

May – September 2011 – Full Schedule

Women's Conference

In May Cindy's denomination, the Assembly of God, ran a national women's conference here in Port Vila. Several hundred delegates from throughout the whole country traveled to Vila for that week. To feed everyone there were a couple food stalls at the park where all the meetings were held. Cindy together with a few of her friends ran one of those stalls and for one week everything was about cooking and serving these women.

Marine Reach Medical Outreach

The two different medical outreaches from Marine Reach were a great success. The team going to North Efate treated over 1000 patients, did dental screening in 8 schools, the dentist pulled over 400 teeth, one safe delivery was conducted and the local nurse was trained in how to do it herself.. They did blood pressure and diabetes screenings and much much more.

The Ophthalmology Team in Santo performed 86 eye surgeries during their two week outreach.. some of the mostly elderly patients couldn't recognize hand movements from 3 feet distance, much less count fingers or read the chart, that's how dense their cataracts were. After surgery all of them could see again, some of them after years of being blind. God still does miracles and heals the sick and sometimes He does it through modern medicine.

We have already begun planning for next years Marine Reach Outreaches.



Santo DTS

Beginning of July Roger was the guest speaker in the DTS on Aore Island in the north of Vanuatu for two weeks. The first week he taught on Fear of the Lord and the second week was all about Relationships. Our time at the Base on Aore was fantastic as always. The students and staff were fully engaged and the classes were very interesting in all aspects. Apart from class there were many other activities going on at the base. Every week they organize an international evening with a particular country as a theme. Roger cooked a truly Swiss dish and told everyone a bit about



Switzerland. After that we had a time of intercession for Switzerland.

Life at the YWAM Base on Aore is very simple: No electricity (except the generator at times), no running water, kerosene lamps, candles, outhouses, bucket showers, washing clothes by hand. In return you get an atmosphere perpetuated by peace and harmony, far away from the hectic life of the 21st century. You have to keep this in mind when preparing your teaching, too. Blackboard and chalk instead of PowerPoint presentation.

YWAM Vanuatu Development

After six years of pioneering and establishing YWAM here in Vanuatu we have definitely stepped into a new season. This is also showing in a significant change in leadership. From the 5 initial pioneers of YWAM Vanuatu, all but Roger have moved on to different places and ministries. V2 LIFE has officially been released as a YWAM ministry which means that now YWAM Vanuatu has three operating locations and ministries. Roger will continue to serve as the national secretary for YWAM Vanuatu and being the oldest YWAMer with the most years in YWAM out of all staff in Vanuatu he has noticed that others are looking more and more to him for pastoral care and input in how to lead their ministries.

One of the challenges V2 LIFE and YWAM Vanuatu as a whole has to focus on over the next year or two is to recruit solid and committed overseas staff.

Construction

In August we spent a good amount of time on our land, continuing building the first house. After an initial excitement that our big move might soon become a reality, we quickly ran out of funds to get everything ready. Vanuatu has an extremely high cost of 'everything' and donations usually don't last as long as we think they should. Combine that with the enemy really not being happy with all we are able to accomplish for God's kingdom, so we ended up stuck.

Teach these great truths to trustworthy people who are able to pass them on to others – 2 Tim 2:2



Graham

Graham is one of our strongest local YWAMer. This year he has helped out a lot with getting V2 LIFE off the ground and has grown into a mature young Christian man. He took part in both our medical outreaches with Marine Reach, learned how to do visual testing of patients, interpreted, led worship, etc etc. He then stayed on at the base on Aore helping with a construction project there.

Graham feels a calling to use construction and similar practical skills in order to serve God. We tried to find a YWAM construction school for him to further develop his skills, but the first school he applied to got canceled and the second one in India starting beginning of October proved to be too difficult for him to get to – visa and airfare.

He is understandably disappointed at the moment but he seems determined to get to one of these schools as his next big step. He will have to continue fundraising – not an easy task for a Ni-Vanuatu and then we have to find a school for him again, possibly the base in India will run one again next year which would be a really good context for him.

With V2 LIFE's focus on community development and sustainable technologies, a man like Graham would be invaluable. Also, he has a lot of experience with youth and their struggles, being able to identify with them but also having walked in victory for a while now.

We want to continue supporting Graham and his development.

UPDATE

At times we didn't even have enough money for bus fare to get to the land and so the house is still not livable. We put tin walls and fly screen all around the house, Roger built his first timber door, we dug a hole for the toilet and marked everything for our porch. But by now our departure for Switzerland has come close and putting more efforts into the house doesn't make much sense in view of our 2 months absence. Anything that is only remotely moveable would be gone by the time we get back to Vanuatu in January. Therefore, the completion of the house and our big move onto the ministry site had yet again to be delayed. In the meantime we cleared some more land, started planting flowers and trees and extended our vegetable garden some more.

However, we did take a step of faith and put our notice in for our rental apartment in town. We will have to move out by the end of this month. God provided a basically brand new shipping container in which we will be able to safely store all our belongings while we are gone. Later we will be able to use the container as a secure shed to store tools and equipment and even to use it as our workshop.

We hope and pray that when we get back to Vanuatu in January we will have enough finances to complete the house in one go – with all material and tools ready on site and enough people that could be done in two weeks. This will be our first priority as we won't have a place to stay when coming back.



The Near Future – Christmas in Switzerland

At the end of this month we will move out of our apartment in town. This will leave us homeless for two weeks before we leave Vanuatu for but we're pretty sure God has something ready for us. Then we will spend two months in Switzerland, the first time in ten years for Roger to spend Christmas at home, and the first time for Cindy and Leilani to experience Winter.

When getting back to Vanuatu in January we should immediately head to the YWAM Pacific Gathering in Fiji, but we are holding on to that very lightly. Traveling in the Pacific is unreasonably high, especially if it's times three and only for 5 days.

As mentioned already, when we get back our focus will be on completing the house and moving onto the ministry site. During that time we will also set things in place for the Marine Reach outreaches later that year.

At the end of March we are planning to head to Thailand for Cindy to do her DTS. This will mean a further 6 months away from Vanuatu. After 7 years of non-stop service in Vanuatu this will also be a welcome change for Roger. Our small team should be capable by then to continue with the basics of our ministry and looking after the property.

When getting back to Vanuatu at the end of August, we will jump right into ministry with Marine Reach and a few other projects.



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