

**MISSIONS ATLAS PROJECT
PACIFIC OCEAN
KIRIBATI**

Snapshots Section

Country Name: Republic of Kiribati

Country Founded in: July 12, 1979

Population: 112,850

Government Type: The capital is located on Tarawa. There are three sub-divisions based upon traditional groupings of islands—the Gilbert Islands, the Line Islands, and the Phoenix Islands.

Geography/location in the world: Kiribati consists of a grouping of 33 different coral atolls which lie in the middle of the Pacific Ocean between Hawaii and Australia.

Number of people groups: 4

Picture of flag:



Religion Snapshot

Major Religion and % of population: Roman Catholic 50% to 52%

All religions and % for each: (Gleaned from *Operation World*. Some people are doubly-affiliated with more than one religious group so some discrepancy in figures could occur.)

Protestant	39.6%
Independent	1.01%
Anglican	0.18%
Catholic	50.37%
Marginal	8.69%
Unaffiliated	1.75%
Baha'i	5.20%
Non-Religious/ Other	0.40%

The government supports religious liberty.

<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127273.htm>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>

Country Profile

Basic Facts

Country Name: Kiribati

Demographics:

The estimated population of Kiribati is 112,850. Children up to fourteen years of age account for 37.6% of the population. Adults between the ages of fifteen and sixty-four years of age account for 59% of the population. In the last age category, the 65 and over group accounts for 3.5% of the population. The median age for males is 20.3 years, and the median age for females is 21.3 years. The population growth rate is 2.235%.

The birth rate is 30.2 births for every 1,000 people. There are an estimated 4.04 children born to every woman. The infant mortality rate is 43.48 deaths for every 1,000 live births. The death rate is 7.85 deaths for every 1,000 people. The life expectancy for the total population is 63.22 years. The life expectancy for females is slightly higher at 66.45 years while the life expectancy for males is slightly lower at 60.14 years.

There are approximately 4 different people groups. About 98.8% of the people are of Micronesian descent. Another 1.2% of the people migrated to the island from China, Great Britain, or Tuvalu.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>

Language:

English and I-Kiribati are the two primary languages spoken on the islands. English is used in business and educational realms while I-Kiribati is used at home and in social arenas. Some church services are held in both languages while others occur primarily in I-Kiribati. The people living on the outer islands use English far more rarely than those living in and around Tarawa.

http://www.trussel.com/f_kir.htm#Gil (Out-of-Print Sections of a Peace Corps Handbook on the Language)

<http://www.visit-kiribati.com/index.php/practicalinformation/languageculture>

<http://www.y2kleader.com/kiribati/index.html> (Translation site)

Society/Culture:

Honor and respect of elders are two of the most important values in Kiribati culture. Because of the small amount of living space, people are taught as children to abide by specific cultural rules which allow a large number of people to peacefully cohabit on the islands. All aspects of life will be affected by these rules. People, who bring dishonor or shame to their family or clan, could face the ultimate punishment of being excluded from the community.

The *maneaba* is a meeting house that is a central part of every community. Elders will meet here to discuss decisions which will affect community members. Major feasts and celebrations will

occur here. The meeting house can also act as a place of safety. If a woman feels threatened by her husband, she can run there to find sanctuary until the elders can review the matter.

Each clan will have a senior member which will represent the interests of the clan in the Maneaba. This representative is usually the eldest person of the family and the person who holds the most authority. Younger members must show this person, and other elders, proper respect. Women do not usually speak in the meeting house. If they have concerns, they must speak to their father or husband who will in turn bring the request to the attention of the elders.

Islanders do not usually deny a request of another person. If someone has a needed item, he or she is expected to share with other members of the clan. Telling someone "no" is not culturally acceptable when a person asks for help from another clan member. If the listener denies a request for help, the requester believes that the listener is ignoring the person's needs. This is unacceptable in a culture where life depends upon a cooperative effort.

When the request concerns the lending of money, the above stated rule does not always apply. People from the north, central, and southern islands have different attitudes towards sharing money with others. People from the south will usually never ask to borrow items or money because they consider such an action to be rude. However, people from the north and central islands use a barter system which allows for the exchange of services and obligations.

While people do not usually respond with a "no" answer, they may make promises that they will not fulfill immediately. Breaking a promise is not considered to be socially unacceptable in certain instances. Disobeying obligations and promises made to elders is culturally inappropriate.

