



Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu



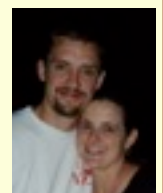
From the home-front...

Well, I can tell you that a month makes a world of difference in our life! While I'll admit that having two under two isn't easy, it is getting a little better all the time. Titus is getting good at playing on his own, will sit on the couch and play with his cars for 30 minutes at a time, loves being outside, and is talking and understanding when we tell him to do something (or more often, not to do something). He's still learning to obey, and progresses each day. He's very active, and such a sweet boy. Lexi is growing like a weed, eating baby cereal, enjoys her "Johnny Jump-up," loves to watch her brother playing, laughs at us, and is just a great baby. She's had troubles with a stuffy nose this month, but we're at the end of that I think. Kids are such a blessing!

I'm really excited about the contacts we made through PIBC and hope that they will study and obey the gospel. Exciting times ahead.

Please continue to pray for us. We love you all.

- Shawnda



August was a busy month here in Vanuatu, and we were grateful for every opportunity. We hope you enjoy getting caught up!

In this month's issue:

- Pacific Islands Bible College
- The Port Vila Congregation
- Emao & Epau Villages
- Family Updates

PACIFIC ISLANDS BIBLE COLLEGE

It was our esteemed pleasure to welcome Robert Martin (Forest Park, GA) and Steve Lusk (Chattanooga, TN) to Vanuatu for this year's PIBC courses. Robert taught Job thru Song of Solomon, and Steve taught Galatians and Hebrews. Classes were held each day for two weeks in Vila and Eton Village. Our team also benefited greatly from spending time with these two fine Christian men. Thanks brothers!!





A VISIT TO EMAO ISLAND

Back in 2003, while PIBC courses were being held in Eton Village, three men from Emao Island were present and studied the Bible with Robert Martin. These three men were converted, and committed to taking the truth back to their village. Several of their family members were converted as a result, and there are now several Christians in Marou Village.

Our team has made multiple trips to Emao, which is located just off the northeast coast of Efate, the main island. The brethren in Marou were excited to hear that Robert was again going to be in Vanuatu, so I arranged for Robert to travel to Emao on Saturday during our weekend break from PIBC classes. Due to pressure from denominational and village leaders, the Christians have found difficulty in assembling to worship together on Sundays. It was our goal on this trip to encourage these brethren, who are still young in the faith, to “obey God rather than men” (Acts 5:29). The brethren we met with seemed to gain a renewed vigor from our time of study and encouragement. In response to this short visit, our team is considering how we can most effectively assist the church in Marou Village. Please be praying for this situation.



Captain Jethro (left), a Christian from Marou, stands ready, with boat and Emao in background



2005 - Three men from Marou Village were baptized while attending PIBC classes in Eton



2008 - Continued studies with brethren in Marou Village, encouraging them to be strong in the Lord

SUNDAY IN EPAU VILLAGE

Every congregation here in Vanuatu gets excited about Christians visiting from other countries. The Epau congregation was glad to have Robert come and preach during their Sunday morning assembly, and it was our family’s pleasure to escort him to the village. Robert delivered a great message on Christian involvement, emphasizing the importance of every individual member of the body doing his part. Everyone enjoyed a time of fellowship and feasting after worship.

I will be back in Epau Village on September 21, at which time I plan to implement a new approach to our work with them.





PORT VILA CONGREGATION

In addition to the edification that is realized by local Christians, we wanted to utilize this year's PIBC courses as an evangelistic tool here in the capital city. In the month prior to the courses, we placed ads in the local newspaper and sent out letters to all of our Bible Correspondence Course students. As a direct result of these activities, we had five visitors attend the PIBC courses. We will contact each of these four men and one woman about studying the Bible with one of the missionaries. Please be praying for Jack, Baro, Brisco, Jonathan and Nora.

We also purchased and installed a new sign at the building - a first for the Port Vila congregation. An attractive sign is a very effective tool here in Vanuatu, especially since our building is located on a very busy main road. In fact, on the first Sunday following the sign's installation, we had two visitors who stated that the new sign had drawn them to join us.



FAMILY UPDATES



We took some time this month to visit the annual Agriculture & Trade Show one morning. It was fun to see all the local produce, beautiful flowers, livestock and locally-made goods. The kids especially enjoyed seeing the cows, chickens, goats and pigs. Interestingly, we met a recent graduate of Oklahoma State University there, who just started a company that sells various electronic items that run off of built-in solar panels.

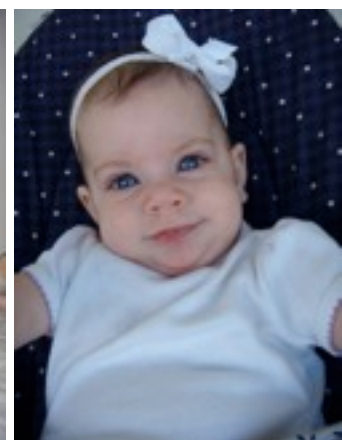
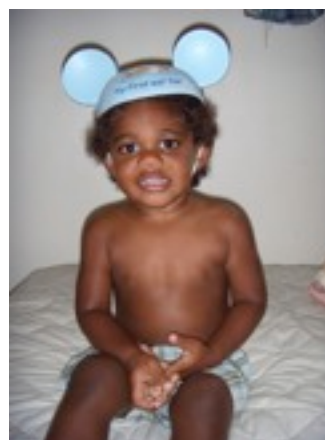


We first met the Diprose family a couple of years ago when they moved into our neighborhood. They came to Vanuatu on a two-year contract to work with the hospital. Dr. Tony has helped us out on a number of occasions, the ladies love visiting with Rhonda, and all the children enjoy getting together to play. We were sad to see them leave at the end of the month, but were grateful for the opportunity we had to meet them.

My personal version of Murphy's Law is: "If there is a plant that'll irritate your skin, I am going to find it." While I still don't know which plant it is, I have contracted a poison-ivy-like infection once every 6-8 months since we moved to



Vanuatu. Unfortunately, this time it was around my right eye, which meant I had to visit a private doctor in town for a shot and a prescription for oral medication. I am very thankful for modern medicine, which got rid of the itching and swelling in just a few days!



Titus and Lexi are more fun every day! They never cease to amaze us by all that they are learning and accomplishing. You can see many more photos of them on their websites by visiting www.missionvanuatu.com/brandell/home.html.



Robert and Titus reading together



Ladies gathered in Vila for their monthly fellowship



Happy Birthday to Cindy!



Titus helping out dad - mowing the yard and washing the vehicle



Lexi was a big hit with the locals during our recent visit to Epau



Kaela and Titus enjoyed getting together with Joseph and Daniel, who returned to New Zealand late this month



Pikinini Bible class in Vila



Good-bye party for Rhonda with some other neighbors



Christians gathered in Eton Village for PIBC courses