

Newsletter

REACHING INTO *THE FUTURE*



January 2024 School Launches

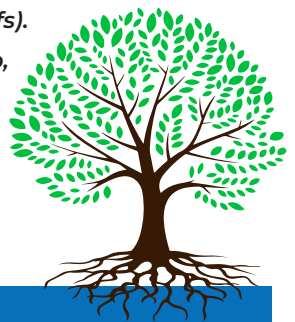
On the 29th of January, the first DTS of 2024 at Marine Reach gathered in the lecture room to begin their orientation week and launch a five month journey for each of the students of intaking teaching and instruction and mentorship on what it is to follow Jesus and be his disciples in this life. They will, after three months of intense “intake” then have the opportunity to go out from Marine Reach in teams for two months to apply what they have learned and pour out from what has been invested in them during this season.

This school's first week was a beautifully sunny, warm week, complete with a lot of practical details, such as Duty of Care and tours of the base facilities, as well as poignantly significant moments, such as the powhiri (the traditional Maori welcome ceremony), and opportunities for each student to share their life stories with their fellow students and staff.

During these early weeks of the school, the 20 students from 10 different nations have adapted to life in community, started to develop deep friendships, engaged in lively conversations, and settled into the daily routines and rituals that make up this season.

They've had teachings on a variety of topics, including how to have godly relationships, recognising God's voice, and fear of the Lord.

Ashley Hernandez, the Training Leader, shares about the launch of this school: “It's been really sweet having 20 students and seeing their intentionality with one another. One thing that has caught the school's attention is the belief tree, and how we are all “trees” needing God to establish our root system (beliefs). They've really begun to go deep, and are learning to allow growth to take place, and also steward their walk with God.”



We are excited to see how these students and staff grow over the next few months! For more information about how you can be involved in a DTS at Marine Reach, please visit: www.marinereach.com

Staff Spotlight: Maggie Takami

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In 2022, New Zealand native Maggie Takami decided to undertake a big lifestyle change and participate in a Discipleship Training School at Marine Reach.

Maggie explains her reasons: "I was always interested in doing medical missions when I was in high school, but I went to university to study pharmacy. After a year of working in pharmacy, I had a friend in church who had done a Medical Compassion DTS and I started thinking about missions again. I decided to quit my job as a pharmacist and take a break for 5 months to focus on my relationship with God through missions and I'm still here 2 years later!"

After graduating her DTS in June 2022, Maggie decided to continue her spiritual formation journey with a Discipleship Bible School. She returned to staff a DBS, going on to serve in registrar, the kitchen, and staffing DTS.

Currently, Maggie is managing the registrar department, which includes responding to inquiries about our DTS's, processing student applications, and supporting incoming students. She spends the other half of her time in the DTS classroom co-leading the DTS. This role includes helping manage the logistics of the school, walking with students as a one-on-one mentor, and facilitating small group sessions and stream times.

Maggie reflects on her time at Marine Reach and this season of serving in two different capacities: *"I am so glad that I decided to take a step of faith and quit my job in 2022. The plans God has don't always turn out the way you think. I just never would have expected to be in these two different roles, or in missions like this at all! To be honest, I have found juggling the roles in this season challenging but also so sweet at the same time. Even though I have felt stretched, God is so good at turning up and doing what He wants to. It's a privilege to interact with students in both capacities."*

We are so grateful for Maggie's faithful contribution to Marine Reach! For more information about our DTS's or how you could be involved at Marine Reach, visit: www.marinereach.com





Lectures in the Islands

October schools are always special undertakings at Marine Reach since the school spans all of summer in the Southern Hemisphere as well as occurring during some very celebratory holidays, including Christmas and New Year.

This past October school was also a school to remember as they experienced several unique “firsts.” One special occurrence was sending the staff and students on a “mini-outreach” around New Zealand for two weeks before the end of lecture phase. Another unique aspect to this school was sending the entire school to complete their last two weeks of lectures (with a strong focus on outreach preparation) in Vanuatu at the Family Care Centre.

For the FCC staff, this meant they came back from their Christmas and summer break with a bang, jumping straight into hosting the school at the FCC facilities for two weeks in the height of Vanuatu summer.

But, as the FCC staff have shown in the past, their hearts for hospitality and their willingness to serve both the people of Vanuatu as well as the international missionary community buoyed them with stamina through the 39° days and full accommodations.

Anna Huntington, the FCC director, shares: “It was a unique opportunity for us to host the entire school while they were still in the lecture phase. It allowed for a different type of interaction with staff and students than when everyone is in the outreach mode trying to adjust to life in Vanuatu. Even though it was exceptionally hot and humid those weeks, the staff and students persevered and embraced the chance to experience Vanuatu culture and life at the Family Care Centre.”

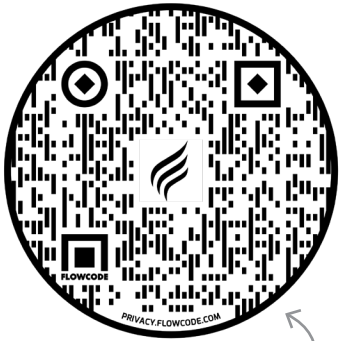
After finishing the classroom time, the students and staff split up into four teams and headed out for their practical application time. Two teams departed for Australia, while the other two teams dispersed to different parts of Vanuatu.

If you would like more information on how you can support the work of the FCC - either their medical or dental work (ESPECIALLY if you are a dentist willing to serve in Vanuatu!), or in another capacity, please visit the FCC website at: www.familycarecentre.org

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Thank you!



\$75

Thanks to a recent donation of \$75, we were able to purchase this **Fiskar Axe** for the groundskeeping team to make some headway against the invasive species that have been enjoying a luxurious growth period on the new property. Woolly Nightshade and Gorse are two of the worst offenders. The groundskeeping team is composed of students and staff who are invested in stewarding the Marine Reach land with intentionality, working to support the repopulation of native New Zealand species. Thank you to our generous donors who make this sweaty, hard, itchy work just a little easier with ergonomic equipment!

DONOR 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!

PRAYER PROJECTS



- **October DTS:** Pray for the students and staff as they conclude their outreach phase and transition through re-entry to their home communities or continuing on to other opportunities.
- **January DTS:** Pray for the January DTS students and staff as they proceed through their lecture phase and prepare for outreach and applying what they have learned.

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.**

WAYS YOU CAN DONATE

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