Pentecostal Churches in Honiara

Rodolfo Maggio
# PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES IN HONIARA

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PREFACE</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHURCHES OF THE AOG NETWORK</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHURCHES OF THE COC NETWORK</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>OTHER PENTECOSTAL CHURCHES</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CHURCHES OF THE UPC NETWORK</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CONGREGATIONS WITHOUT PERMANENT BUILDING</td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ABOUT THE AUTHOR</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TEXT COPYRIGHT © 2013 RODOLFO MAGGIO**
Preface

This is a list of all the Pentecostal churches that I was able to visit during 13 months of fieldwork, between October 2011 and November 2012. My hope is that this information will be useful for those who have an interest in Pentecostalism in Melanesia and plan to conduct their fieldwork research in Solomon Islands. The list is designed to provide basic coordinates for fieldworkers to orient their selection of suitable research sites. For each church or group, I provide information such as location, foundation year, membership size, affiliation network, and so forth. I also included a brief mention of the pastors’ plans for future developments, because I believed this could be of crucial importance for a fieldworker planning to do research a few years after I left the Solomon Islands.

While consulting this list there are a few important limitations that should be kept into account. Firstly, it should be noted that the label “Pentecostal” is problematic. Whether a church can be defined as Pentecostal or not depends first and foremost on the point of view of the people who attend it; but also those who don’t and refer to it with alternative labels. On the other hand, scholars themselves have little consensus on the precise definition of Pentecostal church. While I was conducting my fieldwork, I observed and recorded the features of churches in Honiara and termed them as Pentecostal when I recognized that such features resembled those described in churches labelled as Pentecostal in other times and places. But then, despite such resemblance, I often came across informants who would question the use of the label ‘Pentecostal’. To give an example, members of churches such as Assemblies Of God (AOG), United Pentecostal Church (UPC), and Christian Revival Crusade (CRC), do not necessarily define themselves as Pentecostal, even if they belong to churches that are historically considered Pentecostal. Some prefer just to be called “Christians”, and refuse other definitions. In contrast, a church that is not Pentecostal according to the literature and its headquarters, such as the South Seas Evangelical Church (SSEC), is believed to be ‘Pentecostal’ by many of its members and even non-members.

The definition of a church as ‘Pentecostal’ has crucial bearings on the selection of the churches that had to be included in this list. Thus, I was presented with the following dilemma: to label a church as my informants do, or to define it on the basis of a comparison with features described in the existing literature? My personal answer was to do both, even if this meant that the point of view of some of my informants had to be disregarded sometimes. Even if I was committed to represent the point of view of the people in the lives of whom I was participating, which is an elementary anthropological obligation, describing all the overwhelming diversity of their points of view was turning the challenge of finding a definition into an inevitable stall.

So, I decided to include in this list the churches whose members promote a personalised relationship with God, speak regularly in tongues, experience the gifts of the Holy Spirit and, as a result, fall on the ground, prophesize, interpret glossolalic prophecies, and so on. This definition might not be flawless, but it serves the purpose of grouping into a list the churches that recognize themselves in beliefs and practices that resemble those of the Pentecostal tradition and that, for this reason, constitute a feature of the Solomon Islands religious scene that is worth further investigation.

Another limitation is that discovering all the Pentecostal churches in Honiara was materially difficult, if only because new churches were constantly mushrooming as I was conducting my fieldwork. I kept searching till the very last week of my stay, and I believe that even at that point there were still some churches that remained unknown to me. Incomplete as it can be, I hope this list will be useful for other researchers to plan and conduct their research as much as it would have been useful for me. In this way, I hope to give my contribution to the growing study of Melanesian Christianity.
Churches of the AOG network

Name: Christian Life Centre  
Headquarter: AOG Headquarter  
Estimated members: ≈ 100  
Year church was built: 1986  
Branches: None  
Activities: Standard + outreach missions  
School: No  
Projects: Education  
Income: Self-funded + gifts from Australia  
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:  
The Christian Life Centre is the second church founded in Solomon Islands by the Assemblies Of God. The pastor is John Subu who is also the General Secretary for AOG in Solomon Islands. As a consequence the headquarter of AOG in Solomon Islands is located in his office. This church does not have many connections overseas, although a strong relationship exists with some kin churches in Brisbane, whose members come to visit sometimes.

