

Dear Friends,

May 2010

With over 100 different language groups scattered across more than 80 islands, the indigenous population of Vanuatu is a challenge to reach. Many people in Vanuatu live in spiritual darkness and are looking for the *true* God, who does not exist within the collection of the island gods. Friends in Action (FIA) is in Vanuatu to accelerate the spread of the Gospel to those who have never had the opportunity to hear the Good News of Jesus. We continue to develop our base of operations, but in addition, we also want to assist the community in making improvements in an area viewed as one of the nation's weak points—the medical system.

Continue reading as Faye Brown, our director of International Health and Wellness, recounts a personal experience from her visit to this island nation last year:



Faye and Rachel

I was so excited when Rachel, the Nursing Services Manager, took me on a tour of the Northern District Hospital in Luganville, Vanuatu. I was particularly interested in the Emergency Room, since that is my area of specialty as a nurse. The entire Emergency Room wasn't more than nine feet square, with a litter and a hospital bed squeezed behind a curtain. At the time of our visit, both beds were occupied.



One of the patients was having trouble breathing and was connected to oxygen; beside her bed stood a large oxygen cylinder. Rachel said that these cylinders are shipped to another island periodically where they are filled and shipped back to the hospital. So, if people come to the hospital with an asthma attack or another breathing problem, they'll want to hope that the ship came in recently! You can imagine the expense and the inconvenience that the hospital has managed with over the years in order to have a supply of oxygen.

FIA International would like to be part of the solution to this difficult problem. We would like to obtain an oxygen generator, which is a unit used by hospitals and disaster responders to fill large cylinders by extracting oxygen from the atmosphere. Filling the cylinders on the island would ensure a consistent supply of oxygen and would greatly reduce costs for the hospital. The approximate cost of a generator is \$16,273 plus shipping.



Oxygen Generator

While she was visiting the hospital in Luganville, Faye also noticed a need for two ultrasound machines, an oxygen concentrator, an EKG machine, a pulse oximeter, an otoscope/ophthalmoscope, and a Fetal Doppler machine. The approximate cost of this equipment is \$16,500.

In August, FIA will send a work team to make improvements to the administrative wing of the hospital. The work team will replace the entire roof on this wing, painting both sides of the metal before installing it. In the process of replacing the roof, any damaged trusses will also be repaired. In addition, hospital administrators have requested that we move a few interior walls. The cost of this project is estimated at \$22,000.

Please help us to reach our goal of collecting over \$57,000 to help repair and equip this hospital. We're asking you to prayerfully consider making a sacrificial gift to this project so together we can be like Timothy was to the Philippians. Paul said, *"I have no one else like him, who takes a genuine interest in your welfare."* (Phil. 2:20). By showing a genuine interest in the physical needs of the people of Vanuatu, we're creating a stepping stone to sharing Christ, who alone can fill their spiritual need for a Savior.

In His Service,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Timothy P. Farrell". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Timothy P. Farrell
Office Administrator

P.S. If you'd like to be a part of the work team which will travel to Vanuatu at the end of August, please contact our office for more information.

To give specifically to the work in Vanuatu, please use the following project number on your response card: 520202

www.FIAintl.org