People will not usually discuss their personal problems with others. People are expected to find solutions to their own problems. In fact, people may laugh in the face of danger since showing fear is considered inappropriate. Refusing to discuss stressful emotions has sometimes caused people to commit suicide when they felt that they had no place to find help.

People are also encouraged not to display all that they know about a subject. They may have quite a bit of knowledge about a particular skill or area, but will not volunteer such information unless the speaker requests that they do so. Islanders respect silence.

People maintain this air of silence while eating as well. Food will be passed among all sitting at the table, but conversation may or may not accompany the food. If there are not enough spoons, people will use their fingers since the use of forks and knives is uncommon. Men will generally be served first while women and children will eat at a later time. Eating the entire portion served to a person is essential.

Islanders have very different concepts concerning time. Punctuality was not important before the arrival of missionaries. While missionaries introduced the Westernized ideals concerning the importance of time, most islanders still have a more relaxed understanding of how time works. For example, if a speaker requests to speak with someone, the listener must stop and take the time to speak. Refusing to take the time to visit with a speaker indicates that the listener considers the speaker to be less important.

Families dictate marriages for both boys and girls. Girls are expected to be chaste and will bring great dishonor to themselves and their clan if they are found to impure. As a result, dating is uncommon. In fact, a girl will not usually even stop to talk to a man to whom she is not related.

As a girl approaches a marriageable age, the members of her immediate family begin to compile a list of possible suitors. The members of the family consider the complex family histories of the suitors as well as how well the potential suitors follow traditional norms. The suitor's ownership of valuable land is always an advantage in his favor. For girls who wish to marry, the possession of high intelligence, industry, and beauty are helpful.

Once an engagement has been informally discussed, the girl's extended family will review the qualities of the potential husband more thoroughly. If the fiancé is found to lack some needed characteristic, the family will find some small excuse to end the engagement without revealing their concerns over the character of the suitor. If the girl's family does not achieve the breaking of the engagement tactfully, the suitor's family will be insulted. Such an insult could cause dire results including public disputes or even physical violence between the two families.

In the case of a happy betrothal, the families of the engaged couple plans a huge public feast called the *Karinrin*, an I-Kiribati word which means "to accept." At this feast, the members of the boy's family will give gifts of clothes and hair accessories to the girl to demonstrate that she will be well-treated. Both families will decide when the marriage will officially occur. At the end of the feast, the boy will return the girl to her home where her grandparents will declare the engagement to be official.

The marriage ceremony will usually occur in the church. Huge feasting accompanies the wedding. Traditionally, the suitor's family will provide gifts like huge baskets of fish while the girl's family will provide sleeping mats or coconuts. The girls may also be given common household items. The couple will then leave the feast for a special place that has been prepared for them by their families. The next morning the mother-in-law checks to assure the families of the bride's chastity. If evidence can be produced that the bride is not chaste, the marriage could be dissolved. Such an occurrence would cause public humiliation and disgrace for the bride and for the family.

Traditionally married couples or even engaged couples would not show any type of affection in public. Holding hands or saying "I love you" was considered to be inappropriate. Youth have been influenced by Western ideas and may not follow these cultural taboos as strictly.

There are various other types of social taboos that visitors need to know. People should never throw any type of item. Islanders train their children to never throw an item because of the perceived danger of the item accidentally hitting another person. No one ever touches the head of another person either, especially if that person is an elder. In fact, when a walker passes someone in a sitting position, they should murmur *matauninga* which means "excuse me." Additionally, people should not sit with their legs outstretched in front of them and should not walk across someone who has unwittingly done so.

The coconut was not only traditionally the primary food staple for islanders, but also provided material for traditional houses and clothing. People would drink coconut milk or would mix the grated meat with breadfruit, bwabwai and pandanus. Today, though, many people have discarded the use of coconuts for modern conveniences like flour or rice. The leaves of the coconut tree were used to make skirts for women and for men. Today, people may prefer imported materials such as cotton. Finally, the stem and leaves of the trees were used to construct houses.

There are several public holidays in Kiribati. People observe Christian holidays such as Easter and Christmas. They also remember Independence Day on July 13th. December 11th is Human Rights Day while August 7th is Youth Day. April 18th is Health Day.