Location: Tandai

Name: Calvary Temple  
Headquarter: AOG headquarter  
Estimated members: ≈ 150  
Year church was built: 1974  
Branches: None  
Activities: Standard  
School: Yes, from kindergarten to Grade 1  
Projects: a Mercy School for ‘unfortunate’ children  
Income: Self-funded  
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:  
The Calvary Temple is the first church established by the Assemblies Of God in Solomon Islands. It was built with funding by Reverend Charles Blair, pastor of a Calvary Temple in Colorado US. It constituted the Headquarter of AOG in Solomon Islands until the pastor of the Christian Life Centre was elected General Secretary of AOG in Solomon Islands. Some prominent government officials regularly attend the Calvary temple church.

Location: Kolale (China Town)
Name: New Life Assembly  
Headquarter: AOG Headquarter  
Estimated members: ≈ 100  
Year church was built: 1999  
Branches: None  
Activities: Standard  
School: No  
Projects: No  
Income: Self-funded + occasional gifts  
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:  
The New Life Assembly is one of the independent local churches that constitute the large network of the Assemblies of God in Solomon Islands. It is administered by pastor John Mark Olea and his family, who also organize all the activities. All activities are centered on the spiritual renewal and the services have regularly a very strong charismatic character. Men and women groups organize also small income-generating projects.

Location: Gilbert Camp

Name: Faith Assembly  
Headquarter: AOG Headquarter  
Estimated members: ≈ 70  
Year church was built: 2001  
Branches: None  
Activities: Standard  
School: Yes, kindergarten  
Projects: A oven to bake bread on weekends  
Income: Self-funded  
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:  
The church originated from one of the so called ‘cell groups’ based at the Calvary Temple. The group, whose people were resident in the Tasahe area, was chosen by the headquarter to represent the AOG network in the western part of Honiara. The church is active to provide services that are otherwise absent in the area, like the kindergarten. This is the only Pentecostal church in this part of the town, were Pentecostal churches concentrate.

Location: Tasahe
**Name:** Salem Assembly of God  
**Headquarters:** AOG Headquarters  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 50  
**Year church was built:** 1999  
**Branches:** AOG Network  
**Activities:** Standard  
**School:** None  
**Projects:** None  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes

**Description:**  
This small local church is attended mainly by migrants from North Malaita, and especially from Bailelea, as suggested by the name of the area (Aifara, teasing). A new pastor has recently taken the responsibility of this church, and congregational activities are still to be improved. He is attending a training in Australia, in order to learn how to improve attendance and participation of adherents, with support provided by the local AOG network.

**Location:** Aifara (Burns Creek)

---

**Name:** Burns Creek Rhema Family Church  
**Headquarters:** Rhema Family Church  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 40  
**Year church was built:** 2010  
**Branches:** RFC Network  
**Activities:** Standard  
**School:** None  
**Projects:** None  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes

**Description:**  
This young local church is not very active at the moment. Although its staff can count on the support of the strong headquarters in China town, there seems to be no perspective to extend the congregation and/or to improve the provision of services to the local adherents. The building itself requires improvements, but the amount collected with tithes, offerings and fund-raising activities of the adherents are still insufficient.

**Location:** Burns Creek
Name: Destiny Assembly Of God
Headquarters: AOG Headquarters
Estimated members: ≈ 20
Year church was built: 2007
Branches: AOG Network
Activities: Standard
School: Mercy School (prep. to Class 1)
Projects: Building extension; sanitation
Income: Self-funded
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:
This young local church has a very limited attendance, partly due to the fact that another church of the same denomination is active in this area, at less than a kilometer of distance. This church does not have its own school, but can rely on the local Mercy school, which was founded in 2009 by Beverly Komasi, wife of the AOG general superintended, pr. David Komasi. The pastor is motivated to realize some improvements soon.

