

Newsletter

REACHING INTO *THE FUTURE*



Seeking Social Changers and Culture Impactors

Over the past nine years, Marine Reach has felt the Lord's direction to invest in discipling the nation of Vanuatu. We do this through many avenues, with one of the most exciting being the five month long Discipleship Training Schools based out of our Family Care Centre outside of Port Vila.

Vanuatu is an island chain of 83 islands in the tropical waters of the South Pacific, with a complex history of Lapita settlers originally arriving about 3,000 years ago, followed by European explorers 500 years ago, and eventually Christian evangelism efforts and colonisation during the 1800's. More recent economic growth opportunities have attracted the attention of the Chinese government, among others.

Despite widespread Christian presence, Vanuatu remains strongly influenced by the animistic practices of the past, with many "kastom" traditions and activities occurring everyday. These practices - and the worldview and beliefs behind them - continue to significantly impact the day-to-day lives of NiVanuatu people and their social and cultural relationships.

While many aid organisations invest in Vanuatu, and many nations have extended loans and grants with an eye toward the economic potential of Vanuatu, Marine Reach believes the only way for long term change and healing to occur in the darker aspects of NiVan culture is through individuals meeting and being impacted by the restorative power of the living God. One life changed impacts a family, and a family impacted overflows into communities. And those changes will eventually affect the culture. Through these transformations, we believe the beauty and reflections of God that are inherent in the people of Vanuatu will shine forth clearly to bring Him glory.

The Family Care Centre is facilitating a Discipleship Training School in July 2024, with the desire to see as many NiVan young people as possible being disciplined in the way of Jesus during the five month course. One of the biggest hurdles for young people to participate in the DTS is the financial cost. We would love to offer scholarships to as many people as possible, but to do that, we need your help!

If you would like to be a part of changing the culture and society of Vanuatu, and participating in the impactful work of discipling this nation, please consider giving a donation toward our FCC scholarship fund via www.familycarecentre.org/donate

Staff Spotlight: Jarrett Kowski

Marine
Reach
For God. For Good. 

In January 2020, 18-year-old Jarrett Kowski arrived in New Zealand after 33 hours of travel from Wisconsin to participate in a Discipleship Training School (DTS) at Marine Reach.

Little did he or anyone else know what the next few months would include for him or for the world!

As Covid was declared a worldwide pandemic in March of 2020, Jarrett's DTS outreach plans were cancelled, and Jarrett was faced with a decision: stay on in New Zealand at Marine Reach, or head home to ride out the pandemic in the USA? He felt the Lord led him to stay in New Zealand, so on a journey of faith, Jarrett chose to stay and trade an outreach for participating in Marine Reach's School of Primary Health Care (SPHC).

After completing the lecture phase of his SPHC in early July, Jarrett was unable to participate in an SPHC outreach due to New Zealand's and much of the South Pacific's closed borders. So, Jarrett was able to jump into Marine Reach's first ever Discipleship Bible School (DBS) in July 2020.

Having participated in more training schools than most people, Jarrett was well poised to transition into staffing for Marine Reach when the DBS concluded in October 2020.

Over the past three years, Jarrett's well rounded educational experience has allowed him many opportunities on the staff team: helping staff subsequent DBS's along with a vast array of other roles supporting the work of the ministry, including time in Operations and most recently, serving in the kitchen. Jarrett also has had plenty of opportunities to grow and share his faith through mentorship, evangelism, intercession, and worship.

Jarrett reflects on his time here at Marine Reach: "At first I just came to do a school and have a wild experience, but my own adventure turned out to be quite different. The greatest gift God has given me so far is space and time here at Marine Reach, to get away from all that was familiar, everything, and to find healing and be restored in the stillness and quiet. May the Lord also bless you with intimate seasons of slowing down to rest on his green hills and by his peaceful rivers."

We are so thankful for Jarrett's years of commitment and service to Marine Reach. For more information about how you can get involved in Marine Reach, please visit: www.marinereach.com



Mat Time Update

Next month will mark the 4 year anniversary of the launch of “Mat Time,” which is a weekly outreach and discipleship program to the men of Vanuatu.

