

# Newsletter

## REACHING INTO *THE FUTURE*

### Staff Alignment Course

After graduating the 2024 Discipleship Bible School in July, the Pacific Reach staff began the “wind down” before entering our month of Sabbath rest in August. For many, August will be a time of travelling to their family homes to reconnect with friends, parents, siblings, and supporters.

So before the staff distributed to various corners of the world for a season, one of the goals for July was to provide a structured time to ensure the Pacific Reach staff and leadership are aligned together as they move forward toward our busier season of schools and active discipleship October through June. With another DTS scheduled to launch in October, this was a valuable opportunity to intentionally connect as a staff team.

The staff were able to meet on week days for times of worship and deeper sharing. The essence of the course was to align afresh to God’s heart regarding the missional purposes, vision, and goals of leading the lost to Jesus, and importantly, the

transformational discipleship of young people. Guest speakers provided upskilling in a variety of pertinent areas.

Linda Cowie, Pacific Reach founder and base director, shares about her heart behind this intentional time to realign together: *“We have an amazing group of staff, and it was such a privilege to learn together during this course, to get on the ‘same page’ on the essentials, and to continue to grow in unity.”*

We are excited about the new season of ministry that lays ahead of us as winter unfolds into spring. Flowers bursting and lambs bleating around us remind all of us that God prepares each season for a purpose. We trust Him and look to Him for guidance and wisdom in the new schools ahead.

**For more information about how to get involved in the Pacific Reach ministry, visit: [www.pacificreach.org](http://www.pacificreach.org)**





## Ministry to Pikinini

One of the best ways to build relationships with a community and learn about a culture is through observing and connecting with the children of the culture. Jesus clearly modelled a high value for children, commanding his disciples to **“Let the little children come to me” (Matthew 19:14)**, and as his 21st Century disciples, we want to continue to open the doors for children to encounter and meet Jesus.

The Family Care Centre has taken this initiative seriously as they run “Kids Club” each week while a “Mama’s Class” providing education for pregnant women occurs simultaneously at the ministry. The Kids Club is also an opportunity to disciple the youngest members of their local NiVan community in learning about and following Jesus.

Jiska Thijsen, a staff member at the Family Care Centre, runs the weekly program for kids. She shares her heart behind her time with the kids each week: *“It’s such a blessing and honour to spend time with these kids every week and teach them from God’s word. They bring a lot of joy to all the base staff. After listening to a bible story, they love to play games or do arts and crafts. You better come with a lot of energy because no matter the weather, around 50 kids show up every Monday ready to be entertained.”*

We are so thankful for the effort, energy, and enthusiasm Jiska and the FCC puts in to reaching out to and building relationships with these young children. Please pray that the investment into their lives will bear rich fruit in the lives of these kids now and into the future.



For more information about how you can be involved with what the Family Care Centre is doing, visit: [www.familycarecentre.org](http://www.familycarecentre.org)





## Staff Spotlight: Tim and Elzeline

In January 2020, Tim and Elzeline van der Kooij arrived at Pacific Reach anticipating three months of lectures and two months of outreach completing a Discipleship Training School. As a married couple hailing from The Netherlands, both experienced in ministry and discipleship, they were excited about what the Lord might have in store for them during their time in New Zealand.

As we all know, however, 2020 didn't go according to most people's plans, and Tim and Elzeline found themselves with the option in mid-March to return home or remain in New Zealand to ride out the unknowns of the Covid pandemic. They chose to stay in New Zealand, and the Lord has revealed all kinds of adventures He had ordained for them!

In lieu of participating in a DTS outreach, Elzeline opted to participate in the School of Primary Healthcare in the early days of New Zealand's lockdown. Tim, meanwhile, brought his excellent cooking skills and thoughtful approach to understanding the Bible and following Jesus to the common area of the base. As the School of Primary Healthcare wrapped up, Pacific Reach's first Discipleship Bible School prepared to launch,

and the van der Kooijs again jumped into the fray: Tim helping staff the DBS and Elzeline taking the opportunity to be a student again.

Over the four years the van der Kooijs have been a part of Pacific Reach, they have continued to bring the best of their experiences, giftings, and passions to serve the community. Tim has recently been leading the April DBS, and Elzeline provides insightful guidance to the community's formation and expression. And as a family, with their sweet little girl, they reflect an exuberance for life, intentionality in relationships, and steadfast acceptance of each person at Pacific Reach as an image bearer of God. Tim and Elzeline's delight in their daughter, who brings much laughter to the base and provides a real life reminder to approach the world with the wonder of a child, is a frequent reflection of God's parental heart toward each of us.

*We are so thankful for the van der Kooijs and all the ways they minister here at Pacific Reach!*

**For more information about how you can get involved in serving with Pacific Reach, visit: [www.pacificreach.org/opportunities](http://www.pacificreach.org/opportunities)**

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

Join the movement for global impact with Pacific 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. **Visit: [www.pacificreach.org/donate](http://www.pacificreach.org/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 Pacific Reach even beyond your lifetime.

Thanks to a recent donation of \$61.00, our grounds team was able to purchase glyphosate, which is a herbicide used to poison invasive plant species on the Pacific Reach grounds. Each week, our grounds team gears up and heads out to cut down and poison Woolly Nightshade, Gorse, and other non-native plants. Thank you to our donors who help us keep outfitted to stay on top of the invasive weeds.

# THANK YOU!

## \$61



### WAYS YOU CAN DONATE

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## DONOR PROJECTS

- **Missions Mate:** 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.

## PRAYER PROJECTS

- **Dentists for the FCC:** Please pray that skilled dentists would be willing to come and serve at the FCC for short or long term to help meet the many dental needs in Vanuatu.
- **Sabbath Month:** Please pray for Pacific Reach staff as many travel to visit family and supporters, and all seek to be rejuvenated and reconnected with the Lord during this slower month.



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#### Or Online at:

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