<http://www.visit-kiribati.com/index.php/practicalinformation/languageculture>

<http://www.kaniworld.com/index.html>

Government:

Kiribati is a republic with three branches of government—the executive, legislative, and judicial. All people over the age 18 may vote.

The capital is located in Tarawa. Beneath the national branches of government are administrative sub-units—the Gilbert Islands, the Line Islands, and the Phoenix Islands. Additionally, each inhabited island has its own local council which oversees local affairs. Elders on these councils hold immense power over the daily lives of the islanders. The local councils have the right to make decisions concerning taxation including the amount of tax that should be paid by a landowner.

The judicial system makes decisions based upon the Constitution which was ratified in 1979. Laws written in this document as well as newer laws are based upon the traditions of English common law and from traditions which have been passed down from the ancestors. The highest court in the land is called the High Court and consists of a chief justice and a number of others. Below this court is a Court of Appeals and 26 Magistrates' courts. The president appoints all judges. This court system handles all criminal and civil cases except those involving land. When people have cases concerning the ownership of land, they must go through a separate system of native land courts.

The executive branch consists of the office of President, the office of Vice-President, and a Presidential cabinet. The President serves as the Chief of State and the head of the government. He is sometimes known locally as the Beretitenti. A citizen who wishes to serve as President must first be elected to serve as a representative in the House of Parliament because each President is selected from members of this body.

During an election year, members of the House of Parliament will select candidates from among themselves as possible Presidential contenders. Then, by holding an election among the members of the House of Parliament, they will select who the new President will be. Since 2003, Anote Tong has served in this capacity. The Vice President since 2003 is Teima Onorio. The members of the Presidential cabinet are appointed by the acting President, but usually come from the House of Parliament. There are twelve members who serve in various capacities on this Council.

The legislative branch consists of a unicameral House of Parliament which is also known locally as the Maneaba Ni Maungatabu. Forty-six people serve as representatives to the legislature. Forty-four of these members are elected by popular vote while the attorney general serves as an ex-officio member. The Rabi Council of Leaders sends the last member to represent the interests of the people who once dwelt upon Banaba Island (please see history section for more information). They usually serve for four year terms unless a vote of no confidence for the President occurs (as it did in 1994 and 2003). If this vote of no confidence occurs, then the president leaves his post and the legislature is dissolved until new presidential and legislative elections can be held. During the time of dissolution, a Council of State oversees governmental affairs.

<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~ogden/piir/pacific/kiribati.html>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations Asia and Oceania

Economy:

The official currency is the Australian dollar. Exchange rates in 2008 equaled 1.2059. Kiribati has little access to valuable natural resources. Phosphate exploitation occurred before independence, but was exhausted years ago. The Revenue Equalization Reserve Fund which was a special type of trust set up to save earnings from previous phosphate endeavors does still contribute about \$554 million. Today, though, much of the revenue for the government comes from the issuance of fishing licenses to international companies. About \$20 million to \$35 million is generated from such sales annually. A large amount of money is lost, however, because of illegal fishing. The government hopes to encourage the growth of the tourist industry in future years.

In 2008, the Gross Domestic Product (GDP) was \$579.5 million. The real growth rate of the GDP was 3.4%. The GDP per capita was about \$5,300. About 8.9% came from agriculture while 24.2% came from industry. The main contributor to the GDP was the services sector at 66.8%.

About 7,870 people participate in the work force. Estimates of people unemployed range from 2% to 10%. Many men leave the island to work as seamen for months at a time and return to contribute their earnings to their families. Most families on the outer islands are fishermen who supplement their incomes with subsistence farming. Men who decide not to return to sea may use their earnings to invest in small businesses.

In 2004, exports equaled \$17 million. Approximately 62% of this revenue came from the export of copra, which is the dried meat of the coconut. Other exports included seaweed and fish.

In 2004, imports equaled about \$62 million. Most imports come from Australia. Families like to have the cash brought by the seamen to purchase items like rice and flour. However, they tried to avoid canned fish unless their own fishing efforts were for naught. Other imports include machinery, equipment, and the fuel to run the machines. Interestingly, one problem faced by machine and technology users is the ability to fix items as they break. Technicians may have to be flown from other areas, which can be costly.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>

Worldmark Encyclopedia of the Nations Asia and Oceania

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1836.htm>

Literacy:

In 2002, about 17.8% of the Gross Domestic Product went toward educational expenses. Most schools were originally started by different churches, but were later ceded to government control. Primary School begins around the age of six and will continue until the child is at least 12. Secondary schools are supported by both the government and by private church entities. Post-secondary schooling may occur at a seafarer's school or at other types of technical schools. Some people choose to migrate to Australia or other countries to attend a college or university.

