



Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu



We had a wonderful time in time in the States, which was capped off with confirmation that we're expecting!! Shawnda had her first ultrasound (photo above) just before we left Denver. The due date has been set at March 26, and we plan to deliver the baby in Duncan, OK.

We're glad to be back in Vanuatu! Thanks so much for taking the time to get caught up with us again this month.

In this month's issue...

- 📍 The trip back home
- 📍 Marou Village, Emao Island
- 📍 What's going on with Titus

BACK AT HOME IN VANUATU

We closed out our furlough in the States with a weekend in Ripon, California. We have some very good friends there, Caleb and Valerie O'Hara, who were able to arrange for us to make a presentation at the congregation where Caleb preaches. We had a wonderful time getting caught up with them (Titus LOVED playing with their two boys), and appreciated the opportunity to make one more presen-



From the home-front...

It has been a busy, but good month of getting settled back into Vanuatu life. It has been hardest on Titus. We can't tell if it's being in his own room, the time change, or the allergy problems (or a combination of the three) that is keeping him from sleeping well, but we were definitely ready for him to get adjusted! Thankfully by month's end, he was back to a "normal" napping/sleeping schedule. Everyone here can't believe how much he has grown and are eager to spend time with him. Three of the ladies from the congregation here in Vila have been to the house several times to visit...they enjoy watching Titus "destroy" (what they call getting into everything).

We are so excited about the new baby (due in March). Thankfully I feel great...just tired (but that can also be attributed to chasing Titus around).

We're glad to be back home in Vanuatu, and look forward to all the excitement that awaits us in the coming months.



We love you all!
- Shawnda





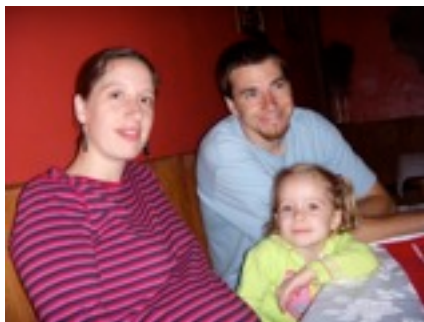
tation on our work, and to preach that Sunday morning.

We flew from Ripon to Los Angeles to Auckland (New Zealand) to Vanuatu without much of a problem (the only problem being the endurance of several multi-hour flights with an infant in your lap). It was wonderful to see the Bakers and Mike again (and share our special news with them), and we enjoyed being back "at home."



It's always a little difficult getting back into the swing of things after being absent for so long, but by month's end we've been able to get our feet back under us. We are very excited about the next few months here in Vanuatu, and look forward to accomplishing many great things for the Lord.

Only a few weeks after our return, the Bakers headed for the States to deliver their second baby. While they are gone, we are glad to have Paul Phillips visiting with us (and staying in the Bakers' half of the duplex). Paul is a Christian from New Zealand, and is in town for a two-month internship at the Port Vila hospital. To celebrate his arrival and the Bakers' impending departure, Paul treated us all to a meal at a new restaurant in town. Thanks Paul!



UPDATE: TITUS TAYLOR



Titus thoroughly enjoyed being in the States. In fact, I am afraid he enjoyed it a little too much - attention from multiple adults around the clock is a recipe for disaster, especially when now all he has is boring ol' mom and dad. It took a while for him to get adjusted to sleeping in his own room too, but he finally seems to be getting used to it.

When we arrived in the States on June 2, he couldn't even sit up by himself, but now he's sitting up, pulling up and crawling. He adores table food (and isn't a bit interested in baby food anymore), and like most 9-month olds is into everything he's not supposed to be into.

We thank God daily for bringing Titus into our lives, and we're continually grateful that his adoption was finalized. We are eagerly looking forward to the future!

TRIP TO MAROU VILLAGE

While we were in the States, our teammates were very busy with their regular work, as well as three weeks of Pacific Islands Bible College courses in Vila & Eton Village, and a Gospel Meeting in Etas Village. That meant that no one was able to visit the brethren in Marou Village, which is located on Emao Island, just off the coast of Efate (where we live). The Christians there continue to struggle with making a break from the



ways in which they were brought up, in order to follow the Bible's teaching. They are in need of constant encouragement and instruction...something we are eager to provide.

Mike and I decided that we would make a quick trip to Marou, specifically to encourage the few who were meeting faithfully, and to try to win back several whose faith is struggling. Our meeting with the brethren that Wednesday evening was well received, and I believe we were successful in our efforts.



We were pleasantly surprised to see Tamata and Mary, who are from another village on Emao, but were in Marou honoring the death of a family member. Mike had met them during a prior visit, and had spent several hours studying with them. They requested that we study with them on Thursday morning, because they felt that they were ready to begin a true relationship with Christ. Mike led a study on the church, salvation and commitment. As a result, Tamata was baptized into Christ for the remission of his sins. We believe that Mary is very close to making the same decision, but needed more time to consider the cost of her conversion.

I was grateful to have the opportunity to give George, one of the leaders in the Marou congregation, a "hands-on" lesson on baptism. The three of us walked out into the Pacific Ocean, and I talked them through the life-changing process. This was George's first time to baptize someone, but hopefully it won't be the last.

Both Mike and I plan to make a trip back to Emao in September, to conduct further studies with Tamata & Mary, and also to continue to disciple the young Christians in Marou Village. Please be praying for these things.

