



On 22 February Ken and Mele arrived at Tzu Chi NZ at 10 in the morning for a small welcoming ceremony. Tzu Chi volunteer Wang Ping gave a briefing on Master Cheng Yen and the story of the Tzu Chi foundation. Ken and Mele agreed with Tzu Chi's principles and immediately filled up the volunteer form. The couple was presented with the volunteer yellow vest in the ceremony. Wang Ping also gifted the couple a Tzu Chi Blessing Wisdom Red Packet, Quadrilingual Jing-Si Aphorism and Jing Si multi-grain flour. Ken and Mele each put a coin into the bamboo bank for their kind deed of the day, and brought the bamboo bank home.

Ken and Mele shared the story and photographs of Tonga and the process of the delivery of the relief aid. Ken said, "My family in Tonga and I are grateful for Tzu Chi's help. They had received the same food that I have received from Tzu Chi. My family are very grateful. I believe in your great love, may God bless you all".

Today we have the first Tongan volunteers, and Tonga is the 127th country that received Tzu Chi international relief aid.

Meeting for Tonga volcanic eruption victims support

The Kingdom of Tonga consists of over 170 islands in the South Pacific Ocean, of which only 36 islands are inhabited. The islands have a tropical rainforest climate. The Hunga-Tonga volcano is situated about 64 km in the north of the capital of the country. The damage to that area is most severe, the tsunami sent the ship and rocks up the inland, some of the shops and houses were immense in the water, and everywhere was covered by volcanic ash.

Everyone was told to wear a mask and drink bottled water. Tzu Chi relief aid was sent to a village by the sea called Afa, which is about 28.7 km away from the capital city. Most villagers are related to each other. The next village is about 20 minutes away, Mele will get her family to share and care for the villagers.

24 February Tzu Chi NZ had a meeting in the morning on further aid to Tonga. Ken and Mele came to Tzu Chi NZ in the afternoon to discuss further aid. Ken is sincere and meticulous. He said the food parcels that had been sent would last for a while. He planned to apply for two more free drums from the shipping company to send food and water. The date is not yet fixed. Tzu Chi NZ asked Ken about the need for masks and offered to send more. Ken said he had sent about 100 masks in the first shipment.



TZU CHI FOUNDATION

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