



# Vanuatu Open Team

## Information Packet

**Location:** Efate Island, Vanuatu  
**Project Dates:** March 30 – April 11, 2016  
**Participation Fee:** \$390



## Project Overview

This is Maranatha's first volunteer project in Vanuatu, and volunteers from around the world will join a group from Australia to create this Open Team project. A recent tropical cyclone devastated the country and destroyed many structures including 53 Adventist churches and several schools, including the Mamau School. Now, Maranatha will be helping with the reconstruction efforts.

The Mamau School started in 2010 with 50 students, and now they have nearly 200 students, many of whom have to start walking at 4am to get to school on time. During the storm, everything on campus was blown away. Groups from Tasmania and New Zealand helped to rebuild the school, and now all that remains is to construct the church and school chapel, which are two of the buildings volunteers will complete during this project.

In addition to the Mamau church and chapel, volunteers will also rebuild the Teoumaville Seventh-day Adventist Church, which was completely destroyed by the cyclone. The church members are currently meeting in a temporary structure, but are looking forward to the day that they will once again worship in their own church.

Volunteers on this project will be building a reinforced building, designed to withstand 200 mph wind loads. Space is limited, and volunteer confirmation may be dependent on skill level.

The Mamau School, where the volunteers will be staying and working, will go on break during the time Maranatha is working there. However, the children will still be in the area, and will probably be curious as to the work going on at their school. During this project, we will most likely conduct a children's ministry program as well as other outreach opportunities. If this is something you are interested in helping to lead, please contact Maranatha.

## Project Schedule

**Wednesday, March 30**  
Arrival in Port Vila (airport code VLI)

**Thursday, March 31**  
Orientation and first work day

**Friday, April 1**  
Work day

**Saturday, April 2**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday, April 3 – Friday, April 8**  
Work days

**Saturday, April 9**  
Worship with the local congregation

**Sunday, April 10**  
Local Excursion

**Monday, April 11**  
Departure from Port Vila (VLI)

## Accommodations

Accommodations for this project will be fairly rustic. Volunteers will stay at a makeshift camp set up at the Mamau Seventh-day Adventist School, one of the construction sites for this project, and about 45 minutes from the airport. Don't expect hot water, electricity for charging devices, or WiFi. If you have an unlocked phone, SIM cards are available in Port Vila, and you can purchase these if you will need phone service during the trip.

The school classrooms will be divided with sheets to form small rooms. Please plan to bring your own air mattress or cot to use during the project, as well as bedding. Mosquito nets will be provided. Makeshift showers will be set up with cold tap water, but you may consider bringing your own solar shower as well for warm water. A large tent will be set up for a meeting area and a makeshift kitchen.



## Excursions

Vanuatu has many beautiful beaches, rivers, and tropical forests. Although the cyclone destroyed many of the trees around the island, it still remains very green and the coastline has crystal clear water. During the project, volunteers will take at least one day to head to the beach where volunteers will have the opportunity to snorkel, swim, and maybe even scuba dive. Transportation to the beach area will be provided, but any additional rentals or excursions will be the responsibility of the volunteers.

## Leadership

**Peter Koolik** | Overall Project Coordinator

Peter Koolik is a builder from Brisbane, Australia, where he lives with his wife Nerida. After Cyclone Pam destroyed churches and schools throughout Vanuatu, Peter stepped up to coordinate the rebuilding and repair of the structures. A volunteer group from Australia will be joining this Maranatha Open Team, and Peter will be coordinating this joint effort.



**Peter Thomas** | Construction Superintendent

Peter joins the group from Fort Worth, Texas, where he works as a homebuilder and land developer. He was born in Kenya and lived as a missionary's kid in Zimbabwe and Tanzania during the 60's. Peter has been a volunteer and construction leader for numerous Maranatha projects around the world.



## Expenses

The participation fee covers housing for twelve nights at the Mamau School, three vegetarian meals a day, ground transportation to and from the airport and project site, local excursions, secondary accident insurance, a Maranatha t-shirt, and luggage tags.

Maranatha must receive all funds and forms by March 1, 2016. Wait for confirmation of acceptance on the project before purchasing your airfare.

If you are fundraising or receiving donations, please either have them sent directly to you or work with your local church treasurer to collect funds and issue tax-deductible receipts, since it is difficult for Maranatha to track individual small checks. If your church will not work with you, please wait until you have collected the full amount of your participation fee before submitting your participation fee to Maranatha.

## Estimate of Additional Costs

**Flight to Port Vila:** \$1,400 – \$2,100  
**Passport:** \$130 or \$110 for renewal

## About Vanuatu

Vanuatu is a small country made up of approximately 82 islands. It is located in the South Pacific about three quarters of the way from Hawaii to Australia. Although it was first explored by Spain, Europeans did not return to the island until 1774 when Captain Cook named the islands the New Hebrides. Settlers, slave owners, and missionaries continued to visit and inhabit the islands, which were governed jointly by both France and Britain. In the 1970's independence movements arose, and in 1980, the country declared its independence with a new name, Vanuatu, meaning "Home Stand."

The islands are tropical year round, and although they have a limited number of animal species on the island, the region is rich in sea life with a large diversity of marine mollusks and fishes. Their sea life contributes to two of their largest economies: tourism and fish exportation. More than 80% of the country's population lives in rural, isolated villages with limited access to basic health or education services. Most villagers survive solely by farming and growing their own food.