Most teachers use the lecture method of teaching. Students are supposed to be able to summarize the statements of the teacher. Yet, students are also supposed to engage in practical work so that they may develop their skills.

It is estimated that 93% of males and 95% of females are literate.

<http://www.janeresture.com/kiribati-edu/education.htm>

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>

http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/asro/bangkok/skills-ap/skills/kiribati_literacy.htm

Land/Geography:

The country of Kiribati is located about 2,500 miles southwest of Hawaii. The geographic coordinates are 1 25 N, 173 00 E. Kiribati consists of 33 different atolls which spread out across the Pacific Ocean. While the total land area is only about 811 square miles, the exclusive economic zone, which gives islanders possession of wide swaths of ocean, is 200 nautical miles.

The atolls are divided into three main groups. The Gilbert Islands are probably the largest and most well known group. The capital is located on Tarawa and many people have migrated there due to their hopes of finding work and a more modern lifestyle. The Phoenix Islands are another island grouping. The final island grouping is called the Line Islands. These are usually less inhabited.

The atolls are mostly made of coral. Each atoll is a small strip of land which usually surrounds a lagoon. The lagoons may be deeply polluted because they are used as repositories of waste—both physical and industrial. There may be reefs in the waters surrounding the atoll. Ships wishing to come into port will need knowledgeable navigators to help bring the landing crafts into the harbors safely.

The atolls have coconut trees which grow to provide a sustainable source of food and shade. Their soil is not really conducive for many agricultural pursuits because of the infertility of the soil. Only 2.74% of the land is arable.

The climate is fairly tropical. The humidity usually ranges between 70 to 90%. People with low tolerances to humidity may have health related issues. Trade winds do help bring coolness to the air.

There are different types of natural disasters which islanders must endure. Typhoons can hit between November and March. These typhoons can cause loss of land mass and major damage through flooding. Sometimes tornados hit the islands bringing substantial damage to buildings made from local materials. The most recent challenge has been the loss of land due to changes in sea levels. This threat has caused the government to begin working with the United Nations to explore the possibility of resettlement of for islanders in other countries. Some islanders have already lost their traditional homes.

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/kr.html>

<http://islands.unep.ch/CKQ.htm>

http://www.janeresture.com/kiribati_phoenix_group/index.htm

http://www.janeresture.com/kiribati_line/index.htm

History

The earliest inhabitants of the islands probably immigrated from Micronesia between 200 and 500 A.D. Other inhabitants came later from Tonga and Fiji. These immigrants learned to use the sea and the few available resources to survive and thrive in a place without adequate access to a reliable freshwater supply and the threat of natural disasters.

The first European visitors to the islanders were actually sailors who used the atolls as layovers where they could re-stock supplies. These layovers began as early as the 1500's, but Captain James Cook is given credit for naming Kiritimati Island (which, in English, is pronounced "Christmas") in 1777. Later, in 1820, Thomas Gilbert named the one of the groups of islands after himself. In fact, one of the groups of islands is still commonly referred to as the "Gilbert" Islands. The name Kiribati is actually the way indigenous peoples pronounce the word "Gilbert."

By the 1860's, layovers by ships were becoming more frequent as islanders began to trade coconut oil and copra for items offered by the passing ships. At this time, islanders also began to leave the islands to work on board some of the ships.

Europeans began to visit more frequently when missionaries sought to win the people to Christ. Missionaries came between 1850 and 1870. They first visited the islands but some later decided to stay to build permanent residencies. Sailors from whaling ships sometimes decided to live permanently on the island due to intermarriage with members of the local population.

The British formally declared the islands to be their protectorate in 1892. Tarawa became the base for administrative efforts. Men were assigned to each major island to serve as a local magistrate. Laws were passed locally. The British later claimed the Ellice Islands and joined the two island groups to form an official colony in 1916.

