

“KO E ‘OTUA MO TONGA KO HOKU TOFI‘A”

CHRISTIAN EDUCATION FRAMEWORK

TITLE: The text in the scroll at the bottom of the seal is the national motto “*Ko e ‘Otua mo Tonga ko Hoku Tofi‘a.*” (God and Tonga are my Inheritance).

2. VISION: The garlands around the crown at the top of the seal symbolizes the royal dependence on God’s grace.

6. CONTENTS: The flag is the national flag of Tonga, with the red cross of Jesus Christ in a field of white depicting holiness, and the red field in the remainder of the flag symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for the redemption of the sins of Tongans and all mankind.

1. DEFINITION: The stars in the first quarter of the seal symbolize the three most important groups of islands in the Kingdom: Tongatapu, Ha’apai, and Vava’u.

3. PHILOSOPHY: In the third quarter, a dove symbolizes peace, unity and Christianity.



4. PURPOSE: In the fourth quarter, the three swords symbolize the three dynasties of the Tu’i Tonga, Tu’i Ha’atakalaua and Tu’i Kanokupolu.

5. PROCESSES: On the six-pointed star in the middle is the cross symbolizing the nation of Tonga.

7. OUTCOMES: In the second quarter is a crown that symbolizes the monarchy.

Attachment 1: Explanatory Notes

“Ko e ‘Otua mo Tonga ko Hoku Tofi’a” Christian Education Framework



Psalm 126

*When the Lord restored the fortunes of Zion,
We were like those who dream.
Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then they said among the nations,
“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us;
we are glad.*

*Restore our fortunes, O Lord,
like the water courses in the Negeb!
May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy!
He that goes forth weeping,
bearing the seed for sowing,
shall come home with shouts of joy,
bringing his sheaths with him.*

Himí: Tonga Fonua Monū‘ia

1. Tonga fonua monū‘ia
He ‘Otua ‘aki ‘a Sihova
Ma‘u he koloa mahu‘inga
Ko e lotu fakafolofola
‘Oku mau hanga pē ki tu‘a,
Mālō ho‘o ‘ofa homau fonua.
2. ‘E Tamai fonu he kelesi
‘Oku mau kei falala atu
Ke hokohoko ‘a e lelei
‘O Tonga mo hono kaha‘u.
Mau kole atu ‘e ‘Otua,
Tonga ai pē tuputupu‘a.
3. Tafi homau lotó ke ma‘a
Kae tu‘uloa homau fonua.
‘Ofa ke hoko homau angá
Ko e hōifua‘anga he ‘Otua.
Hoto lotó ni ko e mo‘unga.
Mo‘o kolotau homau fonua.

Supporting Bible Verses	Explanations of the Symbols of the Tongan Coat of Arms	Framework
<p><i>For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (Jeremiah 29: 11)</i></p> <p><i>Commit your work to the Lord, and your plans will be established. (Proverbs 16: 3)</i></p>	<p>The text in the scroll at the bottom of the seal is the national motto “<i>Ko e ‘Otua mo Tonga ko Hoku Tofi’a.</i>” (God and Tonga are my Inheritance).</p> <p>The motto reminds every Tongan of his/her inheritance – God and Tonga.</p> <p>His Majesty Tupou I gifted Tonga back to God at Pouono, Vava‘u and we, thereby, became God’s chosen people twice – He chose us first through His love in Jesus Christ but Tupou I in giving Tonga back to Him, ensured that we are</p>	<p>The Title</p> <p>“Ko e ‘Otua mo Tonga ko Hoku Tofi’a” Christian Education Framework.</p> <p>The national motto is used as the title and the Coat of Arms as the Framework for Christian Education in Tonga to ensure that all of Tonga’s children (present and future), who are God’s children’s first before they became ours, are taught to understand that God and Tonga are their only real inheritance and this inheritance must be enthroned in their hearts, bodies, minds, and souls to enlighten them on their journey from here to eternity, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit.</p> <p>Our children must be taught the importance of their Inheritance and the</p>

