



# Brandell e-Scrapbook

*A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu*



## *In this month's issue...*

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**\*\*We are looking forward to a prosperous new year! Thank you all for your continued love, prayers, and support.\*\***

## GENERAL UPDATE

I would like to begin by thanking the countless individuals who responded to the news last month's scrapbook with encouraging emails. The longer we are here, the more we realize that "support" goes far beyond finances. We are truly grateful to be blessed with great supporters on so many different levels. I am especially thankful to the few who took time offer wisdom and insight regarding our specific issues.

Speaking of financial support, we have not yet received our January financial report from Columbine, but I would like to again request that each of our supporters please let us know their intentions for 2007. We understand if some of you may not be able to recommit this new year, and perhaps some will even choose to increase their giving. Either way, it is essential to our effectiveness that we "know where we are" as we pray and plan for 2007. So, please take the time to send us a quick email letting us know your intentions!

## *From the home-front...*

Another issue, another month full of new experiences with Titus to report. Titus is changing so much. Thankfully his happy nature and sweet personality are not among those changes. He got his first round of vaccinations (which were not cheap in Vanuatu, that's for sure!) and did surprisingly well. He is a pretty big baby by Vanuatu standards, so everyone here says he is "fat fat." Personally I think he's absolutely perfect! He is really responding to Eric and me when we make faces, talk or sing to him. He even sticks his tongue out and laughs at himself. He spent a full day in a village for the first time this month with lots of people vying for his attention. He is quite the little people magnet. We had two different couples over to the house this month for an American meal. We enjoyed both times of fellowship and feel that it is nights like these that will help strengthen the church here in Vila once again. We look forward to a good year in 2007 and pray that God will use us to add to His kingdom here in Vanuatu this year.

We love you all.  
- Shawnda





Things have cooled off considerably since our last report, for which we are grateful. Many thanks to those of you who have been faithfully bringing this situation before our Heavenly Father in prayer! We still have a long way to go, but we are determined to do everything that we can to ensure that the work done here in Vanuatu is lasting. Please continue to pray for our work, especially as it relates to the congregation here in Vila.

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#### EVERYDAY LIFE

I spent much of my time this month studying from the books of 1, 2 Timothy and 1, 2, 3 John. I am very excited to have been invited to teach two-week short courses on these books in the [Andrew Connally School of Preaching](#), which is located in Arusha, Tanzania (East Africa). This Bible training school is an extension of the [Bear Valley Bible Institute of Denver](#). Classes start February 26 and go through March 9. I will be traveling with Wayne Burger, full-time instructor at Bear Valley. We will have a 2-day layover in London, which will be my first time to be there. I am really looking forward to teaching these classes, as well as getting to know the missionaries in Arusha.



One of the most encouraging parts of mission work is seeing new converts grow. I continue to study each week with Claude here in Vila, who was baptized back in December. He and his wife RoseMary faithfully attend worship services, and Claude continues to show much potential for leadership in the Lord's church.

For the past few months, we had a preaching rotation here in Vila of three men: Mike, Flexon, and myself. In January, I preached a sermon on giving, which went over very well. Often times, we take it for granted that people know how to give biblically, but many commented that they had never really thought that much about it before. They had previously simply dropped a few coins in the basket as it went by, and assumed they were doing what they needed to. It is refreshing to see people eager to apply what they learn from the Bible.

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#### TITUS TAYLOR (SOON TO BE) BRANDELL



Thanks so much to all who continually inquire about our Titus. He is such a joy, and we love every minute of parenting. He continues to grow and flourish with each passing day. We are amazed to look back at the photos taken in November and see how much he has changed in just two months. He is now going through the night without eating (he still wakes up a time or two if he loses his pacifier), coos and giggles regularly, and has even learned to stick out his tongue! He especially enjoys Bible class with mom each morning.

We were very excited to get Titus' adoption paperwork completed, signed and submitted early this month. I went by the court house a few weeks later to check on the status, and when I made my inquiry the receptionist (not the one we had originally given the paperwork to) looked in the log book and we weren't listed. She also could not find the application in any of the piles on her desk. Oh Vanuatu! After some digging, she was thankfully able to find it. It turns out, part of the application process was incomplete, and therefore the request had not been logged. Instead, it had been put to the side, and subsequently lost. So, I was relieved to find all this out after only a few weeks, instead of a few months! We are supposed to hear something after February 9 (they didn't specify how long "after"). With the adoption order in hand, we will be able to apply for a new birth certificate, a passport, and finally a non-immigrant visa for our trip back to the States in May. Please pray that all goes smoothly and quickly!





EPAU VILLAGE



The Christians in Epau (just over an hour's drive from Vila) asked us to come on the 21st of this month to preach and assist them in a 2007 planning meeting. I preached on the importance of spiritual health in 2007, emphasizing proper diet and exercise: Bible study, prayer, worship and fellowship. Each time we visit Epau I am encouraged by their desire to grow spiritually.

That afternoon I facilitated a planning meeting for the congregation. I suggested that they brain storm and set goals for three areas of work: [1] Edification of the Church, [2] Evangelism, and [3] Building/Grounds. It took some time for them to get comfortable with the idea of giving suggestions, but once things got rolling everyone seemed to enjoy the session. In the end several goals were agreed upon, including: Sunday PM worship, weekly women's Bible study, Leadership training

courses, evangelism courses, monthly business meetings, printed roster for Sunday AM worship, gospel meeting in April, building cleanup one Saturday per month, erect a fence around the church's property, and build seating for the new building. Please be praying that these goals will be reached, and that the church in Epau Village can bring much glory to our Master.



WELCOME HOME: THE BAKER'S RETURN TO VANUATU

After what seemed like forever (to us), the Bakers returned home safely from their three-month furlough. They seemed to be refreshed after reporting to their many supporters, visiting lots of friends and family, and eating all their favorite foods. It seems as though Kaela has grown a foot, and her vocabulary and grasp of grammar are through the roof! We were also very excited for them to meet Titus for the first time. Cindy took him as soon as they landed and held him all the way home!



THE YEAR AHEAD

I will be traveling to Emau Island February 9-11 to study with and encourage the Christians there. I leave for Tanzania February 18 and return March 22 (it takes a long time to fly all the way around the world!). We may have to make a special trip to Papua New Guinea in April to secure Titus' non-immigrant visa, since the Consulate in PNG is responsible for Vanuatu (we are hoping to get that changed to Auckland, New Zealand or Suva, Fiji...which would mean we could do it on our way back to the States in May, rather than having to make a special trip). We are tentatively scheduled to be in the States from mid-May to mid-July to report on the work to our supporters and visit with our families (introduce them all to Titus!). We will be contacting our supporting congregations soon to begin solidifying that schedule. The rest of the year will be fully focused back on Vanuatu, making regular trips to various villages and islands to evangelize, edify and equip. Please be praying that the Lord will bless us and keep us safe in these plans.

QUICK NOTE: VANUATU WEATHER

We are currently in the middle of Vanuatu's annual rainy season, and thought we would show you what that means. Recently, on our way to the north side of our island, we encountered this "bridge." You can see that the water is above Mike's knees in the deepest point! The locals said it had been like this for over eight hours...that's a lot of rain. If you're interested, you can check out a video of the event on our website at <http://www.missionvanuatu.com/videos/home.html>.

