue recovery, consolidation, celebration, and with a renewed vigor to focus more on the poor and the vulnerable. The aftermaths of the volcanic eruption and tsunami followed by COVID19 in 2022 remains fresh and threatening in our mind and daily engagements. Conference members and Young Vinnies took further concrete steps to establish and to find innovative ways to grow. Our 50th anniversary was a milestone for the Society in Tonga and paving the way to establish the society's first permanent shop can only assure a brighter future for the SSVP.

For the Poor

Getting the local paperwork for the building of the new SSVP shop from the church, architect and government was a major challenge and it took much longer than we anticipated to get support from the village noble, parish, diocese as well as building permits more than 12 months. The Cardinal gave his full support. The only constant was the unfailing support from the local conferences and funding from the SSVP New Zealand. By December we have the draft contract for the builder ticked off by NZ and ready to sign in the new year. Every time I visit the elderlies in our parish or overseas along with our members it reminds me of St Vincent de Paul *'if you want to find God go to the poor, sick, vulnerable....'*

Standing on strong shoulders

The year also marked by the SSVP reaching its 50th Anniversary milestone and great effort from all the conferences throughout were made to ensure a spiritual and low-key affair to be enjoyed by members, friends from but the Diocese and our fraternal brothers from New Zealand, Australia and Oceania. Our brothers and sisters from the Niuas, Vava'u, Ha'apai and 'Eua joined the conferences in Tongatapu to complete the full National Council members were present. The head of the Diocese of Tonga and Niue, His Eminence Cardinal Mafi, priests, religious and lay persons were amongst our special guests. A blessed solemn mass and presentation of the SSVP Cross of Mercy donated by SSVP NZ was the highlight.

Young Vincentians

The future of the SSVP Tonga is inextricably link to our young Vincentians and one of our goal this year is to build on our young people's 2023 momentum to join the Young Vinnies and to grow from its current base to other Conferences. Work by the YV Internationals in Paris as well as from Oceania have inspired this development and by December two new YV conferences were established at the Hihifo Conference as well as the Ma'ufanga Conference. Our national drive was initiated by our first national YV workshop followed by the appointment of a National Young Vincentian Committee lead by Ana Falemaka and Suliano Kaitapu and local meetings at conference level.

Oceania and Council General International

The Oceania Territory met for the second time in April 2023 under the auspices of the New Zealand and Australian SSVP. I always find opportunities like this to share, listen, exchange ideas, but most of all respect and appreciated that despite our lack of resources compared to our neighbors we share our strive for the common good to help the poor. I see good outcome from this meeting to support the National Councils and its work.

By June all the presidents of National Councils along with various arm of CGI assembled in Rome for its 4 years Annual General Meeting and amongst many issues, to select its new President General International (PGI). The Council General International (PGI) is in good financial standing and despite some technical election issues a new President General was

elected and by December all new appointments were made for the next four years. My experience in European Organizations structure in sports, aid and others did not surprise me in my first SSVP International Meeting. Despite this there were many useful information from SSVP Families such as FAMVIN, Young Vincentians International, CIAD which of great value to me and Tonga.

National Safeguarding Policy

In July the government along with the World Bank launched its National Safeguarding Policy in Tonga. Its main aim is to safeguard the poor, vulnerable as well as the elderlies especially in times of disaster. The SSVP is an affiliated member and through our membership and advocacy we can assist families to get support and funding for school fees, monthly allowance for the elderlies and their care giver. This is very much in the heart of the SVDP advocacy work and it's an opportunity to work hand in hand with similar minded organizations to help the poor and vulnerability.

Twining

Over the last five years the commitment by SSVP New Zealand to Tonga financially, goods, emergency supplies, has been appreciated and closer working relations has continued to be established for mutual benefit. New Zealand have accepted our proposal to build a new Charity shop in Tonga to generate funds to support the work of the SSVP. As a Society we have very few options to help ourselves and experiencing firsthand how the SSVP shops works and generated revenue in New Zealand and Australia I had no hesitation but to pursue this project with New Zealand. Assistance for small projects were also received for a share costs basis with the local conferences and sponsors. New Zealand have also helped with storage depot for aid distribution as well as boxes of clothes, dry food, canned food, medical supplies – hospital beds, wheelchairs, walkers, desks and chairs, tables,

I have only managed to visit one Area Council and its Conferences in 2023. In addition, I have also visited the two Young Vincentians conferences and the two new ones this year. I was very happy to be part of the first National Workshop for Young Vinnies in February and also visited St Michael Lapaha and St Teresa of the Child Jesus Parish, Hihifo YV conferences. To lead the establishment of the YV of my Conference has been a blessing dream come true.

