



# Brandell e-Scrapbook

*A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu*



Can you tell we had a great time this month with Mema and Papa?!? Lots of laughs, swings, books, walks, ice cream and trips to the beach were enjoyed by all. We look forward to sharing more about the month of October in this edition of our e-scrapbook...

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FIRST-TIME PREACHER

We were all excited to have Kal preach his very first sermon this month. Kal is originally from Eton Village, which is where he became a Christian, but has been in Vila for several years attending school. He has been attending our Truth Bible School classes and is also a student each year in the Pacific Islands Bible College.

He was a bit nervous but did a great job presenting the lesson he and his father put together. Congratulations, Kal!



*From the home-front...*

We had PIBC classes at the beginning of this month, and I had the opportunity to take the one on Romans and I LOVED IT! My faith has been strengthened and my joy and peace multiplied by all that I am learning from God's word! I'm so thankful that Eric was willing to stay with the kids so I could have the opportunity to participate in the class. My cup runneth over.

The first week of this month Salome and I started studying with Rachel, Salome's sister. She lives out in an area where many people are moving, but we have no Christians. We pray that Rachel will obey the gospel and that there will be more opportunities to spread the good news in her area.

It's been such a blessing to have my parents here for almost an entire month! The kids are loving all the Mema and Papa time, and I am loving having them around to visit and help out with the kids and things around the house. Dad even climbed up and cleaned out the light fixtures (don't think that's been done since we moved here - eek!). Of course the kids love the play place that Papa and Eric built in the yard and a majority of our free time has been spent outside enjoying that. They both can't get enough of the swings. We have had unseasonably cool weather since my parents have arrived....perhaps they brought a little Colorado weather with them?



Love to all...  
- Shawnda

PACIFIC ISLANDS BIBLE COLLEGE



Each year, the Pacific Islands Bible College offers two classes on Efate. This is a work of the Forest Park congregation in Atlanta, GA., and Robert Martin serves as the Director.

We were glad that Tom Bailey (Altus, OK) agreed to come this year and teach the Book of Romans. Due to a cancellation, Mike Olson agreed to step in and teach a course on the Major Prophets: Isaiah - Daniel.

Each day for two weeks, Tom and Mike traveled to Eton Village in the morning to conduct classes, came back to town for lunch and a short rest, and then repeated the classes in Vila in the evening.

It was wonderful for our mission team to be back in the church building in Eton Village after almost two years of not being allowed to go and teach there because of the objection of one of the local brethren. The Christians really seemed to enjoy having us there, and voiced their desire for us to once again start making regular trips to teach and preach in that village. We are grateful that the door has been opened once again. Christians from Marou Village (Emao Island) and Epau Village also attended the classes in Eton.

We had a good turnout in Vila as well, and made contact with several non-Christians who took the courses. We were also glad to have members of the congregation in Etas Village come to Vila each night for the studies.



*students and teachers in Eton Village*



*students in Port Vila*



*Mike Olson teaching the Major Prophets*



*Tom Bailey teaching the Book of Romans*

## TRIP TO MALEKULA ISLAND

Ever since our last trip, I have been anxiously awaiting the opportunity to return Malekula. You may recall that Flexon is from this island. The majority of his family still live in Tulwei Village.

Flexon suggested that he go to Malekula a few days before me so that he could get the word out about the upcoming studies (communications via phone or mail are not exactly reliable), and so I arrived in Malekula early Monday morning. I spent most of that first day at the marketplace near the airport, as the village transport comes into town in the morning and doesn't return until the afternoon. We used the down time to pass introductory Bible Correspondence Courses to the ladies at the market, and I also visited with several men who were hanging around the area.

Our public studies were held under an open-air shelter that Flexon built the day before my arrival. It consisted of bamboo poles and palm leaves thrown on top for a roof. We averaged about 15 adults each evening, and had as many as 30 one night. I taught seven lessons on the church, emphasizing her unique characteristics. Each session was followed by a question and answer time, which is always beneficial as it lets the locals determine the topic of discussion. We received several very good questions, which proved that they were really interested in learning God's word.

During the day I tried to conduct one-on-one studies with those who showed interest. I studied with a few leaders of area denominations and also with several of Flexon's family members. It was evident that several people understood the truth as a result of the studies, and I was hopeful that some would obey the gospel.

Flexon and I invited everyone to visit us on Sunday morning, and we had over 20 adults and 20 kids with us (not to mention dogs, pigs and chickens). Flexon presented a great lesson on "Following the Pattern," and we gave scriptural references and a short explanation for every part of worship we took part in. I did my best to offer a strong admonition and invitation at the close of our worship.

After lunch, I was pleased to have the opportunity to baptize Alsen into Christ for the remission of his sins. I had spent a lot of time with him during the week, and knew that he was contemplating such a decision. We had talked a lot about the cost of his decision, as he would be leaving a denominational leadership position, and for the time being would be the only Christian on the entire island. It was not a decision he made lightly, but with careful thought and consideration, and at the end of the day he decided that whatever difficulty might come as a result, the reward of being saved was well worth enduring anything the world could hurl at him.

Flexon stayed in Tulwei for another week after my departure, discipling his new brother-in-Christ and continuing to study with others. Please be praying for Alsen, and for the many others who are still counting the cost and considering obeying the gospel. I will head back to Tulwei in early December to strengthen Alsen and run more public and private Bible studies. Thank God for the open door into this island!



*Some of the "market mamas" we met  
while passing out BCCs*



*Bamboo shelter where we met each  
evening for Bible study*



*Sunday morning worship*



*baptizing Alsen into Christ*

FUN TIMES WITH MEMA AND PAPA

We were glad to welcome Shawnda's parents back to Vanuatu this month. Christmas came early for Titus and Alexis as Mema and Papa bought wood to make a play place in the yard. Papa and Dad worked hard for about a week, and the finished product (deemed a "pirate driver" by Titus) has been a huge hit.

We were able to worship in Vila, Etas and Marou Village (complete with an exciting boat ride to and from Emao Island - we got soaked). Mema and Papa enjoyed a cultural experience in Epau Village, where the Christian ladies there taught them how to make laplap and how to weave palm leaves.

We all enjoyed some time away at Tara Beach Resort, which is located just outside of Vila and owned by a local family. We filled in the spaces with lots of book reading, bubble blowing, swinging, playing in the sand and ice cream eating. Fun, fun, fun! We are glad to have Mema and Papa with us for another week in November, and pray for their safety as they travel back home.

