

Dear Friends,

September 2010

The village of Mataloi is located on Santo Island in the Big Bay area of Vanuatu. Its people have been waiting for a road since the end of World War II. The government will not build one, and it wasn't until village leaders, landowners, and a local pastor recently asked Friends in Action (FIA) to help that their hopes and dreams were revitalized.



In April, a team of leaders from FIA hiked through the area to check on viability for this project. The nationals (Ni Vans) were so excited that someone finally showed interest, that they cleared a trail of brush away from where they want the road to go, making it easier for the team to walk. They have been waiting 50 years for someone to help them, and now a team has come to see what it would take to actually build the road! But they aren't the only ones excited. FIA is very glad for this new opportunity to help and to share the Gospel with this remote region.



The team took note of all the equipment needed to complete this project, including a bulldozer, dump truck, flat bed, fuel tanks, and chainsaws.

The impact this road will have is enormous. Not only will it connect the Mataloi village to the main roads, but it will also connect 20 other Ni Van villages, making them much easier to travel to. How much easier will it be, then, to bring them the Gospel?

Transportation is a huge step toward progress. This new road will help with getting medical assistance to the villages, which will save lives and improve the overall health of the natives. It will also give them direct transportation to the market—providing an opportunity for villagers to sell the food they grow, such as coconuts and vegetables. They can then buy the supplies their villages need. But above all, the road will create an opportunity for the Gospel to be shared in this remote location.



As trees are cleared for the road, a sawmill will be used to turn the wood into lumber. The lumber will then be used to build a Christian school with the help of local pastor Gabey and Camp Shining Light (CSL). CSL is a Baptist organization dedicated to bringing the Gospel to remote areas of the world. Jeremy Pinero, a full-time missionary with CSL, will also help with this project. Jeremy grew up as a missionary kid, and it has long been his desire to share the Gospel with those who have never heard it. The school will enroll children from first grade through eighth grade. The last goal is to build a Bible school to train people to help spread the Gospel throughout the Big Bay area.



The project has already met with some challenges. Two containers, one holding a bulldozer and necessary electrical equipment, were held in customs pending a \$60,000 release cost. But praise the Lord, the containers were finally released with only a \$1,000 charge! The bulldozer is now ready to start clearing the jungle, and the electrical equipment is already being used. Further equipment will have to be purchased and shipped to Luganville on Santo Island. Once there, it will need to be transported another three hours over rough terrain to the Big Bay area. This land is covered with very dense jungle and rocky ground. Traveling to and from this area is not an easy thing to do. A bush camp will be built to provide a place to store parts and tools, and to house workers. Pray that the continuation of this project will be smooth and without hindrances!

The Ni Vans have waited 50 years for this road to be built. They asked FIA and CSL for help, and it is our desire to see this project through. Please pray for volunteers and funding. We are looking for committed workers who are willing to sacrifice luxury and convenience and live in bush camp conditions, and we hope to raise \$60,000 to cover potential custom and port charges, additional tools, and the cost of equipping and shipping two trucks that have been donated for this project.

We need your help to get the road and schools built. Would you consider a gift to help us show God's love to 20 waiting villages? This project is just in the beginning stages, and we would love for you to join us in this journey and be a part of taking the Gospel into 20 villages in Vanuatu!

In His Service,

Timothy P. Farrell
Office Administrator

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

P.S. To give to the Vanuatu road paving project, please use the following account number on your response card: 520208.

www.FIAintl.org