Location: Rice Farm (Burns Creek)

Name: Word Harvest Centre
Headquarters: AOG Headquarters
Estimated members: ≈ 100
Year church was built: 2001
Branches: AOG Network
Activities: Standard + Outreach +Scouting
School: Mercy School (prep. to Class 1)
Projects: School, building improvements
Income: Self-funded
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:
After more than a decade of activity, this church is now not very active. Although the attendance is relatively high and there are ongoing activities of standard kind, the leaders struggle to implement their projects. For example, the current pastor is trying to organize a group of scouts in order to coordinate the activities of the young members of this church. But, since he could not find a scout leader, so the project has now been interrupted.

Location: Kobito
**Name:** Joy Harvest Centre  
**Headquarters:** AOG Headquarters  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 80  
**Year church was built:** 2012  
**Branches:** AOG Network  
**Activities:** Standard + outreach  
**School:** None  
**Projects:** New church in East Honiara  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes

**Description:**  
The group was formed in 2000. Initially based in Ranadi, it was moved to its current location when a Chinese entrepreneur bought the land upon which the church was built. Now, prospects for a further displacement are discussed. The current pastor puts much effort in evangelistic activities, which recently reached places as Savo and villages in Guadalcanal. He also plans to create new churches in East Honiara, where the AOG presence is still limited.

**Location:** Mbokona

---

**Name:** Kaibia Hope Ministry  
**Headquarters:** AOG Headquarters  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 35  
**Year church was built:** 2009  
**Branches:** AOG Network  
**Activities:** Standard  
**School:** None  
**Projects:** None  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes

**Description:**  
This congregation has still to develop a program of activities. The adherents tried to set up a kindergarten, but they could not find a teacher to take care of the children. Efforts are currently put into strengthening the current membership, through energetic worship services. However, it seems that attendance is not particularly high nor constant. As a consequence, the pastor struggles to collect enough money to make improvements.

**Location:** Kaibia
Churches of the COC Network

**Name:** Global Harvest Centre  
**Headquarters:** COC Headquarter s (Malaita)  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 70  
**Year church was built:** 1991  
**Branches:** Burns Creek (Honiara)  
**Activities:** Standard + Network Marketing  
**School:** Yes, from kindergarten to Grade 6  
**Projects:** Build the new office  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes

**Description:**  
A strong relationship exists with the COC church of Sidney, which is also sending some materials to build the new school. They sing the same songs, the COC musical group is being trained by the KH one, they often have jointed services, and the members alternate their presence in both churches. Today the COC church is very much in contact with the Kingdom Harvest. They are both joining a network marketing company from Hong Kong, Qnet.

**Location:** Gilbert Camp

---

**Name:** Destiny Glocal Church  
**Headquarters:** COC Headquarters (Malaita)  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 170  
**Year church was built:** Work in progress (2012)  
**Branches:** COC Network  
**Activities:** Standard + Rice sale conditional upon membership (10% marginal profit), saving and loan  
**School:** Yes, kindergarten to Standard 6  
**Projects:** Influence politics, improve education, develop business activities and water supply  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes

**Description:**  
The global perspective of this local church is at the origin of its fanciful name. Following the KHMI, also this church is establishing a strong connection with the Malaysian ministry of Jonathan David. The business-minded pastor registered a retailer activity as Destiny Corporate Society, that sells rice and an NGO, the Destiny Development Agent, with the aim of improving water supply and sanitation. There is also a loan scheme, applying a 1% interest.