Lately in 2023 I was part of a visiting group in our conference and what an experience every time I encounter my neighbors in person.

I took the initiatives with my Conference, National Council, SSVP NZ and MBf bank to assist one disabled man by replacing his roof, add a new ceiling, a table fan, new beddings before Christmas. One more job to be done in the new year to complete our pledge.

I would like to thank all the donors of food, goods, and money who give so generously to the Society. Your generosity enables us to touch ever so gently the people that needed our help at good and bad times.

To all Conference Members, Associated members, National Council Committee, priest and religious and volunteers, to utter in the words of the late President of the SSVP New Zealand, Mr. Terry Jordan, *"We are a Society that goes under the radar in the work we do, very much unnoticed by the majority of people, but we make a huge difference in the lives of the people we serve. May our work continue to assist us in the growth of our faith and continue to make a difference to those in need."*

Perhaps one of our good initiatives last year was the efforts put into the Young Vinnies groups through workshops at National and Conference levels covering - How to start Young Vinnies; Advocacy; History of SSVP; visit to Young Vinnies conference. I cannot emphasize more the importance of this work to our future and to instill in these young

people the values of the Society and how to be it into action.

Lastly, I would like to thank active members of the National Council for their support and to our one and only part time staff Caroline Muller Finau for her kind assistance during the year. Our incremental growth put more and more demands on a small National Council Office but if we expect to meet the increasing demands the Society faces, we will need to provide more resources to assist them. That will be a priority for the National Council to consider.



Sakopo Lolohea

Sakopo Lolohea

*SPIRITUAL
REFLECTION*

*The SSVF is not The
SSVF is not
measured by number
of members:it
has lived for 190
years by our sincere
choice to seek
holiness, by the
fidelity of our faith
to the Church and by
our commitment to
serve our Masters
and Lords.*

OUR MISSION

To live the gospel message by serving Christ in the poor with love and respect, justice and hope, and joy and working to shape a more just and compassionate society.

OUR VISION

Vincentians work to provide person to person, practical and effective help to those in need; sharing their burdens and joy; sowing seeds of hope, and promoting human dignity, justice, and self-sufficiency.

OUR CORE VALUE

CORE VALUES

Generosity

Giving of one's self and one's time

Integrity

Promoting, maintaining, and adhering to our Vision, Mission and Values.

Compassion

Welcoming and serving all in need with understanding without judgement.

Empathy

Establishing relationships with those in need based on respect, trust, friendship, and perception arising from actively listening to them.

Responsiveness

Identifying and responding to unmet needs of our poor, the lonely, the marginalised, and the dispossessed.

Advocacy

Helping those in need to navigate bureaucracy to secure their rightful entitlements to welfare and to actively work in conjunction with other like-minded organizations to transform the causes of poverty, and challenge justice.

Commitment

Fidelity and passion in service of our Vision, Mission, and Values.

Respect

Serving all in need regardless of creed, ethnic or social background, health, gender, or political persuasion.

Courage

To ask for forgiveness and to give, to be merciful, and to pray courageously for the grace to serve, to

love our neighbour and to be close who are lonely and in difficulty.

STRATEGIC FOCUS AREAS

FOCUS AREA 1: OUR WORK

Goal: *to serve Christ in the poor, the displaced, the lonely, the marginalised and the isolated.*

Strategies/Initiatives

1. *Review and reprint our Booklet for distribution to members initially, revised proposed flyers from NZ for distribution to business houses & offices, develop a website either with Diocese in Tonga or link to NZSVDP, to assist in our work.*
2. *Build a new Shop with the assistance from NZ SSVP to generate revenue to assist the work of SVDP in Tonga.*
3. *Assist individual families identified by local conferences for costs sharing project e.g., small housing project currently underway in Lapaha village.*
4. *Work closely with local youth groups/schools with the assistance of SVDP NZ to actively establish a Young Vinnies group in Tonga.*
5. *Co-operate and liaise with local parishes, community organizations, and other like-minded organizations to identify those in need of assistance and be available to engage with those in need when invited by them to do so.*
6. *Support those experiencing homelessness.*
7. *Work with like minded organizations (Caritas, MIA, etc) in identifying, mitigating and eliminating the causes of social injustice in Tonga.*
8. *Visit prisons and offer support and assistance as per our usual annual program and support the parish visit as per the diocese prison program.*
9. *Liaise closely with the NZSVDP Society to strengthen our twinning program, appeal and training in areas most needed as identified by both Organizations.*
10. *Through NZ SVDP request assistance to bring a member(s) of the young Vinnies from*