The British continued to rule the islands, except for a brief period between 1942 and 1943, when the Japanese Imperial forces took control during World War II. The Japanese landed and held the islands until U.S. military forces arrived to invade. The islanders were surrounded by heavy fighting and much damage was done as the two opposing military forces fought for control of

these tiny atolls. Eventually, the Japanese were driven out, and control of the islands reverted back to the British.

By the beginning of the 1960's, some islanders were beginning to call for independence. These efforts led to a national referendum in which Ellice Islanders opted to form their own country which they called Tuvalu. The Gilbert Islanders, along with those living on the Phoenix and Line Islands, formed the new country of Kiribati. Government formation began in 1977 and was finished in 1979.

The first President of the new nation was Ieremia Tabai. He held office until April of 1982 when his government was dissolved due to a vote of no confidence. He was later re-elected in 1983 and 1987. He left office in 1991, because, by constitutional law he could not run again for re-election.

The next president was Teatao Teannaki, who had formerly served as the Vice-President. He had to resign after a vote of no confidence in 1994 and was succeeded by Teburoro Tito. As the new President, Tito held office until a vote of no confidence caused him to lose power in 2003. Then, the current President, Anote Tong assumed leadership.

Since around 1995, the government has been working to resettle people from Tarawa to some of the outer islands due to overcrowding. They have also been working with the United Nations to solve ecological problems resulting from the rising of sea levels.

Banaba Island, which is mostly uninhabited, has a special place in the history of Kiribati. The island was the site of massive phosphate mining until 1979 when the supply became too low. In the 1940's, the British government removed islanders because of the effects of the mining on the island. These islanders were resettled on the Fijian island of Rabi and later became full citizens of Fiji. Yet, they still technically own the island of Banaba. As such, they send a representative to preserve their rights to Kiribati's legislature.

<http://www.thecommonwealth.org/YearbookInternal/145163/history/>
<http://www.visit-kiribati.com/index.php/aboutkiribati/history>

Christian History

Missionaries from the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions (ABCFM) began visiting the islands during the late 1850's. Hiram Bingham and his wife visited the island of Abaiang with Samoan representatives in 1857. They began active church planting and also taught local residents how to read and write. They had translated the Bible by 1893 as well as several hymns. They worked primarily on the Northern Gilbert Islands.

In 1870, Samoan pastors under the direction of the London Missionary Society (LMS), began to work in the Southern Gilbert Islands. They started schools and used a printing press to print Christian materials. The representatives of the ABCFM had to leave in 1917 and entrusted their congregations to representatives of the LMS. The Samoan pastors of the LMS trained local leaders to serve as pastors and by the early 1940's, local pastors took care of the congregations. The work of these early missionaries brought about the church which is today known as the Kiribati Protestant Church. The KPC church supports local secondary schools and a training college for pastors.

Roman Catholic priests and nuns began to arrive around 1888. Because of the early efforts of two islanders who had converted to Roman Catholicism while working on the island of Tahiti, the priests found a congregation of about 500 people who were ready to begin to participate in mass. The Roman Catholics eventually built a series of schools and colleges. The first I-Kiribati priest was ordained about 90 years after the arrival of the first European priests. This priest later became the bishop of the diocese.

Other missionaries came to the islands in the latter part of the 20th century. Seventh Day Adventists arrived at the end of World War II and began active church planting in Abemama. Two different Church of God groups also came around that time.

<http://www.visit-kiribati.com/index.php/aboutkiribati/history>

<http://www.oikoumene.org/en/member-churches/regions/pacific/kiribati/kiribati-protestant-church.html>

Religion

All information unless otherwise noted is gleaned from *Operation World* and *World Christian Encyclopedia Volume I*.

Non Christian

Baha'i—Elena and Roy Fernie, immigrants from Panama, first came to the village of Tuarabu in 1954. In 2004 there were 115 locations where people could gain information about the beliefs of this group. There were 38 spiritual assemblies. The group supports a preschool teacher training center.

<http://news.bahai.org/story/301>

Catholic—The Catholic Church was started by two Kiribati men named Petero and Tiroi who decided to become Catholic while working in Tahiti. They brought their religious beliefs with them to the islands and taught them to their families. In 1888, priests arrived and found several believers. The main diocese is located on Tarawa. Catechists assist the bishop there with the work on outlying islands. In 2004 there were 25 parishes and 24 priests. About 48,908 people attended mass.