**Location:** Green Valley
Other Pentecostal Churches

Name: Living Word Christian Fellowship  
Headquarter: The church itself  
Estimated members: ≈ 200  
Year church was built:  
Branches: Burns Creek (Honiara), Western Province, Malaita, Makira, Choiseul, Temotu  
Activities: Standard  
School: Yes, from kindergarten to Form 1  
Projects: Teach members to make and sell honey  
Income: Self-funded  
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description: 
The Living Word Christian Fellowship (LWCF) was established in 1990 by Alfred Alufurae when he broke out from the Rhema Family Church (RFC) as a consequence of a disagreement with Fredson Fenua, the pastor of that church. Currently numerous members of the LWCF are former members of the RFC, although the LWCF has also experienced independent growth over the last two decades. It has no connections overseas.

Location: China Town

Name: Rhema Family Church  
Headquarter: The church itself  
Estimated members: ≈ 200  
Year church was built: 1989  
Branches: Makira, Western Province, Malaita, Gela  
Activities: Standard  
School: Kindergarten  
Projects: Open a Bible School and a small clinic  
Income: Self-funded  
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description: 
The Rhema Family Church was founded by Alfred Alufurae, following the breakaway of youth group from the Anglican Church of Melanesia, as a consequence of the charismatic activities the group had developed over the 1980s. After the election of Fredson Fenua, the current pastor, the church established connections with kin churches in Auckland, in Perth and Brisbane, in Port Vila, and in Port Moresby. Pastors from kin churches.

Location: China Town
Name: Kingdom Harvest Ministry International
Headquarter: The church itself
Estimated members: ≈ 400
Year church was built: 2000
Branches: None
Activities: Standard + School Of Prophet + Financial literacy programs
School: Yes, primary
Projects: Secondary education and university
Income: Self-funded
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:
While remaining a strongly Pentecostal church in terms of type of worship and theological basis, Barko has recently established a strong link with the Apostolic ministry of Dr. Jonathan David. He presents David as his spiritual father, and regularly attends international meeting in Malaysia. Members from all denominations (also non-Pentecostal) attend the activities of this church, and also, some prominent members of the government.

Location: Henderson

---

Name: Bible Way Centre
Headquarter: The church itself
Estimated members: ≈ 200
Year church was built: 1990
Branches: Malaita and Guadalcanal
Activities: Standard + Radio +Rehabilitation centre
School: Bible School
Projects:
Income: Self-funded + donations from NZ churches, AUSAID,
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:
A strong relationship is established with churches in New Zealand, where Nemuel Laufilu, a former SSEC member, was trained as pastor. The church was on the frontline to address the problem of criminal activities and violence for which Borderline has become infamous during and after the ethnic tensions. Laufilu emphasizes the church role as a service provider, especially in terms of education and health. No effort is put in evangelistic activities.

Location: Borderline
**Name:** Agape Full Gospel Church  
**Headquarters:** The church itself  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 70  
**Year church was built:** 1997  
**Branches:** No  
**Activities:**  
School: Kindergarten  
Projects: Primary School, outreach  
Income: Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** No

**Description:**  
This church was created by a Korean businessman and some former members of the AOG church of Solomon Islands. Today, it maintains an affiliation with the Yoido Full Gospel Church of Cho Yong-gi. However, no financial help is sent by the Korean, and the church is today in need of support. The current pastor would like to develop some projects, but cannot find the resources. Now, he is doing training to strengthen the membership.

**Location:** White River

---

**Name:** Neil Thomas Ministry  
**Headquarters:** The church itself  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 180  
**Year church was built:** 1999  
**Branches:** Isabel, Malaita, Rennel  
**Activities:** Standard  
School: NTM Bible College  
Projects: Bakery, bricks, gardening  
Income: Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** No

**Description:**  
Probably due to the isolate location, this church is attended by people from a vast variety of ethno-linguistic groups of South Pacific, including a couple of waitman. A noteworthy feature of this church is the regular practice of Eucharist, celebrated with pieces of bread and red syrup diluted in water. The style of worship is very enthusiastic, and mainly centered on songs, dances, healings and ‘miracles’. It is connected with the NTM HQs in Melbourne.