	blessed twice as God's chosen people.	historical background of how that came about at Pouono, Vava'u and to value and take pride in that Inheritance and how it creates for them their unique identity as Tongans and how it continues to influence and shape our lives and nation today.
<p><i>Then Jesus told his disciples, 'If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me. For whosoever would save his life will lose it, and whoever loses his life for my sake will find it. (Matthew 16: 24-25)</i></p> <p><i>Whatever you ask in my name, I will do it that the Father may be glorified in the Son; if you ask anything in my name I will do it. If you love me, you will keep my commandments. And I will pray the Father, and he will give you another Counsellor, to be with you forever, even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him; you who know him, for he dwells with you, and will be in you. (John 14: 15-17)</i></p> <p><i>"... And I will establish my covenant between me and you and your descendants after you throughout their generations for an everlasting covenant, to be God to you and to your descendants after you ... and I will be their God." (Genesis 17: 7, 8b)</i></p>	<p>The stars in the first quarter of the seal symbolize the three most important groups of islands in the Kingdom: Tongatapu, Ha'apai and Vava'u.</p> <p>The Framework is inclusive and will be applied in all schools in Tonga – Tongatapu, 'Eua, Ha'apai, Vava'u, Niuatoputapu and Niuafu'ou, at all levels from kindergarten to university.</p> <p>It can also symbolise the Triune Godhead– Three in One - God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. He is the whole purpose of Christian Education.</p>	<p>1. Definition</p> <p>What is Christian Education?</p> <p><i>Education that is Christ-centred and Bible-based.</i></p> <p>But it is also an Education that is uniquely Tongan as it is also grounded on Tonga's Inheritance, and its specific historical and cultural contexts, and is designed to achieve the holistic well-being of all Tongans, but especially Tonga's children, from the here and now to eternity.</p>
<p>Vision <i>For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. (John 3:16)</i></p> <p>Mission <i>All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age. (Matthew 28: 18-20)</i></p>	<p>The garlands around the crown at the top of the seal symbolizes the royal dependence on God's grace.</p> <p>It also symbolizes the submission of every Tongan and everyone in the world to Jesus Christ's saving grace, which is the vision of Christian Education.</p> <p>The vision of the Framework is to ensure the salvation not only of every child but of everyone in Tonga.</p>	<p>2. Vision</p> <p><i>Every child in Tonga accepts Jesus Christ as his/her personal Saviour.</i></p> <p>It is about Christ being formed in every child in Tonga through the power of the Holy Spirit. The whole child, by accepting Christ and repenting of past sins, is transformed, through the work of the Holy Spirit, and each one wants to be like Christ, knowing how Christ would act, and, then, acting accordingly.</p> <p>The Mission is to bring every child in Tonga to Christ. To accomplish our Vision and Mission we need:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • God's help and guiding Hands. • To trust in God's providence to overcome

		<p>the challenges we will face.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Human and physical resources. • To understand the contexts in which we will work. • To totally commit ourselves to its achievement. • To realise that the development, stability, and prosperity of Tonga and the well-being of all Tongans will depend on achieving the Vision and Mission. • The support of parents, local, and Christian communities. • The support of the Ministry of Education and Training, educational administrators and managers, schools, teachers, and students. <p>The Vision and the Mission are based on Tonga's national motto "Ko e 'Otua mo Tonga ko Hoku Tofi'a", to ensure that every Tongan inherits the legacy, and is in full understanding of what that legacy means.</p>
<p><i>And when Jesus was baptized, he went up immediately from the water, and behold, the heavens were opened and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and alighting on him; and lo, a voice from heaven, saying, "This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased." (Matthew 3: 16-17)</i></p> <p><i>Thy word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path. (Psalm 119: 105)</i></p> <p><i>But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things shall be yours as well. (Matthew 6: 33)</i></p> <p><i>If they harken and serve him, they complete their days in prosperity, and their years in pleasantness. But if they do not harken, they perish by the sword and die without knowledge. (Job 36: 11-12)</i></p>	<p>In the third quarter, a dove symbolizes peace, unity and Christianity.</p> <p>It also symbolizes the Christian philosophy of faith in Jesus Christ's saving grace, repentance, forgiveness, and living in peace and unity in Jesus Christ our Saviour.</p> <p>The total submission of all Tongans to God's will and the Holy Spirit's guiding hands will bring peace and unity to the land and Tonga will prosper.</p>	<p>3. Philosophy</p> <p>The philosophical base of Christian Education is the Bible.</p> <p>In addition, church-based schools may include their own Bible-based catechisms or doctrinal manuals (such as the Catechisms 1 and 2 of the Tonga Free Wesleyan Church).</p> <p>Included also are the <i>goals, forms, methods, and means of education; the fundamental nature of knowledge, reality, and existence, and the attitudes</i> that act as guiding principles for behaviour.</p> <p>It will also include Tongan world-views, values, beliefs, assumptions, epistemology, cognition, notions of "ako", "ilo" and "poto", pedagogy, and symbolic orders, sources of</p>

