

Monday, January 4<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**From Randy English**

**Tutuila Island,**

**American Samoa**

Dear friends,

You may have heard that **earlier today an earthquake struck the Solomon Islands**. The 7.2 magnitude earthquake struck south-southeast of **Gizo**, which is an area in the Western Province of the Solomon Islands where we work in teaching and preaching the Gospel. In fact, there are Christians in that area. We are presently working to obtain more information, and we will keep you updated. We are scheduled to be working in the Solomon Islands in just a few weeks from now. Please pray for all the Christians and others in the Solomon Islands, as well as all here in the Samoan Islands. As you know, we are still recovering from an 8.3 earthquake and destructive tsunami that struck the Samoan Islands on Sept 29th. Lives were lost and much property destroyed, but the Lord has brought forth many opportunities to serve people physically and spiritually.

Your co-workers in Christ,

Randy and Sharon English

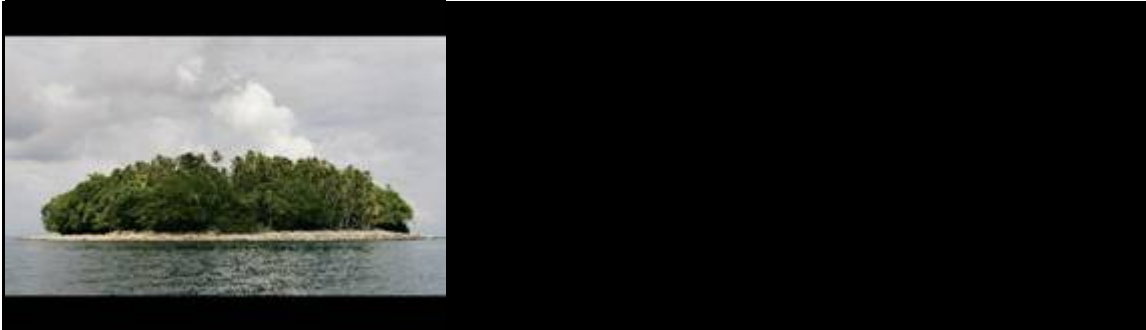
Tutuila Island,

American Samoa

REPORT:

## **Solomon Islands Hit by 7.2 Magnitude Earthquake, Local Tsunami**

By Ed Johnson



Jan. 4 (Bloomberg) -- The Solomon Islands archipelago in the Pacific was hit by a 7.2-magnitude earthquake today causing a local tsunami, disaster agencies said. Several houses collapsed and some people were injured as they ran away from the shore in panic, Agence France-Presse reported.

The quake hit at 9:36 a.m. local time about 105 kilometers (65 miles) south-southeast of Gizo, at a depth of 30.5 kilometers, the [U.S. Geological Survey](#) said.

The [Pacific Tsunami Warning Center](#) said sea level measurements taken off Honiara indicated a tsunami of 6 centimeters (0.2 feet) was generated. There was no region-wide threat, it said.

"The earthquake caused a small wave," AFP cited Julian Makaa of the country's National Disaster Management Office as saying. Some homes collapsed on the island of Rendova, near Gizo, he said.

The Solomon Islands archipelago, about 2,500 kilometers east of Australia, lies in the Pacific "Ring of Fire" and experiences frequent seismic tremors. About 50 people were killed and more than 5,000 left homeless there after an 8.1-magnitude earthquake triggered a tsunami in April 2007.

Today's 7.2-magnitude quake was the strongest of several temblors to hit off Gizo. A 6.5-magnitude [earthquake](#) struck at 8:48 a.m. local time, according to the USGS, followed by quakes of 5.3, 5.2 and 5.7. Gizo is the second-largest town in the Solomon Islands with a population of about 6,000 people, according to AFP.

The tsunami warning center said that "small, non- destructive sea level changes" could last for several hours in other coastal areas.

There was no tsunami threat to the Australian coastline, the **Bureau of Meteorology** said on its Web site.

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*Last Updated: January 4, 2010 00:42 EST*