



## The Lugo Family Associate Missionaries to Vanuatu



### January 2024 Update

Greetings from Vanuatu,

Sunday, January 7, the Lugo 5 separated onto different fields of labor. Watching our son through the rearview mirror, standing alone on the curb, waving goodbye may be one of the hardest moments of our lives. The knowledge that we are all following God's direction and that obedience to His voice is the best path for each of us, may be the only thing that kept our van pointed toward the airport. Desi J is attending Urshan College and serving in a church plant. It has long been Desi J's desire to serve in and help birth a new church. We are thankful that even though we are physically separated the Lugo 5 are all serving together in the harvest.

We departed San Francisco and flew through the night, with a circus of angry babies, traumatized parents, and one very distressed dog. When the babies would calm and finally sleep, the dog would whimper, howl, and cry until one or more of the babies responded and the cacophony of little voices joined in a chorus of displeasure. We were bombarded with memories of flights with our own babies and unhappy puppies, which caused us to say a prayer for the parents and breathe a sigh of relief that our children are no longer in our laps screaming but sitting quietly with their noise cancelling headphones.

We arrived in Fiji to a nine-hour layover and a flood of passengers everywhere. Fortunately, we were able to secure a couple benches before the press of people filled every space and even the floors. There is a time when sleep deprivation overwhelms the concern for what others think, so we availed ourselves of our benches and took turns practicing the role of the airport sleeper, draped over bags completely unconcerned about the bustling going on around.



January 9, late Tuesday afternoon, we arrived in Port Vila, Vanuatu. We were greeted by Missionaries Peter and Robyn Gration and Presbyterian and Sis. Tangalobani. It was such a joy to see their smiling faces and receive a warm (very warm) Vanuatu welcome. Bro. and Sis. Gration had dinner ready and put food staples in our apartment so we could unpack and rest before jumping into life here in Vanuatu. We are very blessed to serve with people who are so considerate and loving.

Although island life lacks the hustle and bustle of many cities in the U.S., there is not the convenience of quick fixes. So, we stepped right into the flow of immigration paperwork, banking, registrations, and other requirements that involve hours (and hours and hours) in lines to live in these islands.

January included Rachel attending a Women of Faith service, Desi teaching with Peter Gratton at a leadership training with Pango and ValeVale churches, and later preaching a Sunday service for All Nations UPC. We also prepared for 2024 Bible School classes and look forward to the coming year. We are excited to hear reports from Bible School students that graduated while we were absent: NiVan people baptized in Jesus' name and receiving the Holy Spirit, Sunday School children taught that there is only one God, and outreach crusades in village churches. God is doing a great work through students that are willing to sacrifice to work in the harvest!



In the Lugo apartment, we have already experienced a 6.3 earthquake, Kendall and Dinah are back to school and recovering from the “trauma” of internet outages for many days after our arrival. We also had quite a moment when Rachel was washing dishes and a centipede crawled out from under the sink and over her bare toes (we don't miss centipedes). We have not experienced the brush arbor days of early modern Pentecost, but Rachel's response caused us to ponder the stories of dancing and shouting that we have heard of when great moves of the Spirit happened amongst our forefathers in the faith 😊. Thankfully she was not bitten... the centipede was not so fortunate.

We are so very thankful for the Body of Christ. Your prayers and love carry us through the hard days of leaving family and the transition back to working here in Vanuatu. Together we are all fulfilling the great commission. Together we are planting, watering, and harvesting. Together we serve.

For His Kingdom,  
The Lugo 5



**Left:** departure in San Francisco airport

**Right:** our first trip back to the local market in downtown Port Vila





**Top Row:** Women of Faith service, preparing for first term of GATS Bible college  
**Middle Row:** salu salu (welcome) greeting at our first service, Kendall and Dinah at bay downtown  
**Bottom Row:** Sunday school kids showing only one God, village service with one of the recent Bible college graduates