



Uniting Church in Australia
SYNOD OF VICTORIA AND TASMANIA

FIJI CYCLONE APPEAL

**Cyclone Winston: Lives lost
and hundreds left homeless**



Photo: ABC News

DONATIONS: Call 1800 668 426 or visit www.shareappeal.org.au

Our friends in Fiji are suffering widespread destruction in the aftermath of Cyclone Winston, which hit on Saturday 20th February.

Reports to date indicate that 29 people are confirmed dead and around 14,000 people are sheltering in evacuation centers. Whole villages have been destroyed, particularly on the island of Koro where a relief and assessment ship is being deployed.

Share has launched an emergency appeal with donations supporting UnitingWorld's partner, the Methodist Church in Fiji. The Methodist Church is the largest denomination in the country, covering an extensive network across 55 districts. President Rev Tevita Bainivanua has opened all church buildings for emergency shelter and has directed ministers throughout the country to assess and report on the extent of the damage.

According to UnitingWorld staff member Rev Dr Cliff Bird, who is on the ground in the capital of Suva, destruction has been "widespread and very bad."

"The Lau group of islands, Koro Island, villages on Vanua Levu and their township Savusavu have been hit very badly. Hundreds of homes have been lost, infrastructure damaged, farms, vegetable gardens, livelihoods destroyed. Water and power supply to many areas are still down," he said.

Donations will be forwarded to UnitingWorld and used to support the Methodist Church's relief efforts, including:

- re-establishing healthcare and schools
- replanting crops and livelihoods and
- 'building back better' to safeguard communities against future cyclones.

The Uniting Church has long been committed to assisting those in need, especially during times of crisis. Please consider contributing what you can, to stand beside our neighbours and to offer the practical support they desperately need at this time.

To donate, please complete the form below and return to PO Box 24154, Melbourne VIC 3001, call **1800 668 426** or visit **www.shareappeal.org.au**

YES! I want to help! Here is my gift to the Fiji Cyclone Appeal:



Donation Amount: \$

My details:

(Mr/Mrs/Ms/Miss/Dr/Rev) First Name Surname

Address

Suburb State P/Code

Phone Email

Payment details: I enclose my cheque/money order (made payable to Share - Fiji Cyclone Appeal) OR

Please debit my: Mastercard Visa Amex

Card Number Expiry Date /

Name on card Signature

Donations \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Share - Fiji Cyclone Appeal | PO Box 24154, Melbourne VIC 3001 | **Phone:** 1800 668 426 **Fax:** (03) 9251 5491