When it was initially launched, Mat Time occurred in only one location (at the Family Care Centre). Now, 208 weeks later, Mat Time occurs three times weekly. These weekly interactions allow anywhere from 20 to 50 NiVanuatu men, ranging in age from teenagers to young adults, to engage in conversations and receive teaching around what is the role and identity of a man, and what it means to live as a godly man in their families and communities.

In a relationally-oriented nation such as Vanuatu, developing trust-filled relationships is key to making an impact on people’s lives, and Mat Time is one way that such relationships have been sought and allowed to grow.

Edward Saveke, who coordinated Mat Time during the 2023 year, noted that relational trust and through that, the ability to have real, meaningful, impactful conversations, was a big encouragement to the Mat Time team. Discipleship is often built on a foundation of time and consistency, and the Mat Time ministry has certainly endeavoured to show up in these men’s lives consistently over the long haul.

Looking forward toward this 5th year of ministry, the FCC is hoping to expand Mat Time to more communities. Our greatest need at the moment is more staff to facilitate Mat Time in new locations. We are also hoping to do more one on discipleship with some of the young men we have spent the last few years building relationships with.

Would you please pray for the young men attending Mat Time to continue to grow and live out what they’re learning. Also pray for more staff to join the Mat Time team.

You can be involved in supporting the ministry of Mat Time by participating in our fundraising efforts for our upcoming DTS at the Family Care Centre. As more NiVan men get discipled and trained to follow Jesus, pray that more men see the value in participating in the Mat Time Team.

For more information about how we are seeking to see societal and cultural changes Vanuatu, please visit: www.familycarecentre.org



TO TRAIN, EMPOWER, EQUIP AND SEND

DONATE NOW AND BE THE CHANGE YOU WISH TO SEE IN THE WORLD!



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Join the movement for global impact with **Marine Reach!** Your support can bring healing, education, and hope to communities in need. Whether it's a one-time gift or a monthly commitment, even a few dollars can create a lasting change. Scan the QR code with your smartphone's camera, or simply click the link that appears on your screen, to set up a monthly donation. **Visit: www.marinereach.com/donate** and be the driving force of transformation. Your contribution matters, shaping a brighter future for all.



We invite you to contemplate the profound impact of contributing a portion of your estate to ensure the enduring progress of Marine Reach even beyond your lifetime.

Thank you!



Thanks to a recent donation of \$220, we were able to restock chickpeas, tomatoes, and rolled oats for our emergency food supply. We regularly cycle out and use our emergency food stock, while maintaining enough on hand to feed all staff and students for a week in the case of an emergency. As part of our Duty of Care to the staff and students who live and learn on the base, we are so thankful to have the resources to maintain our emergency food supply for peace of mind and proactive emergency preparedness. Thank you to our donors who make it possible to keep the operations of the base functional - even if we were to encounter an emergency!

DONOR PROJECTS



PRAYER PROJECTS

- **Mission Mates Program:** Help us fund the day-to-day, month-to-month, and annual costs of running a ministry effectively with a monthly gift of \$10, \$20, \$50, or more to be used for all sorts of practical costs, such as maintaining vehicles, paying for insurance, property taxes, IT support, etc. Every dollar adds up and allows us to be able to do what God has called us to do: know God and make him known!
- **DTS Scholarship Fund:** A new DTS is launching in January 2024, and we would love for finances to NOT be an obstacle for students. Would you consider making a one-time donation toward our scholarship fund so we can make a DTS financially accessible to as many as possible?

- **October DTS Outreach:** Pray for our outreach staff and students as they minister in Vanuatu and Australia for their DTS application phase. Please pray for great team dynamics, community connections, good health, safe travels, and lots of opportunities to share Jesus with others.
- **January DTS Starting:** Please pray for the January DTS and Staff as the first DTS of 2024 gets under way. Pray that the staff and students will be sensitive and receptive to what the Lord wants to do in their lives, pray for the teachers who come to serve during the lecture phase that they will speak and act with wisdom from the Holy Spirit, and pray for the unity of the base community, that it would be a fruitful, life-giving place for the students to grow in their faith and walks with Jesus.

Starting March 1, 2024, ANZ will no longer accept cheques worldwide. Please consider using online transfers or credit card donations for your support. Thank you for your understanding and ongoing assistance. **For help, reach out to our Accounting department at 07 543 3787.**

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Or Online at:

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