Auckland to assist our local youth to formally start a Young Vinnies group in Tonga.

FOCUS AREA 2: OUR MEMBERS

Goal: *to ensure spiritually focused and fully engaged Society commitment to its vision, Mission, and Values.*

1. *Enable members, conferences, volunteers, and staff to be fully engaged in the work and culture of the Society by ensuring that appropriate training and formations is available and deliver to all.*
2. *Be proactive in seeking to increase members and volunteers of the Society by engaging and inviting them to walk and experience with members the Society work in visiting, giving, delivering, celebrating with the poor and elderly in the Society.*
3. *Continue support and enhance visitation by providing Vincentians with training and resources on the practice of personal engagement.*
4. *Regularly reflect on and discuss the meaning of the Society key values in the context of spiritual reflection at each meeting.*

FOCUS AREA 3: OUR FUTURE

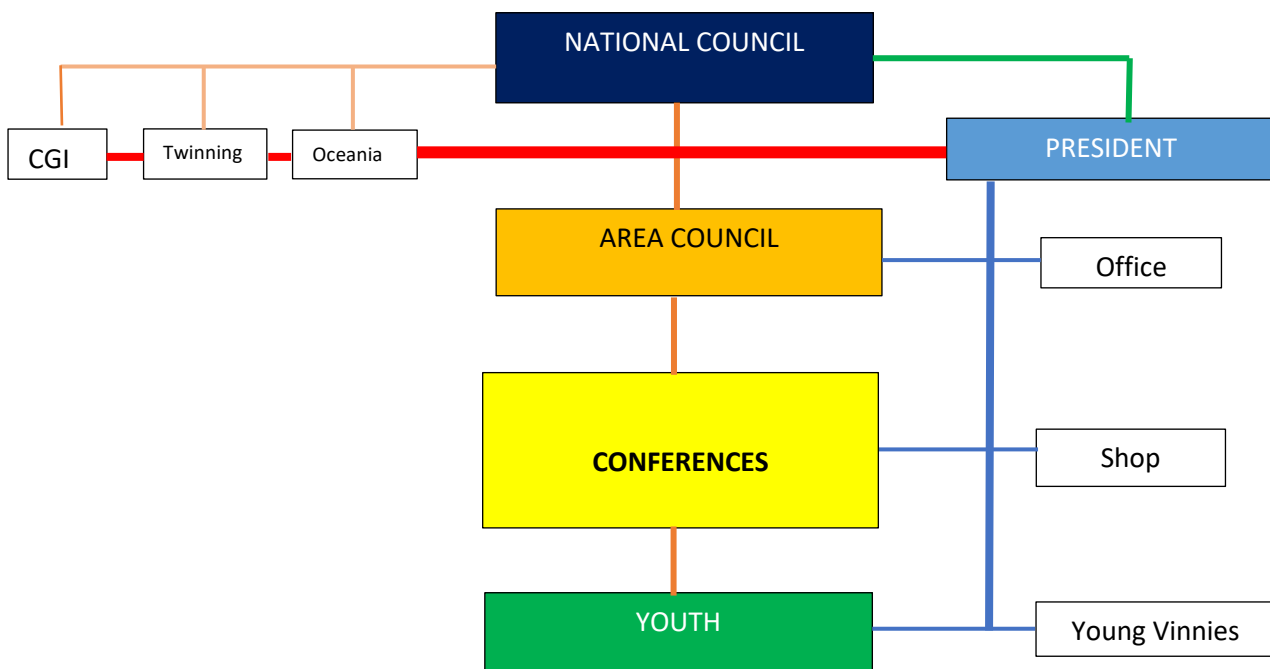
Goal: *To create and invigorate a young, innovative, unified and sustainable Society.*

1. *Create a greater awareness of all that we do and why we are impelled by the Gospel to stand along with the poor, the disadvantage, the lonely, the isolated and the marginalized, i.e. to tell our stories.*

2. *Identify a suitable church property to be used as St Vincent de Paul centre.....*
3. *Increase Conference membership by developing innovative ways to attract members of all ages, particularly young adults, by creating fresh opportunities for service by*

those who are time constrained and lead busy lives.

ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE



SOCIETY IN A SNAPSHOTS

1

NATIONAL
COUNCIL

5

AREA
COUNCILS

40

CONFERENCES

1

PART TIME
STAFF

100

VOLUNTEERS

800

FOOD
PARCELS

100

HOME

60

YOUNG

1

SHOP

VISITATIONS

VINNIES



ORGANISING HELP TO FAMILIES AFTER NATURAL DISASTER

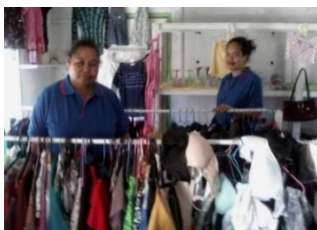
ORGANIZING FOOD BANKS FOR TIME OF EMERGENCY

ORGANIZING FOOD DISTRIBUTION



OFFER COUNSELLING

ASSISTING



ASSIST PARISH NEEDS

SUPPORTING FAMILIES' MEMBERS WHO LOST THEIR loved ONES.

OFFER FREE CLOTHING TO FAMILIES IN NEED



PROVIDE BEDDING, HOSPITAL BEDS, WHEELCHAIRS, WALKERS



CARE FOR OTHERS



PRAYER GROUP FOR MEMBERS BEREAVEMENTS AND FUNERAL

VISITING IN HOMES OF ELDERLIES, PRISON, MENTAL HEALTH PATIENTS

DID CHORES AROUND THE HOME OF ELDERLY



SPECIAL CHRISTMAS GIFT TO ELDERLIES

SUPPORT TO FAMILIES WHO LOST

*“The thing the church needs most today is the ability to heal wounds and to warm the hearts of the faithful; It needs nearness, proximity. I see the church as a field hospital after battle”. –
Dona Francis*



“Ko e me’a ‘oku fiema’u lahi ‘e he Siasi he ‘aho ni ko
‘ene lava ke faito’o e kau kafo mo fakamafana’i e
kaingalotu; ke to e vaofi ange. Ko e Siasi ke hange ha
falemahaki he mala’e tau he ‘osi ha feinga tau.” -
Tu’itapu Falakiko

Youth Report

My name is Suliano Kaitapu, I am the Vice President for the National Committee of our Young Vinnies here in Tonga. Today as we celebrate the 50th anniversary the established of Society Saint Vincent de Paul here in Tonga from 1973-2023. It is indeed my honour to speak and give a short report for the Young Vinnie Council.

For the past 2 to 3 years although we had not quite established the National Young Vinnie Committee yet, we had two active conferences which the Young Vinnies of Lapaha and the Young Vinnies of 'Apifo'ou College. Each conference carried various activities of charity, such as visiting the elderlies, cleaning up their homes, distributing food parcels as well as many spiritual programs.

At the beginning of this year, there was an invitation from our National President of Vincent de Paul Mr Sakopo Lolohea and executive committee to bring two youth representatives from each parish here in Tonga to participate in learning session about the life of Fredrick Ozanam who received the first inspiration and the history of St Vincent de Paul. This is the day that well as establishing our very first executive committee and form a meeting to plan the Young Vinnies National Council work. We elected our president, Ms Anamalia Falemaka. (She sent her apologies for not being here with us today, she is travelling for other work, but she gives her best wishes for this celebrate our important milestone.) And I'm the Vice President, the secretary is Ms Malia Kaihea, she is the head prefect of 'Apifo'ou College.

