



# NIUE / COOK ISLANDS

**OPERATION  
WORLD**  
the definitive prayer guide to every nation



Named after Captain James Cook who sighted them in 1770, the Cook Islands became a British protectorate in 1888. By 1900, administrative control was transferred to New Zealand. In 1965, residents chose self-government in free association with New Zealand and have been ever since.

Like many other South Pacific island nations, the Cook Islands' economic development is hindered by the isolation of the country from foreign markets, lack of natural resources, periodic devastation from natural disasters, and inadequate infrastructure.

The emigration of skilled workers to New Zealand and government deficits are continuing problems.

## GIVE THANKS

**Offshore banking industry has been effectively shut down.**

Niue is one of the world's largest coral islands, with a total of 259 km<sup>2</sup> consisting of steep limestone cliffs along the coast with a central plateau rising to about 60 meters above sea level including an Exclusive Economic Zone of 390,000 km<sup>2</sup>. The population of the island is estimated at 1,611. 2014 marked 40 years since Niue achieved independence in free association with New-Zealand.

Agriculture is very important to the culture and traditions of Niueans, it also contributes to the economy. About 204km<sup>2</sup> (about 78 percent) of Niue's total land area are available for agriculture.

Male homosexuality is illegal in the Cook Islands and is punishable by a maximum term of seven years' imprisonment.

Most of the Niuean population (±70%) are Protestant. Migrants to New Zealand bring many to attend the island churches in Auckland and other New Zealand cities. They bring new life back to their island homeland.

## PRAY FOR

- **The strong Christian legacy** of over 150 years – bordering on theocracy on some islands – is fading rapidly. Increasing numbers are nominal or even non-religious, and Mormons and Jehovah's Witnesses are the fastest growing groups. Pray for reversal of these trends and for new life to come to the mainline Churches.
- **Many smaller islands have no known evangelical witness.** There are evangelicals in several Pentecostal and Independent churches and small groups within the older churches. **YWAM's** new base in Rarotonga could be instrumental in rejuvenating the churches of the Cook Islands and beyond. Pray for an outpouring that would see older churches revived, new churches planted and every island with the presence of active believers.



JOSHUA PROJECT

### THE UNREACHED

*Although there may be a few believers or even a few churches, they are a people group among which there is no indigenous community of believing Christians with adequate numbers and resources to evangelize their own people group.*

**A total of 0 People Groups are Unreached –  
0 (0% of population) people who have limited or NO access to the Gospel.**



**REDEPTIVE GIFTS OF THE NATION**

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**NOTES**

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