**Location:** Lunga
Name: Christian Revival Crusade
Headquarter: The church itself
Estimated members: ≈ 250
Year church was built: 2010
Branches: Kakabona (Guadalcanal), Malaita
Activities: Standard + outreach
School: Bible School
Projects: Kindergarten, clinic
Income: Self-funded
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:
The CRC begun its activities in Solomon Islands during the 1980s. In Honiara, the first congregation used to meet in the Honiara High School. As a member of the SIFGA, this church is connected with many other Pentecostal churches. Through such connection, many joint activities are organized, like pastoral visits, shared services, and interchange of musical groups. Many members feel free to worship in other churches, such as the nearby KHMI.

Name: Four Square Church of Solomon Islands
Headquarters: The church itself
Estimated members: ≈
Year church was built: 2010
Branches: Odou (East Fataleka)
Activities: Standard
School: None
Projects: Kindergarten, dormitory
Income: Self-funded
Member of SIFGA: Yes

Description:
In 2006 Pastor Titus Luta came from PNG formed this congregation, in the house of a relative who married a Solomon woman. The attendance grew and so they moved in a classroom in White River Community High School in 2007. The following year, they moved to another school in Kolale, and in 2010 to the current location. At the moment, members of this church regularly visit the SDA church in Savo, with the prospect of a long-term collaboration.
**Name:** World Outreach Christian Centre  
**Headquarters:** The church itself  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 80  
**Year church was built:** 2012 (in progress)  
**Branches:** None  
**Activities:** Standard  
**School:** None  
**Projects:** Complete the church building  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** No  

**Description:**  
This is a new church that originated from a congregation created in 2001 as part of the evangelistic activities of pastor John Vailala missionary from Port Moresby (PNG). Formerly known under the name “Revival Flame”, the congregation gathered in the Marine School, then in the College in Panatina, until the leaders bought the piece of land upon which the new building is being built. The services are held on Saturday.

**Location:** Lunga

---

**Name:** Christian Mission Fellowship  
**Headquarters:** The church itself  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 80  
**Year church was built:** 2007  
**Branches:** Guadalcanal, Western Province, Malaita  
**Activities:** Standard + Business training  
**School:** No  
**Projects:** Build a church, discipleship training  
**Income:** N/A  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes  

**Description:**  
The first congregation was created in 2006 by pastor Sakiusa, sent in mission by the Christian Mission Fellowship in Suva (Fiji). Initially, the services were held under a tree, but later a land was made available in the area where their tent currently is. This group organized income-generating activities, ranging from bakery training to the building of a small store. The church is attended mostly by people from the East Honiara.

**Location:** Lunga
Name: Green Valley Prayer Centre  
Headquarters: N/A  
Estimated members: N/A  
Year church was built: N/A  
Branches: N/A  
Activities: N/A  
School: N/A  
Projects: N/A  
Income: N/A  
Member of SIFGA: N/A

Description: 
Unfortunately, it was not possible to collect any information about this church, because I could not find any reliable informant when I had the chance to visit it.

Location: Green Valley
Churches of the UPC Network

**Name**: Komovatu United Pentecostal Church  
**Headquarters**: The church itself  
**Estimated members**:  
**Year church was built**: 1992  
**Branches**: Burns Creek, Kobito, Koa Hill, Malaita  
**Activities**: Standard + outreach + funding of 4 students to USP in Suva  
**School**: Yes, Bible School  
**Projects**: Evangelization and networking  
**Income**: Self-funded + gifts from US, NZ  
**Member of SIFGA**: Yes

**Description**:  
This is the second UPC church in the Solomons, built by pastor Rosko Seay, the first UPC missionary. He left in 1997, and the church is now going through a transition of official responsibilities. The local pastor Hennessey Maetala and his wife Ruth Maetala are very active missionaries. In Loufelo (Kwaio), they have recently converted a group of 6 families, some from a non-Christian background. They built a Bible School in 2003, with funds from a UPC in Jarrod, US.

