

AMP 2-7-16 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Today's Service

- That God would draw unsaved people to our service and into his kingdom. Pray especially for those that reached by Robert's tract ministry.
- That Pastor Jon would teach and preach in God's power in his preaching on Through the Looking Glass, a series on the Beatitudes.
- That God's presence would be palpable and that all in attendance would be changed by the goodness, power, and love of God.

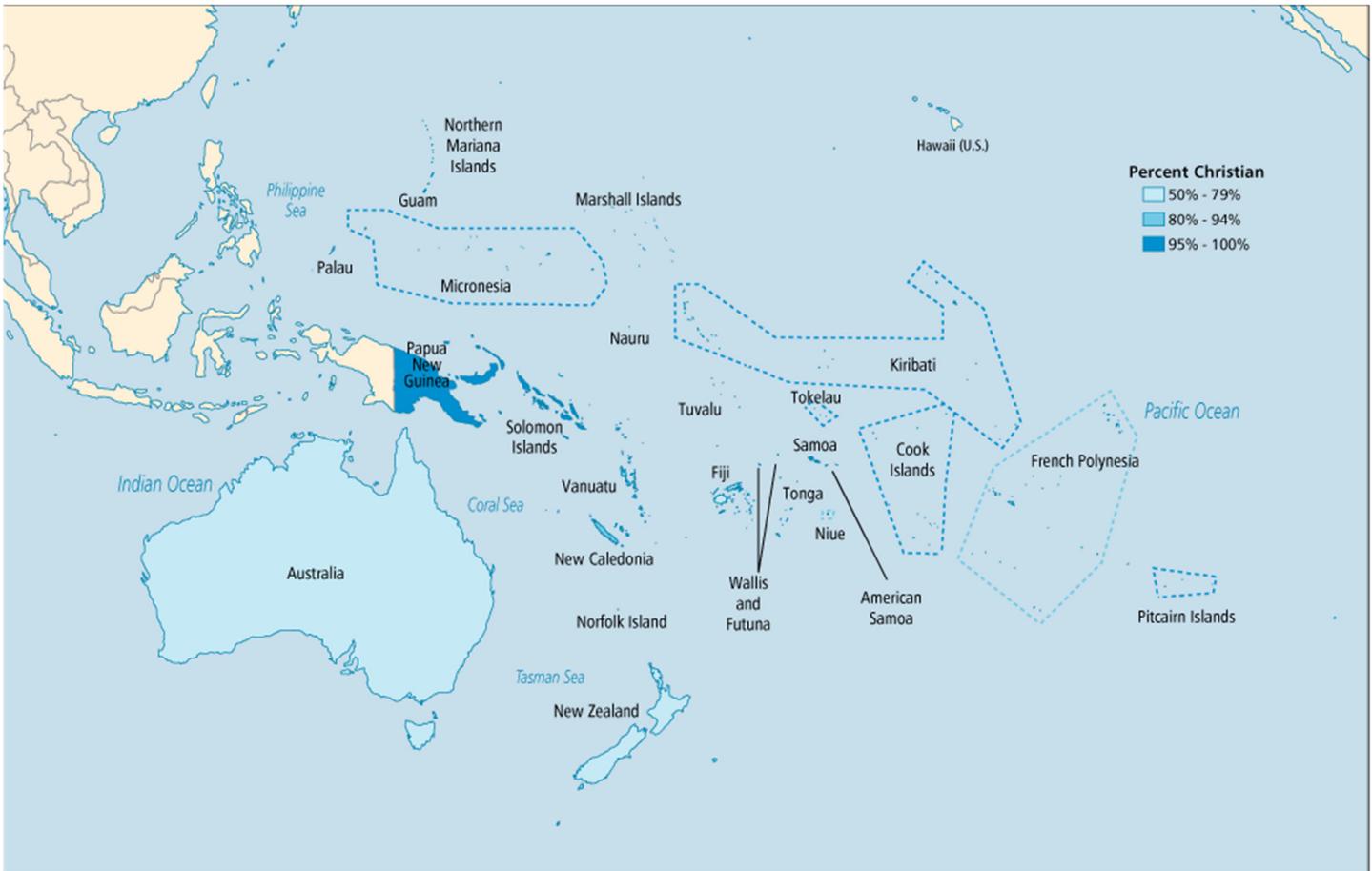
RPC Outreach

- That we the people of RPC would desire to be a word and deed church.
- That God would open up great and lasting opportunities of community service for RPC.

