**ST VINCENT DE PAUL ASSIST A STUDENTS, HELP FIFTY YOUNG STUDENT’S EDUCATION NEEDS IN TONGA.**

A new initiative between SSVP Tonga and SSVP New Zealand has been signed appropriately called “ASSIST A STUDENT” (ASS) to help young and poor students to meet its education needs whether its fees, uniforms, writing equipment, travel, shoes, socks, etc. The ASS was pioneered by Australia SSVP through its twinning assistance in Asia. SSVP New Zealand in collaboration with SSVP Oceania will introduce AAS with its twinning partners for the first-time including Tonga, is kindly providing this fund of NZ$5,000.00

The ASS is one of the new initiatives piloted by the SSVP Oceania Twinning Program between New Zealand and Australia and the Pacific Islands Countries under the SSVP Oceania Zone. The initial funds will be able to assist 50 young individual students from the conferences in Tongatapu and ‘Eua. The SSVP National Council is working closely with its conferences to select the students to benefit from this program and monitor its progress and report back to SSVP New Zealand as part of the funding agreement.

A special event program will be held at the Toutaimana Catholic Centre in Tongatapu on Saturday 10 August in association/partnership with local conferences to present the funds to individual students, parents/guardians and representative from conferences who have been selected for the assistance.

The President of the SSVP in Tonga, Sakopo Lololhea along with the Twinning Co-ordinator Soane Puaa welcome the AAS and thank the SSVP New Zealand and its generous donors for having the confidence and willing support whereby young students who ill afford to make ends meet in their education can be assisted through AAS. This support demonstrates the close support by SSVP Nz in various areas of our work for poor families, adults, children, disabilities, bedridden the sick and those in dire needs for assistance.

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