**Location**: Komovatu

---

**Name**: Kobito United Pentecostal Church  
**Headquarter**: UPC Headquarter  
**Estimated members**: ≈ 50  
**Year church was built**: 1983  
**Branches**: None  
**Activities**: Standard  
**School**: No  
**Projects**: No  
**Income**: Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA**: Yes

**Description**:  
This church was originally an AOG church. In 1992, Dausabea, the man who had built it, was visited by Rosko Seay, who convinced him that the Trinitarian view was wrong. Thus, he got converted to the unitarian view and followed the American in the US. Back in Gilbert Camp, he converted his AOG church into UPC. This church is small and still crippled by local interests and claims. As a consequence, its activity and impact are affected.

**Location**: between Gilbert Camp and Kobito
Name: Burns Creek United Pentecostal Church  
Headquarters: UPC Headquarters  
Estimated members: ≈ 50  
Year church was built: 2003  
Branches: UPC Network  
Activities: Standard + outreach missions  
School: None  
Projects: Improving the church building  
Income: Self-funded  
Member of SIFGA: Yes  

Description:  
This is the oldest Pentecostal church in the Burns Creek area. The standard activities are habitually practiced. It is well established also thanks to the support it receives from the other local churches of the UPC network, who are regularly visiting. Fundraising activities, especially those organized by the young members and the women group, generate money to fund activities, outreach missions, and the current improvements of the church building.

Location: Rice Farm (Burns Creek)  

Name: Koa Hill Fellowship (UPC)  
Headquarters: UPC headquarters  
Estimated members: ≈ 50  
Year church was built: 2012  
Branches: UPC Network  
Activities: Standard  
School: No  
Projects: Church building extension  
Income: Self-funded  
Member of SIFGA: Yes  

Description:  
Being the first and only Pentecostal church of the Koa Hill area, members of the local community (mainly Anglicans and Catholics), initially accused the pastor to be servicing the ‘debol’, as they associated glossolalia with ungodly practices. The church is still not very active, but it recently experienced a high rate of growth. In September 2012, 4 members of this church took part in a mission in Malaita, organized by the headquarters.

Location: Koa Hill
**Congregations without permanent building**

**Name:** New Methodist Christian Fellowship  
**Headquarters:** NMCF Suva, Fiji  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 10  
**Year group was created:** 2011  
**Branches:** None  
**Activities:** Fasting  
**School:** None  
**Projects:** Building a church in Burns Creek  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** No

**Description:**  
This religious group is added following the categorization used by Newland (2011:1), who studied the birth (in 2000) and development of the New Methodist Christian Fellowship in Suva. This local group began its activities in 2011, following the invitation of pastor Bale, who came from Fiji to evangelize. At the moment, the congregation is still far from reaching the number of people and amount of money sufficient to build a church.

**Location:** Burns Creek

---

**Name:** House of Grace  
**Headquarter:** COC Headquarter  
**Estimated members:** ≈120  
**Year the group was created:** 2009  
**Branches:** None  
**Activities:** Standard + fasting  
**School:** No  
**Projects:** Building a church  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** Yes

**Description:**  
After pastor Edy Osifelo came back from Australia, where he attended a Bible College in Brisbane, he was asked by COC national coordinator, pastor Livae, to form the group. Finding it difficult to buy a plot of land where to build a church, he began with renting a room in the Multi-Purpose Hall, where normally sports are practiced. The service is on Sunday morning, whereas the weekly church activities take place in the houses of the members.

**Location:** Multi-purpose hall
Name: Potter’s House Christian Fellowship
Headquarters: The congregation itself
Estimated members: ≈ 80
Year group was created: 2003
Branches: Auki (Malaita), G.Pol
Activities: Standard
School: None
Projects: Shifting from mission to local church
Income: Self-funded + funds from PHCF, US
Member of SIFGA: No

Description:
The Potter’s House Christian Fellowship moved into its current location in 2010, after three years in another building rented further down the Mendana Avenue. The current pastor, Mel Montoya and his wife took charge of the congregation in May 2012. They have experience as missionaries in other Pacific islands where they were sent by the PHCF Australian HQ in Perth. Mel believes that “what I’m doing works, because I’ve seen it in other nations”.