From our first meeting earlier this year, our essential agenda that we had discussed the work into establishing Young Vinnies conference in the parish for which it is yet to commence. We also have representative from each conference/parish to

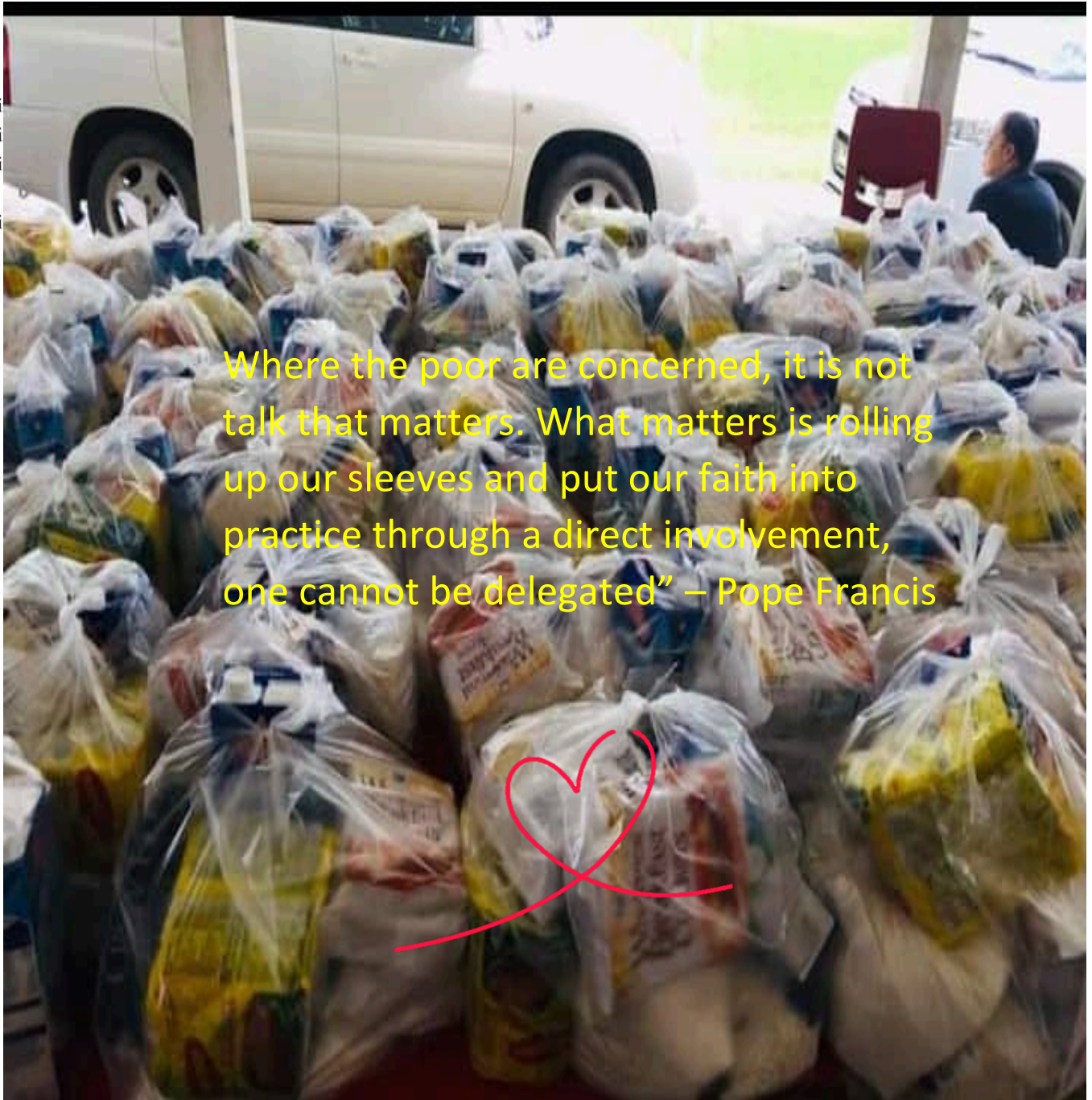
our executive committee and was encourage them to go back to their conferences, invite the youth and called them who interested to come as a volunteer to do the work to serve our elderly a poor. We started our visiting in July this year for the conferences was active in this time is the Young Vinnies of Lapaha parish. And for the last Sunday of this month September 2023, we had a invitation from the Young Vinnies of Hihifo, and that the start of the Vincent de Paul week for us from Sunday 24th of September, visiting, encourage them and to continue the good work then we celebrate the feast day of Saint Vincent de Paul on 27th of September in every parish, and for today we lucky to be a part of 50th years anniversary. We are happy and blessed this is the third conference of Young Vinnies established in Tongatapu for now. We anticipate that by the end of the year we will have reached most, not only for Tongatapu parish but looking forward to reaching out to the outer islands. We are truly grateful for all the support for the Young Vinnies and hopefully in due time we would be able to have an exchange program between our council and conferences with the Young Vinnies of New Zealand or Australia. To share and work together as a Young Vinnie to loved and set an example for all who followed. To conclude our report, we have 50+ members who currently active and we hope we have more younger kids and teenagers inspired to follow Christ through service to those in need, elderly and poor. We are Vincentians.