		<p>authority, mediating structures and appropriate standards in development and education, processes and practices, and particularly, those values which support sustainability and equity of benefits, which are not necessarily measured in economic terms. All these will be aligned to the Bible-based philosophy of Christian Education to ensure that all Tongan children understand both, where they may differ, and how to resolve any conflicts between the two.</p>
<p><i>Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. (John 14: 6)</i></p> <p><i>And he said to him, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the great and first commandment. And a second is like it, You shall love your neighbour as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets.” (Matthew 22: 37-40)</i></p> <p><i>Seek the Lord and His strength; seek his presence continually. (1 Chronicles 16: 11)</i></p>	<p>In the fourth quarter, the three swords symbolize the three dynasties of the Tu‘i Tonga, Tu‘i Ha‘atakalaua and Tu‘i Kanokupolu.</p> <p>The three dynasties represent a critically important component of Tonga’s inheritance. It is also the desire of the Framework to sustain and promote Tonga’s monarchical and chiefly systems, cultural heritage and traditions, and languages, through God’s love, the saving grace of Jesus Christ, and the guiding hands of the Counsellor.</p> <p>They also symbolize the threefold purpose of Christian Education:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To know and love God, and live in His presence. • Serve God. • Love and serve others. 	<p>4. Purpose</p> <p>The purpose of Christian Education is to train our children to know God; accept His grace and love; repenting of their sins, and through faith, humbly asking Jesus Christ into their lives as their personal Saviour; and, to allow Christ to live through them; and, thus, live lives that are Christ-like.</p> <p>Through Christian Education children are taught to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • See and understand the world, through the lens of the Bible and the perspective of God’s truth. • Love, believe, and serve God every day in everything they do and in loving, believing, and serving God, they love and serve others as well. • Experience His ever loving Presence. • Revere, to be aware of, and to welcome the presence of God from an early age, and thus, readily establish an intimate relationship with Him and live holy lives in the presence of God every moment of their lives. • Understand and take pride in their Tongan Inheritance and their unique heritages as Tongans. • Commit themselves to serving Tonga and its people for the good of all.
<p><i>God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and in truth. (John 4: 24)</i></p>	<p>On the six-pointed star in the middle is the cross symbolizing the nation of Tonga.</p>	<p>5. Processes</p> <p>God’s truths as revealed in His Holy Word, inform all the processes of Christian Education, from its vision to its philosophy, goals, teaching</p>

<p><i>Sanctify them in the truth; thy word is truth. (John 17: 17)</i></p> <p><i>The saying is sure and worthy of full acceptance, that Christ Jesus came into the world to save sinners. (1 Timothy 1: 15)</i></p>	<p>The cross also symbolizes the whole truth of Christianity, that is, that Jesus Christ died on the cross to save sinners. This truth enlightens all the processes of Christian Education.</p> <p>There is no higher honour than having the Cross of our Saviour representing our nation and people. The Cross is who we are! He died for us and we die for Him so that we may live for Him and Tonga.</p>	<p>methodologies, administration and management, practices, assessments, contents, outcomes, and outputs. Jesus Christ is manifested in every aspect of the programme.</p> <p>As stated already, Tongan processes will be married to Biblical processes, where they serve to support those processes and are not in conflict. But their inclusion and integration will assist the Tongan child to understand and respect his/her own culture and traditions as well as becoming a living testimony of Christ's unfailing love, mercy, and grace.</p>
<p><i>In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God; and all things were made through him, and without him was not anything made that was made. In him was life, and the life was the light of men. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it. (John 1: 1-5)</i></p> <p><i>He seals up the work of every man, that all men may know his work. (Job 37: 7)</i></p> <p><i>My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. (Hosea 4: 6a)</i></p>	<p>The flag is the national flag of Tonga.</p> <p>The flag symbolizes the red cross of Jesus Christ in a field of white depicting holiness, and the red field in the remainder of the flag symbolizes the blood of Jesus Christ which was shed for the redemption of the sins of Tongans and all mankind.</p> <p>This encapsulates the contents of Christian Education and permeates all its taught knowledge, skills, and values, centring on God and Tonga.</p>	<p>6. Contents</p> <p>The contents of Christian Education teach students to <i>know God</i> and <i>be like Him</i> in His character and works. The theory of Christian Education is based on the recognition that God is truth and anything that conflicts with His Holy Word is not legitimate. Students must be taught His Word, and its truths determine the other subject matters and the ways in which they are taught.</p> <p>But the works of God are also important in gaining a deeper understanding of Him. Man who was created in the image of God is the highest of God's work. Thus, the study of the humanities, which include man's <i>languages, literature, art, history, mathematics, economics, and other forms of cultural expressions</i> are proper contents for study of the works of God.</p> <p>So too are the natural sciences, which look at the glory and wonders of God's creation and testify to his power and the beauty and order of His creation. These were created to help man, for him to enjoy, and to realise God's love for him. The Christian Education curriculum, thus, includes <i>astronomy, physics, chemistry, biology, mathematics, and related subjects, and other related fields</i> because they all demonstrate the glory and goodness of God.</p> <p><i>Skills and the disciplining</i> of the students in various subject areas also equip the students for service. <i>General, technical, and vocational subjects</i> are studied to prepare the students to serve</p>

