

Newsletter

REACHING INTO *THE FUTURE*



Outreach in Vanuatu



Equipping Seeking Sending Discipling

For years, Marine Reach has focused on discipling the nation of Vanuatu. This goal has been a multi-pronged approach, including at different times the use of marine vessels to conduct mobile medical, dental, and optical clinics to build relationships and share the love of Jesus with the Ni-Van people. It has also included the establishment of the Family Care Centre outside of Port Vila, as well as sending dozens of Discipleship Training School or School of Primary Healthcare outreach teams to go out to the villages and homes to bring practical service and the hope of the gospel.

Lianna Hood, one of the February DTS staff, recently led a team of eight outreach students along with Jack Sun to Vanuatu for the student's outreach experience. Lianna completed her DTS at Marine Reach in 2014, returned to her native Canada to train as a nurse, and has now come back to Marine Reach to serve as staff for the Medical Compassion DTS stream.

Lianna shares about her team's time in Vanuatu: "We spent 6 weeks in Vanuatu for outreach. Since the focus of our practical service was in the area of medicine, we

were able to collaborate with the Family Care Centre and the excellent work that is already happening there. Our clinic days looked like doing triage for the incoming patients and doing connection-based tasks such as vital signs or basic wound care. We also were able to spend a week in the village of Rango Rango, which is located towards the centre of the island of Efate within the mountains. We enjoyed living with the Ni-Van people during that week and participating in 'island life'."

One of the highlights for the team was to experience the relationship-based culture that the Ni-Vans embrace and which the Holy Spirit moved a lot in. Lianna reflects, "Although there are always adjustments to living cross culturally, the team did a great job of seeking to express the love of Jesus through their practical service to the Ni-Van communities we were able to spend time with."

For more information about our DTS's, please visit: www.marinereach.com



A Note from the Editor: August's Sabbath Rest

Dear Friends,

In the 35 months that I've been writing the newsletter, there have been many things that have happened at Marine Reach - many staff have come and gone, many students have participated in our programs, and there have been many opportunities to go out into our community, the nation of New Zealand, and the world beyond. It has always been pretty busy! In fact, at times, it has been rather chaotic. I cannot imagine how many hours have been spent cooking meals for people in the ministry, setting up and tearing down bunk beds, or folding laundry over these years.

So, for the first time in my history at Marine Reach (dating back to 2017), the ministry decided to take a month off. We have endeavoured to give all our staff a Sabbath rest. Some basics are being done (like paying the bills!), but in general, the month of August has been one with the specific purpose of providing an opportunity to rest.

Some staff have travelled to visit family, raise support, or do their own 4-week outreach. Many are taking this opportunity to address underlying health concerns - making nourishing food, engaging in intentional exercise, or meeting with

counsellors to discuss longstanding challenges in their patterns of relating to the world.

My family is enjoying reading lots of books, eating picnics in the winter sunshine on our deck, and playing card games. We watch the sunrise and sunset, have friends come into our home for meals and conversations, and take the kids on long walks. Overall, we have been enjoying the break and practising some rhythms to bring intentional connection into our home - with the Lord, with each other, and with others around us.

The Training Centre will begin to kick back into gear in September, and I look forward to sharing about what is happening in the rest of 2023. But for now, I trust that whatever busyness is around you, you'll be able to take a moment to breathe deeply, remember that God is with you, and experience HIS rest.

Thank you for taking time to follow along with the Marine Reach ministry, and for partnering with us in discipling young people. We are so grateful for your support.

*With much gratitude,
Dani Kirkwood*





Team Netherlands!

One of the most encouraging things about our Family Care Centre in Vanuatu is the international community who give up their time and money to participate in serving others in a developing nation. Recently several people joined us from the Netherlands to help in areas where support was needed.

Dr. Nadja Zorge from the Netherlands along with her parents were a huge blessing. This amazing family (photo) made a powerful team at the FCC, with Marjet helping at the local school and Rien installing a new suction pump (photo) for our dental clinic. Dr. Nadja has been working at the FCC since June this year. She shares, "I feel called to do this mission work, to care for others that do not have the resources we have back at home, and to have compassion on them like Jesus would."

Sadly, despite the new suction pump, our two dental clinics are currently not in operation due to a shortage of dentists.

Tim and Elzeline van der Kooij (photo) currently staff at the Marine Reach base in Tauranga, but during the month of August they were able to come support

the work happening in Vanuatu. They, along with baby Leilani, provided joy and practical support, with Tim not only cooking but also running a Bible study program for the staff.

Jiska Thijsen has also been living in Vanuatu since visiting on her DTS outreach last year. She regularly serves in the hospitality team and kitchen, completing the cooking team. This kind of real, practical support is essential to keeping the Centre running.

The true heart of every ministry is those who serve in whatever capacity. They are part of every patient that walks through the door of our clinic, every young man that attends our "Mat Time" program and every child that hears our "Keep Safe" programs in the schools in the nation. As we begin looking to 2024 we continue to look for men and women who are team players with servant hearts.

Specifically, if you are a dentist that would be inclined to support the work at the FCC, please visit our website: www.familycarecentre.org



TO TRAIN, EMPOWER, EQUIP AND SEND

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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!



\$300

\$300 Medical Compassion Outreach Team Wound Care Supplies

A recent donation of **\$300** was used by the Med-Com team to purchase supplies for wound care. With this generous donation, the Med-Com team was able to take bandages, medical tape, antiseptic cream, and gauze on outreach with them. The Medical Compassion students practiced their wound care skills, perhaps further fueling an interest in a profession of medicine, while also serving the people of Vanuatu and demonstrating the love of Jesus in a tangible way. We are so grateful to our donors for their support!

DONOR PROJECTS

- **Office Septic System** - our administrative centre is located in an old house on the base, which also doubles as additional staff and student accomodation. Due to its age and the frequency of usage, the septic system needs to be upgraded; \$10,000
- **DTS Scholarship Fund:** Help a student in need come participate in a Discipleship Training School at Marine Reach. \$50-\$500

PRAYER PROJECTS

- Please pray that the staff team will be refreshed and encouraged during this upcoming slow season between schools. Some are traveling and support raising, some are taking intentional time to rest, and some are pursuing growth and health in physical, mental, and spiritual ways. Pray that the Lord will meet each one and encourage them as needed.



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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www.marinereach.com/donate

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