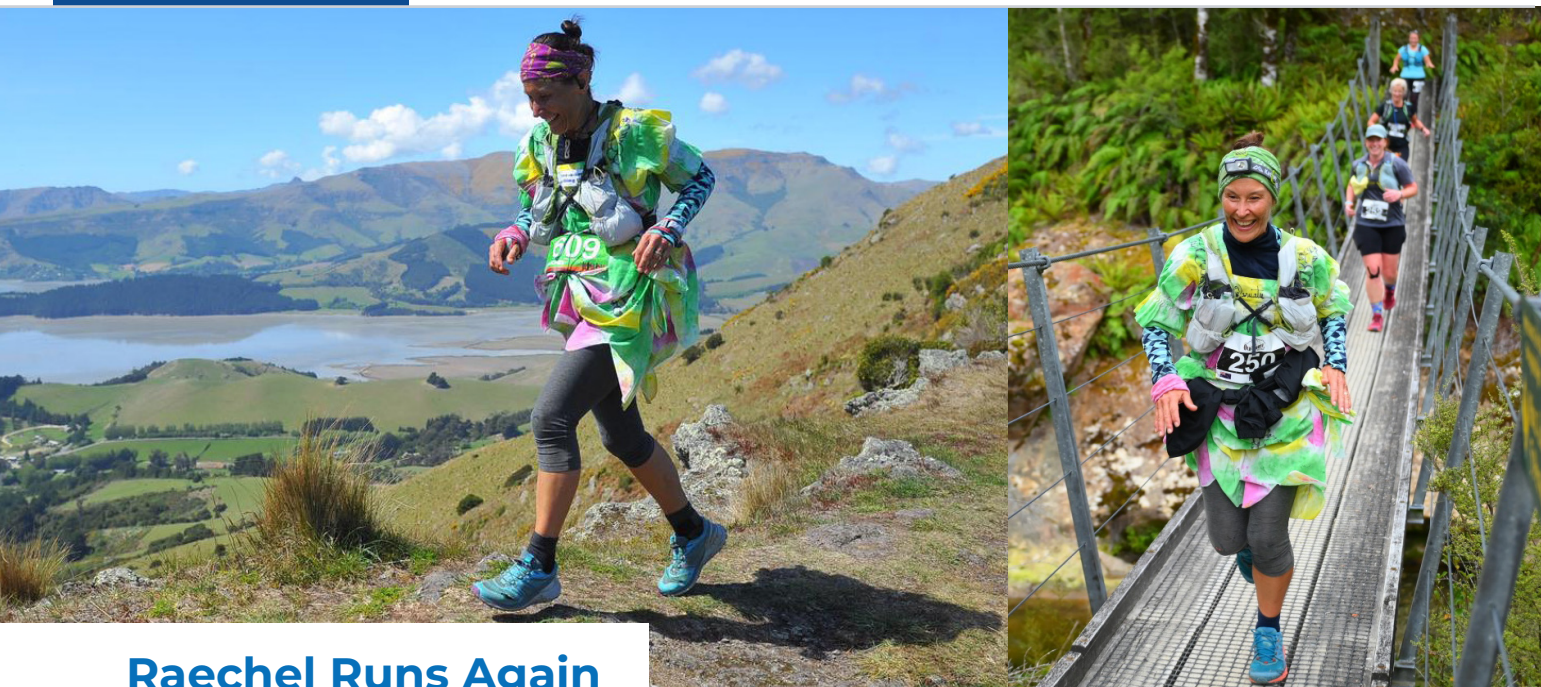


Newsletter

REACHING INTO *THE FUTURE*



Raechel Runs Again

One of the beautiful things about serving within a volunteer ministry that spans multiple countries and incorporates many avenues for serving is the opportunity to cross paths with generous, dedicated individuals who have a heart to serve as well.

Raechel Keepa is one such person. A registered nurse at Christchurch Emergency Department, she is a long distance runner who channels her passion for running into her equally inspiring dedication to serve the nation of Vanuatu.

For the past seven years, Raechel has participated in long distance running events around New Zealand wearing unusual attire for runners: a traditional "Island Dress" from Vanuatu. Raechel uses her island dress, gifted by the mamas of West Santo, to raise awareness and to raise donations for medical equipment and supplies for the Family Care Centre in Vanuatu.

In 2021, Raechel completed several runs raising funds for a steriliser for the Family Care Centre (see Issue 007 of the Pacific Reach Newsletter for an article about her accomplishments). Since then, Raechel has continued to use running as an avenue for generosity and service

to Vanuatu. Her fundraising efforts have included a 100 mile race in Tarawera, 24hr vertical challenge, climbing over 7,700m, and a 60km run at Northburn station with 4,000m of elevation to name a few. Funds raised have assisted in opening the dental surgery and provided the clinic with needed medical supplies.

Raechel shares about her heart in running for Vanuatu: *"Coming from a background that involved very little running, I tied my running shoes after receiving a gentle prompt from our God. Seeing first hand the need in Vanuatu and wanting to support the great work Pacific Reach and the FCC are doing, has helped me run with a purpose and a reason to why I run."*

We are so grateful to Raechel for her dedication to serve the people of Vanuatu in this unique way, and support the efforts of the Family Care Centre.