		<p>God more perfectly and <i>physical training and the proper care of the body</i> that God has created to serve Him are also included. It means that <i>all the student's abilities and talents</i> are developed to glorify and to serve God. It includes also her/his <i>power to create and aesthetic taste</i>. In fact <i>all her/his skills and abilities</i> are fully developed to serve God.</p> <p>The <i>methods</i> employed also align with the truths of the Holy Word. The <i>teacher</i> plays a key role in the whole process. He or she is the image of God that the students see and the teacher who is filled with the Holy Spirit will achieve the aims of Christian Education and therefore, her/his professional and spiritual preparation is a critical issue. He or she is required to know his or her students, master the subject matter to be taught and the most appropriate method to be used. But the <i>student</i> must also come prepared to learn, to follow, and to accept the rule of the teacher and the school. The <i>administrator</i> is also a key player by providing the environment that is most conducive for the development of the student's personal relationship with Christ. When all these elements work harmoniously together, the goal of the holiness in the student's character is eventually achieved.</p> <p>But as discussed previously, the whole body of Tongan knowledge, skills, languages, history, arts, beliefs, and values, ways of knowing and thinking, artefacts, processes, pedagogy, and evaluative tools, will be integral components of Christian Education so that every Tongan child will grow up fully developed in his/her inheritance – God and Tonga - and can apply these in his/her daily life from here to eternity.</p>
<p><i>But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such there is no law. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires. If we live by the Spirit, let us also walk by the Spirit. (Galatians 5: 22-25)</i></p> <p><i>Jesus said to her, I am the resurrection and the life; he who believes in me, though he die, yet shall live, and whoever lives and believes in me shall never die. (John 11: 25-26)</i></p>	<p>In the second quarter is a crown that symbolizes the monarchy.</p> <p>But it also symbolizes the ultimate prize that every Tongan Christian strives for – a royal crown in Heaven, the outcome of Christian Education – that every child in Tonga will be saved into eternal life.</p>	<p>7. Outcomes</p> <p>The outcome of all these efforts will be <i>transformed men and women of Tonga</i> who are fully aware of the seeking love of God as revealed in Jesus Christ and who respond in faith to His love in ways that help them grow as children of God, live in accordance with the will of God, and sustain a vital relationship with the Christian Community. Christian Education will raise men and women who are <i>fully reborn in Jesus Christ</i> and <i>who have all accepted Him as their personal Saviour and live lives</i></p>

<p><i>Jesus said to him, I am the way, and the truth, and the life; no one comes to the Father, but by me. (John 14: 6)</i></p> <p><i>Be faithful unto death, and I will give you the crown of life. (Revelation 2: 10c)</i></p>		<p><i>of total commitment and service to Him. They fully enjoy God's presence here on earth and serve Him and their fellow human beings with all their God-given power, but their <i>final destination</i> is not here and now on this Earth but <i>Heaven itself and eternal life</i>. The crown symbolises their final destination - the crown they will be wearing in Heaven.</i></p> <p>He/she is a truly living and practising Christian, mirroring the image of Jesus Christ, his Saviour, believing and loving God with all his heart, soul, body, and mind, but, nonetheless, a Tongan Christian in a Tongan context, who is proud to be Tongan, speaks the Tongan language, knows its history, respects his culture, and the reciprocal love that transforms his community into a 'family'. He is someone who knows, lives, and practises his inheritance, "Ko e 'Otuá mo Tonga ko Hoku Tofi'á."</p>
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