Vanuatu has a mixture of regional variations and foreign influences, which have created a unique culture. Its indigenous roots are retained music, dance, and local cuisine. Traditional music consists primarily of drums, gongs, rattles, and tubes, and local dances include a mixture of foot stomping and bamboo tubes striking the ground. The cuisine of the island incorporates a lot of fish and root vegetables as well as plenty of fresh fruits and coconut milk.

## Travel Information

Volunteers will purchase their own plane tickets to the capital city of Port Vila (see below). Please wait for confirmation from Maranatha before purchasing your airfare to ensure there is still space on the project. Volunteers will travel together by bus to Mamau school.

Because you cross the international dateline, you will most likely need to leave on Monday, March 28, in order to arrive on Wednesday, March 30. Most itineraries will take an average of 20-30 hours to arrive in Port Vila.

### Arrival

Please plan to arrive in Port Vila (airport code VLI) on Wednesday, March 30.

### Departure

Please plan to depart from Port Vila (VLI) in the morning of Monday, April 11.

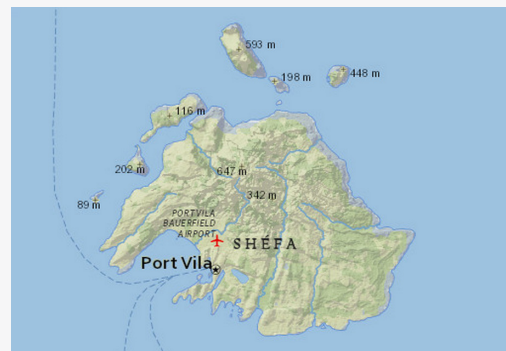
### Travel Resources

**Azumano Travel:** 800-454-4099 or by email with Erle at [dpenha@ciazumano.com](mailto:dpenha@ciazumano.com)

**Butler Travel:** 503-879-5005 or by email with Nathanael at [nathan@butlertravel.com](mailto:nathan@butlertravel.com) or with Ellen at [ellen@butlertravel.com](mailto:ellen@butlertravel.com).

**Kayak:** [www.kayak.com](http://www.kayak.com)

When contacting the Azumano or Butler travel agencies, be sure to mention Maranatha to receive a discounted service charge.



## Facts and Figures

**Capital:**  
Port Vila on Efate Island

**Population:**  
272,264 (July 2015)

**Official Languages:**  
French, English, and Bislama

**Spoken Languages:**  
63% local languages, 33% Bislama Creole

**Climate:**  
Tropical. Moderate rainfall from November to April.

**Religion:**  
70% Protestant, 12% Catholic

**Currency:**  
Ni-Vanuatu Vatu (108 Vatus to \$1 USD)

## Entry Requirements

All passports must be valid for at least six months from the dates of intended travel (September 13, 2016). If you do not have a passport, U.S. citizens can apply at any U.S. post office or online at <http://travel.state.gov>. Canadian citizens can apply online at [www.passport.gc.ca](http://www.passport.gc.ca). It can take up to two months to complete the entire process, so plan accordingly to give yourself enough time to receive your passport.

United States and Canadian citizens can enter and stay up to 30 days in the country of Vanuatu without a visa. Please have at least one full passport page empty for the entrance stamp.

Citizens of other countries, please consult the Vanuatuan embassy or consulate in your home country for entrance requirements. You can also consult a list of countries with a required visa at [www.vanuatu.travel](http://www.vanuatu.travel).

## Staying Healthy

Maranatha requires that every volunteer have a current **tetanus** vaccine (within the last 10 years). The Centers of Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) also recommends vaccines for hepatitis A and typhoid, which are both spread through food and water.

Local community members state that malaria is not a problem on the island; However, the CDC states that malaria is present throughout the islands and recommends a malaria preventative medication. Please note that, according to the CDC, the strain of malaria in the country is resistant to Chloroquine, so if you choose to take precautions, you would need to take a different medication during your time in Vanuatu in order to be effective.

You may already have some of these vaccinations and some of them you may deem unnecessary for this trip. You should schedule a consultation with a travel clinic doctor to talk about the medical risks in Vanuatu and the ways to minimize them.

## How to Register

To register, please complete the online registration and pay the full participation fee or an initial deposit of at least half the total participation fee. You can make this payment by credit card online or over the phone or with a check made out to Maranatha Volunteers International and mailed to the address below. If for any reason you need to cancel your participation, Maranatha will do our best to refund your deposit up until one month before travel. After that point, \$150 is non-refundable and the remainder will depend on the reservations and the project arrangements already made.

Register online at [Maranatha.org](http://Maranatha.org) or over the phone.

## Contact Information

**Phone:** (916) 774-7700

**Fax:** (916) 774-7701

**Email:** [volunteer@maranatha.org](mailto:volunteer@maranatha.org)

**Website:** [www.maranatha.org](http://www.maranatha.org)

**Mailing Address:**

Maranatha Volunteers International  
990 Reserve Drive  
Suite 100  
Roseville, CA 95678

**Canadian Payments Only:**

Maranatha Volunteers International  
Association  
c/o V06494C  
PO Box 6494, Station Terminal  
Vancouver, BC V6B 6R3



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