

“Steps of Faith” August 2021

Globally we're rising to the challenge to adapt to the massive changes all around us; finding solutions to meet the needs of people in new ways and forging new partnerships as we go. People are engaging in local and overseas mission through new opportunities and kiwis are putting their hands up to train and serve, which is wonderful 😊.

Here at **YWAM Furnace** we serve through training/ local ministry and 'ship' ministry. At our recent staff retreat in Matamata we took time to **“RESET”**- asking God where to from here? (...in light of continuing closed borders due to covid-19). What do we keep doing? ...lay down? ...do differently?. Many overseas students want to come to NZ right now but can't, so we are redirecting them to other training opportunities and focusing on training Kiwis (with a particular call to Maori and Pacific Youth). This retreat was a special time for us to come together as staff - around 60 of us from 11 nations; wonderful to reconnect as family and hear from God.

Training has been simplified to **One Thing Prayer Internship**- starting August 30th; our 1 month Internship is for Kiwis of all ages and gives focused time to seek God and personally “reset”. Our 5 month **DTS** starts late September, with NZ outreach and time to grow deeper in God. Our 3 month **School of Communication Foundations** focuses on



communication in all its forms, honing skills and preparing for practical ministry- so relevant at this time. **Please pray for the Kiwis who have applied for these courses and for others who are deciding; that they will invest this time to grow in God and seek Him for what is ahead.**

Local ministry connects us with schools, Maraes and various community ministries as well as organising prayer walks around Tauranga and raising awareness of local issues. Staff are also encouraged to serve in local churches.and all this is undergirded with prayer and worship.

Although the **YWAM Koha** can't deploy overseas at this time due to covid restrictions, they have been able to run the 5 week **Trinity Koha Dental clinic**. This clinic was a huge success and gave a great opportunity to use the portable dental clinic (housed in a container) and see how everything worked. In 24 clinic days 12 volunteer dentists saw 463 patients and provided \$165,658 worth of oral health care free of charge. This pilot programme was an eye opener to the massive needs that exist; for each person treated we can make a huge difference and alleviate unnecessary pain. Another **Trinity Koha Dental Clinic** will run from September 27- October 22. If you are a dental professional and you'd like to volunteer for a few days please contact medical.team@ywamships.co.nz 😊. **SHIP TOURS** are happening again on **August 21st and 28th** from



10-4pm and on the 22nd and 29th from 1-4 pm....at Vessel Works, Den Place, Tauranga. Come see the YWAM Koha yourself and bring your family and friends; we hope to see you there. **Please pray for our staff team as we serve in training, local ministries and churches and take part in the dental outreach and ship open days. That we keep focused on God, hearing HIS voice and show practical love in all that we do.**

“Personal reset” we are currently praying through what we are to be involved in and how we serve going forward...Mike has been teaching on the Kairos course locally and also looking at teaching Kairos online. He has been preparing teaching materials for Frontier Missions School and other schools – but these future schools are affected by covid border restrictions so may not take place until the borders open again. Staff mentoring is an ongoing need and delight for us both ; many of our overseas staff are unable to visit their home nations as visa restrictions mean they cannot then return to NZ. For some this means prolonged times in NZ and they need ongoing support. Registrar continues with training of staff and overseeing applications from around the world. Inga has enrolled in a pastoral care course at our church to upskill and we both love running a Connect group, mentoring young adults and being involved in our missions team. Due to things “medical” Inga serves part time at Furnace so she can work around appointments, exercise and rest.... **We would value your prayer as we ask God what to say yes to in this season...there are plenty of areas we can get involved with...waiting on God for HIS instructions.**

Pacemaker upgrade! Over recent months Inga has experienced irregular heart beats and fast pacing resulting in the decision to give her the top of the line pacemaker/defibrillator unit- **Surgery is August 5th**- a day stay at Tauranga hospital. The new unit has an extra lead into the heart to help it beat as it should (makes 3 leads in total). Alongside this, treatment continues through various medications, scans and monthly appointments...SO thankful for great care!!!!...and thankful for great health overall as her medication means she is immune suppressed. **Please pray for the extra heart beats to settle down, fast pacing to stop and for the heart to beat as it should; renewed energy and stable blood pressure would be great too.... thank you.**

FAMILY ☺ Mike quietly turned 61 at the end of May, Lauren has turned 23 and Ava is now 6! Jesse has settled into a new job here in Tauranga and is enjoying a more relaxed lifestyle (and warmer weather). We enjoy our family movie nights and times together and look forward to spring so we can enjoy dinners on our newly built deck- thanks to our awesome landlords for this☺

FIJI Our colleagues at **YWAM Marine Reach in Lautoka** cannot run medical outreaches due to the current covid-19 crisis, but they can take food parcels to those in need who live nearby- if you would like to provide some \$ for this, please contact us and we will put you in touch with Deasong and Rowena- ministry leaders and personal friends of ours.

Support update our monthly shortfall is \$80 per month;....**Please email us to join our team☺**. We are so thankful for the continuing support- practical, prayer and financial giving by our individual supporters and “C3 City Church”. To support us- **put your name and staff name (Stephenson) in the reference and code section. Email the finance team at finance@yfnz.org, advising you have made a payment to us, including your email address (a one-off email). YWAM will send a receipt at the end of the financial year (March) for claiming Charitable donations from the IRD ...Bank account ; BNZ Cameron Road 02-0240-0010822-00 “The Impact World Tour (NZ) Trust” **Gifts; Note "birthday, anniversary or Christmas" in the reference as these are NOT Taxable and please****

email us too so we can keep track of things, thanks! Thank you for partnering with us, as we train and equip the next generation for mission in NZ and overseas.

Love from Mike, Inga and family **Isaiah 42:10 "sing a new song to the Lord! Sing His praises from the ends of the earth! Sing, all you who sail the seas, all you who live in distant coastlands"**

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