Location:

Name: Solomon Islands Revival Fellowship Church
Headquarters: The congregation itself
Estimated members: ≈ 75
Year group was created: January 2012
Branches: None
Activities: Standard
School: None
Projects: Build a church
Income: Self-funded + funds from Australian RF
Member of SIFGA: No

Description:
This congregation was initiated by Malaitan named Salvatore, a former Catholic. He was making and selling necklaces in PNG, when he was approached by two local members of the RFC of Port Moresby who proposed him to join their church. After becoming a member and being ‘blessed with provision’, Salvatore returned to Solomon Islands. This group meet up in different parts of Honiara, like Rove Police Station or the house of the pastor.

Location: White River
Name: The Redeemed Christian Church of God
Headquarters: The church itself
Estimated members: ≈100
Year the group was formed: 2010
Branches: Gpoo1
Activities: Bible studies + faith clinic + power service
School: No
Projects: Build a church, a charity centre, a school
Income: Self-funded + gifts from Melbourne
Member of SIFGA: No

Description:
This church has branches in North Africa, Europe, Australia, and in many other parts of the world. The members gather in the St. John School, where strongly charismatic services are organized. Besides the standard activities, they also hold a ‘faith clinic’, which is intended to prevent cases of ‘backsliding’. The Power Service is another service that this church provides, which involves the treatment of ‘special cases’ involving health and financial issues.

Name: Victory Family Centre
Headquarters: Singapore
Estimated members: ≈15
Year the group was formed: 2003
Branches: No
Activities:
School: None
Projects: create branches in other provinces
Income: Self-funded
Member of SIFGA: No

Description:
This congregation was created as part of the missionary activity of pastor Roy Chan, from Singapore. Today this connection is still strong, as the members are expected to send \( \frac{1}{10} \) of their tithes to the headquarters. However, financial constraints make this impossible at the moment. Services take place in the Mbokona Community High School. Other activities are held mainly in the house of the current pastor and of other members.
**Name:** Desert Ministry for Urban Drifters  
**Headquarters:** The Ministry itself  
**Estimated members:** ≈ 80  
**Year the group was formed:** 2009  
**Branches:** Auki, Gizo  
**Activities:** Sunday service and weekly ‘cell groups’  
**School:** No  
**Projects:** Building a church  
**Income:** Self-funded  
**Member of SIFGA:** No

**Description:**  
The group started as an NGO and continued as a faith-based organization in order to avoid the dangers of denominationalism as well as accusations of ‘sheep stealing’. Pr. George Tafoa’s mission of is to provide ‘holistic’ help to urban workers with training in financial skills, computer literacy, and psychological support. Beside the weekly Sunday service, this congregation operates in ‘cell groups’ in areas such as Koviloko and Zion.

**Location:** Solomon Islands Christian Association
About the author

I started to work on Pentecostalism in 2007, as I was studying the first year of my undergraduate degree in Cultural Anthropology. One day towards the end of the spring, I was approached by a couple of Christian missionaries who proposed me to join their Bible Study Group. That was the beginning of my first experience as participant observer, which culminated with an international gathering of Charismatic Christians in Prague. That experience became the basis for my undergraduate dissertation on the origins of the Pentecostal movement, the Second and the Third wave, and a focus on glossolalia.

Later, I continued to work on Pentecostalism as I studied my MSc in Anthropology and Development at the London School of Economics and Political Science. I wrote my Master dissertation on African Pentecostalism, with a focus on its impact on economic development.

In 2010 I moved to the University of Manchester, where I wrote my Research Proposal to study Pentecostalism in Solomon Islands. In November 2012, I concluded 13 months of fieldwork in Honiara. I am now in the writing-up phase of my PhD in Social Anthropology.

Click [here](#) for further information.

Contacts

Rodolfo Maggio

PhD Candidate
Social Anthropology
School Of Social Sciences
University of Manchester
rodolfo.maggio@postgrad.manchester.ac.uk