For more information about how you can be involved in supporting the Family Care Centre, or how you would like to support and follow Raechel please visit: www.familycarecentre.org <https://givealittle.co.nz/cause/fuelinghope>



2024 DBS Launches

In early April, 12 students filed into the lecture room classroom at the Tauranga Training Centre to begin their three month Discipleship Bible School experience.

The students will read the entire Bible, from Genesis 1 to Revelation 22. Some of the reading will be individual, some will be as small groups, and each week of lectures, the students will have classroom instruction to provide historical context, highlight themes and key concepts, and enhance their reading through discussion and observations.

While many people find a Discipleship Training School (the “entry” school into YWAM training and ministry opportunities) a time to “unpack” their life experiences, the DBS is often described as an opportunity to “fill up” their identity, world view, and understanding of God and themselves with biblical truth.

Tim van der Kooij, a longtime staff at Pacific Reach and experienced DTS and DBS staff, is leading the DBS this school. He shares his perspective on the launch of the school and his hope for the students during these transformative months:

“The school has started well, the students are very excited to dive deeper into the Bible. The hope is to grow in the students a reliance on Jesus through the Bible that reveals Him. That the students will see the truth, goodness and beauty of God and learn how to lead people in this revelation through the Bible.”

We are excited to walk with these students during this season of their lives, and we look forward to witnessing how the Lord encounters and discipless them through this experience.



For more information about our DBS's, visit: [marinerreach.com/event/discipleship-bible-school/](https://www.marinerreach.com/event/discipleship-bible-school/)





Pacific
Reach
For God. For Good.



Looking Back & Stepping Forward: **Embracing our Continued Call to the Pacific**

In 1970, a young couple's love story began in the heart of Africa. Meeting during a short-term YWAM outreach in Kenya, their connection defied distance as their courtship unfolded primarily through handwritten letters traversing continents. Despite the physical separation, their hearts beat as one, fueled by a shared devotion to God's calling.

It was during this season of prayer and anticipation that they each received a divine revelation at exactly the same time. Their letters crossed high over the Pacific as Pan Am carried their correspondence to one another, each letter containing the scripture:

Isaiah 42: 9-10. See, the former things have taken place, and new things I declare; before they spring into being I announce them to you. Sing to the Lord a new song, his praise from the ends of the earth, you who go down to the sea, and all that is in it, you islands, and all who live in them.

Immediately, the young couple felt that this Scripture referred to the Pacific Region, and a vision stirred that would shape the trajectory of their lives for decades to come.

After twenty years of trusting God to fulfill this prophetic word, David and Linda Cowie launched the first Marine Reach ship in 1990 to reach the people of distant islands across the South Pacific. Now, nearly 34 years later, eighteen nations have been visited and at least one million people have received medical care on and off our vessels.

Since 2017, we have no longer been operating medical ships in the Pacific. However, the mandate given to the Cowies by the Lord through Isaiah 42:9-10 still compels us to reach out across the Pacific Islands with the practical compassion and good news of Jesus, until we witness islanders everywhere "singing a new song to the Lord"! Though our mode of transportation may change—from ships to planes, launches, and buses—our commitment to extending God's love to isolated Pacific communities remains unwavering.

Today, as we reflect on the faithfulness of God throughout the story of this ministry, we gratefully bid farewell to our era as Marine Reach, cherishing its legacy, and *step forward into a new season as PACIFIC REACH!*

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



scan to donate now

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. 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 Pacific Reach even beyond your lifetime.

Thank you!



Thanks to a recent donation of \$300, we were able to purchase a box of bibles for the DBS students to receive as part of their welcome pack to the school. Having a common translation allows students to read through the bible aloud more easily together. Additionally, since the students learn a specific marking system to utilise for comprehension as they track the story of God's faithfulness through the bible, having a bible dedicated to their DBS journey provides students with resources to gain the most from their experience. We are so thankful for our donors and how they allow us to support and encourage our students in their journeys of missional living.

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

- **January DTS:** Please pray for the January DTS as they finish their outreach phase. Both teams from the January school are spending their outreach between Vanuatu and New Zealand. Pray for health, good team dynamics, and many divine appointments and opportunities to share about Jesus.
- **April DBS:** Please pray for the April DBS as they continue through their intensive study of the Bible. Pray for God's Word to illuminate their understanding of God's character and their role in the story of God's redemptive love.

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

For Bank Transfers:

NZ: ANZ Bank
New Zealand Limited

Account#/IBAN:

06-0241-0291419-00

Routing#/Swift Code: **ANZBNZ22**

USA: American BB Bank

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Routing# **121122676**

Swift Code# **ACBBUS6L**

CANADA: via Y Project Funding, BC. Make an Interac e-Transfer to: admin@projectfunding.ca (no security code). www.projectfunding.com/etransfer and simply write "YWAM Marine Reach" in the "Who is the Donation For?" field to ensure the issue of tax receipt

Or Online at:

www.marinereach.com/donate

Bank Address:

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Vanuatu: info@familycarecentre.org

Fiji: info-fj@marinereach.com

USA: lettie@marinereach.com

M/V Pacific Hope:
www.marinereachglobal.org

Websites:

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