<http://www.catholic-hierarchy.org/diocese/dtana.html>

Jehovah's Witness—This organization sent representatives beginning in 1960. In 2001 there was one church with 36 members.

The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormons)—This group began their efforts on the island around 1960. In 2005 there were 20 congregations and 4,192 members.

<http://newsroom.lds.org/ldsnewsroom/eng/contact-us/kiribati>

Non-religious—About .4% of the people state that they have no religious affiliation.

Christian/Evangelical

Anglican Church—This church is associated with the diocese of Polynesia. In 2001 there was one church with about 36 members.

Assemblies of God—This church began around 1975. In 2005 there were 11 congregations and 200 members.

Christ Groups—This denomination began around 1980 after a campaign called Every Home for Christ. In 2001 there were 73 home churches and 600 members.

Church of God—This denomination began work in 1954. It was a mission of the South Carolina Memorial Church of God. In 2001 there was one church with 100 members.

Church of God Cleveland—This group is based in Tarawa and started work around 1955. In 2005 there were 25 churches and 1,366 congregants.

Kiribati Protestant Church—This church began around 1856. In 2005 there were 131 congregations and 10,000 members. The Kiriati Protestant Church is, however, experiencing decline, losing members and clergy to Catholic, Baha'i, and Mormon groups.

http://www.janesoceania.com/kiribati_kpc/index.htm

New Apostolic Church—This denomination began work around 1990. In 2001 there were 2 churches and 100 members.

Presbyterian Church—This church was founded by immigrants from other Pacific regions who migrated to the islands. In 2001 there was one church with 40 members.

Seventh Day Adventist Church—This group began work around 1947. In 2009 there were 11 churches and 2,121 members.

<http://www.adventistdirectory.org/ViewAdmField.aspx?AdmFieldID=KRBM>

Other Protestant Churches—There were at least ten other churches and 500 more members associated with these churches that were not affiliated with mainline denominations.

People Groups

9086

British (219)

The British governed the islands until independence. Those living there now may have settled back in earlier days or may be business people living there. They speak English and thus have access to the Bible and the *Jesus* film. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

9087

Han Chinese (55)

The Han Chinese living on the islands have migrated there for business purposes. They speak Mandarin Chinese and thus have access to the complete Bible and the *Jesus* film. About 54% have some type of religious belief. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

9088

Kiribertese (91,493)

The Kiribertese people are the original settlers of the islands. They belong to the Micronesian people cluster. They are sometimes called Gilbertese. They generally are familiar with English, but use I-Kiribati, their heart language, most of the time.

In their language, the complete Bible has been translated. The *Jesus* film is also accessible. Gospel recordings exist. About 96% of the people have some type of religious belief. Approximately 6.7% of the population is evangelical Christian.

9089

Tuvaluan (767)

The Tuvaluan people on the island migrated there from the country of Tuvalu. They speak a language called Tuvaluan. The complete Bible has been translated in this language, but the *Jesus* film and other resources are not available. About 97% of the people have some type of religious beliefs. The number of evangelical Christians is unknown.

Missiological Implications

1. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to aid the local believers in sharing the good news of Jesus with the Roman Catholics on Kiribati. Over 50% of the people are Catholic and need the message of Jesus Christ.
2. Evangelical Christians and churches should be aware of the Kiribati government's efforts to resettle peoples from overcrowded areas such as Tarawa to less settled islands. Evangelicals should initiate efforts to start new churches, provide new jobs, and help establish health care facilities for these peoples in resettlement areas. Peoples in resettlement situations have long been known to be receptive to Christian evangelism.
3. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek ways to support the economic realities of these peoples. Businesses and other ways to boost the local economy would be a great benefit.
4. Evangelical Christians and churches should seek to support leadership training in Kiribati. Church leaders need more opportunities for theological training and more theological study materials. The theological library of Tangintebu Theological College needs many books to aid the study of the leaders. Visiting teachers can greatly aid the work at Tangintebu Theological College. Teachers could go for three month stints to help supplement the current teaching staff.

http://www.janesoceania.com/kiribati_kpc/index.htm

Pictures

http://www.janesoecania.com/kiribati_king_tide/index.htm



Links

<http://www.janeresture.com/kirihome/>
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/1836.htm>
<http://www.state.gov/g/drl/rls/irf/2009/127273.htm>
<http://www.everyculture.com/Ja-Ma/Kiribati.html>