

## **Northern Lights Library Project: Tonga**

I recently received an email and these photos from Kato Ha'unga, the driving force for the Library Project for Tonga. Kato, a member of the Anchorage Polynesian Lions is now married and living in TX. The 50,000 plus books that she collected in Alaska over a multi-year period and the Scholastic K-6 curriculum donated by the Lower Y-K School District arrived in good shape aboard the USS Pearl Harbor as part of the US Navy Operation Handclasp humanitarian outreach this past June. Kato reports:

- The donated books will launch the first two public libraries in Tonga; they will also be shared with the Ministry of Education for the public schools.
- Two volunteer librarians from Denver went to Tonga in June and August to catalog the books.
- Members of the Royal Family (the Princess) and the Prime Minister (a Lion) were involved in the dedication and celebration events for the new libraries.
- Also, the 200 pairs of eyeglasses donated by Districts 49A/B were gratefully received by the Free Wesleyan Church of Tonga and were distributed among the elders – Many were thrilled; the new glasses now allow them to read their Bibles.

We should have more photos and follow up reports this fall and winter.

Walt Hays, Int'l Relations, District 49A



**The Northern Lights Library Project received support from:**

- The Bethel Lions Club
- The Anchorage Mt McKinley Lions Club
- The Anchorage Polynesian Lions Club
- The College Station Noon Lions Club (TX)