'Ofa atu.

Suliano Kaitapu.



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Li
Li
Li



Where the poor are concerned, it is not talk that matters. What matters is rolling up our sleeves and put our faith into practice through a direct involvement, one cannot be delegated” – Pope Francis

Palanisi he pangike - 7/12/2022

33,961.54

see attached bank statement 2023

“Ki ha me’a ‘oku fekau’aki mo e masiva, ‘oku ‘ikai ko e lea ‘oku mahu’inga, ko e me’a ‘oku mahu’inga ko e numi ki ‘olunga e nima ho sote pea fakahā ho’o tui ‘aki ho’o ngaue kiai pea ‘oua to e pu’i ki ha taha kehe kene fakahoko” – Tu’i Tapu Falakiko.

Toutaimana Account for Visio Paulo 2022

Financial Year Report 2022- 2023		2023
Opening balance	\$	7,807.77
Plus Income	\$	4,008.86
Total Income	\$	11,816.63
Less Expenses	\$	9,350.00
	\$	2,466.63

Financial Details of Year 2022 - 2023		2023
Details		Income
Balance BF - 30/12/2022	\$	7,807.77
Income		
Inasi Houmakelikao	\$	1,000.00
Inasi Ha'apai Parish	\$	1,000.00
Tupu	\$	8.86
Anniversary remaining funds	\$	2,000.00
Total Income	\$	4,008.86
Less Expenses (fakamole)		2023
Salary (vahe) - 26PPs	\$	2,465.84
Kalianet (internet)	\$	307.45
Ink/printer part	\$	2,193.71
Fess - map falekoloa (1st map)	\$	900.00
Transfer to open Shop Account	\$	1,100.00
Young Vinnies - lunch meeting	\$	110.00
Lukuluku - ofisi	\$	100.00
Office supplies	\$	300.00
Photocopying/printing maps	\$	227.00
PFL - handling charges container	\$	1,496.00
Clear shop site	\$	150.00
Total expenses	\$	9,350.00
Closing balance 2023		2,466.63
Note Closing Bal on statement - 28/12/2023		2,478.27
Difference to reconcile with the Account		(11.64)

Note: Closing Statement of 30/12/2022	7807.77
Opening statement on Jan. 2023	7819
Difference (need to reconcile with the Account Dept.	-11.23

Paula Jan. 25. 2024

ACC No. 2 - Shop

CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF TONGA
TOUTAIMANA CENTRE

General Ledger [Detail]

January 2023 To December 2023

ID No.	Src	Date	Memo	Debit	Credit	Net Activity	Ending Balance	Allocation Memo
2-6081 Vincent Paul - new shop								
Beginning Balance: T\$0.00								
V66060	GJ	01/06/2023	Vincent paul internal transfer		T\$1,100.00		T\$1,100.00cr	open new acc for new shop
354228	CD	08/06/2023	Cash - Kalo Finau	T\$900.00			T\$200.00cr	final payment ta mape for new shop
anzpay/n	CR	14/06/2023	Paymns R36757-36765		T\$1,800.00		T\$2,000.00cr	deposit to acc
V66565	GJ	21/09/2023	Hitifo Vincent paul internal transfer		T\$2,000.00		T\$4,000.00cr	
328980	CD	03/11/2023	Cash - Kalo Finau	T\$730.00			T\$3,270.00cr	payment permit
329067	CD	16/11/2023	Cash - Kalo Finau	T\$200.00			T\$3,070.00cr	payment exps for shop map n petrol
446997	CD	07/12/2023	Cash - Kalo	T\$2,000.00			T\$1,070.00cr	withdrawal from acc
Total :				T\$3,830.00	T\$4,900.00	T\$1,070.00cr	T\$1,070.00cr	
Grand Total :				T\$13,179.59	T\$8,908.86			



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