Regional Church

- Pray for the other churches of our presbytery: Westminster Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Jonathan Holst (Hamden, CT); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Bohemia, Meindert Ploegman (Bohemia, NY); Orthodox Presbyterian Church in Franklin Square, William Shishko (Franklin Square, NY), Trinity Church, Ben Miller (sabbatical) (Syosset, NY), Westchester Orthodox Presbyterian Church, Dan Osborne (Mt. Vernon, NY).

Pacific | Basic Facts:



AMP 2-7-16 | 9:00 - 9:30am

Geography: Area: 8,515,800 sq km

6.3% of the world's land surface. There are 25,000 islands scattered over 88 million sq km of ocean; this is larger than the combined areas of Africa, Asia and Europe. It comprises one continent (Australia), two large land masses (New Zealand and Papua New Guinea [PNG]) and 26 smaller island states and territories. The smallest territories are grouped with related states in the country section: Christmas Is, Cocos Is, Norfolk Is with Australia; Johnston Is, Midway Is, Wake Is with Guam; Niue, Pitcairn Is and Tokelau with Cook Islands.

Population: 35,838,336 **Annual Growth:** 1.30%

Urbanites: 70%

Peoples:

Languages: 1,250

Religion

Largest Religion: Christian

Religion	Pop %	Ann Gr
Christians	26,526,812	74.02 0.9
Evangelicals	6,382,078	17.8 1.7

Answer to Prayer

- The strength of Christianity in the Pacific. The Pacific was one of the first areas to be evangelized in the modern Protestant missionary era. By the end of the 19th Century, most of the Pacific region had become Christian through the sacrificial labours of early LMS, Methodist, Anglican and Pacific Islander missionaries. Missionary casualties were high through disease, violent death and cannibalism, but great people movements brought whole peoples and islands to Christianity. (Answers to Prayer 1)

Prayer Points:

- Unrest and violence have occurred in several locations for ethnic, economic, political and socio-cultural reasons. Fiji – with its split between indigenous Fijians and the large ethnic Indian population and its history of coups – remains the most obvious example. But Bougainville, other parts of PNG and the Solomon Islands have seen upheaval in the not too distant past. Tribalized culture, limited resources and some resentment against the influence of Western and Asian powers mean that a number of islands could witness similar kinds of upheaval in the near future. (Hot Spots of the Pacific 1)
- The younger generation in many Pacific Island nations feel disenfranchised and betrayed by their forebears. They often have little opportunity for meaningful employment or education. Emigration, restlessness, frustration, mischief and even organized crime are the result. In some countries, those under age 25 comprise up to 40% of the population. (Hot Spots of the Pacific 2)
- A large-scale demographic shift is occurring across the region. Migration is happening on an unprecedented scale. Many Pacific Island ethnicities have a larger population in diaspora than in their traditional homeland. (Trends to Watch 1 Introduction)
- The shape of Christianity in the Pacific is rapidly and radically changing. There are several contributing factors:
 - a) Secularism and multiculturalism are rising; these undermine the strong Christian heritage of these nations and relegate Christianity to a mere place at the table of competing belief systems. The arrival of a more assertive atheism, Mormonism, Islamism, Baha'i-ism and Buddhism all rattle the religious status quo. Confidence in the veracity of the gospel cannot help but be threatened.
 - b) The decline of traditional forms of Christianity. The denominations that had such a great impact in the Pacific Islands and the traditionally strong denominations in Australia and New Zealand are suffering in numbers and in vitality. Pentecostal and charismatic groups are mostly growing in their stead.
 - c) The decaying interest to participate in organized Christianity. There is a prevalent indifference to spiritual things among the majority of unbelievers, and the Church is increasingly a marginal concern for the younger generation of Kiwis and Aussies, even for those who believe in and follow Jesus. Rather than inviting radical change, most churches seek to maintain a level of satisfaction among their middle class and middle-aged constituency, by whom they are currently steered.
 - d) The rapidly changing ethnic and age composition of the Church. Immigration brings many young Pacific Islanders and other migrants into churches of the two dominant nations of the region. These changes have vast implications not just for the future of Christianity, but also for the future of these countries. The Church must retool itself in order to integrate and meet the needs of this growing component of the body of Christ. This will impact generational focus, church finance, church culture, worship and fellowship patterns, leadership styles and many other issues as well. (The Church in the Pacific 1)