



Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu



The kids love "hunts" - so this month's easter egg hunt was a hit! April was our last full month to be in Vanuatu before we head back to the States on furlough, and it was an exciting one. Thanks for taking the time to keep up with our lives on the mission field...

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PROGRESS IN VILA

American and Vanuatu Christians again joined forces in Vila to make



improvements to the church grounds. Kevin and I spent several days helping Claude, Flexon, and Moses prep, prime and paint the perimeter wall at the church property. John, Ron, Wayne, and Mike Green all pitched in at the end to help finish up. It is always a joy to accomplish work while enjoying Christian fellowship.

From the home-front...

What a great month! We enjoyed having visitors from the States in our home for two weeks. We stayed busy with all sorts of activities, ate our evening meals together, and enjoyed the fellowship.

Lexi has been learning to be a little helper around the house. I enjoy having her help me in the kitchen and with the laundry. Her favorite is throwing the clothes in the washing machine. She makes me laugh every day with her crazy facial expressions and learning to talk. She adds such joy to our home.

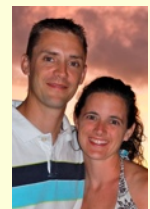
Titus enjoyed going with the big boys to paint at the church building this month. He took his tools along and played happily while the men painted. Titus is getting to go on more and more "boy's outings" because he is obeying and learning some self-control. We're proud of the progress he's made in the last few months. He is such a funny little boy and such a blessing to us.

This month at PBK we had a record...we stuffed 17 people in our vehicle! The trucks carry that many frequently, but our enclosed SUV has never had that many people stuffed into it! It helped that half of them were kids...but still...that's a lot of people in a 7 seater vehicle! If it weren't for the rain, we would have gotten a great picture! Being my last PBK before we head back to the US, I was a little sad, but also very pleased with the turnout, the women's involvement in planning, and the lesson itself (about loving our friends...ultimately by sharing the good news of Christ with them).

Look forward to seeing many of you very soon!

Love to you all...

Shawnda <><



INTRODUCTION OF BISLAMA HYMNBOOKS

Months of hard work paid off in April as we were finally able to start using the Bislama hymn books. I keyed in notes and English lyrics to 99 familiar hymns, and translated them into Bislama in 2008 and 2009. The brethren at the Forest Park, GA congregation graciously agreed to print and oversee the binding of the books, and then the Columbine (Denver), CO congregation shipped the books to us in Vanuatu.

I set out on this journey in an effort to facilitate worshipping “in Spirit,” as many Christians here do not fully comprehend the English words we traditionally sing during worship. I was pleased with the reception the books received from the local brethren. Singing new words to old tunes is not easy, especially when most aren’t really used to reading the Bislama language. It was gratifying to hear all of the positive comments from local Christians stating how much they appreciate having a quality songbook in their own language. I pray that these books will be used for many years to bring glory to God in songs of praise.



Christians in Epau singing from the new hymnbooks



Presenting the new books to the church in Eton.



Kevin and Ginny Fennelly helped get all the books to Vanuatu

EFATE WOMEN’S FELLOWSHIP

Shawnda reports that Christians from around Efate Island enjoyed another women’s fellowship. This quarter’s meeting was hosted by the Etas congregation, and women from three other congregations were present. Leimawa (Etas) led a devotional thought and Salome (Etas) led singing. The ladies also enjoyed sharing a meal together. Everyone is already looking forward to being together again in Epau in August.



VISITING WORKERS

Whenever brethren visit Vanuatu from other countries there are always numerous benefits: the short term workers feel a sense of accomplishment and get to know Christians from another culture, the lost hear the saving message of Christ, local Christians are edified, and the mission team is greatly encouraged.

We were pleased to welcome Wayne Burger (preaches for the Columbine congregation in Denver, CO), Kevin and Ginny Fennelly (Kevin is the deacon of missions for Columbine), Ron Patton (Denver), John Haney (Denver), and Mike Green (evangelist in DuPont, WA) to Vanuatu for a couple of weeks this month.

Wayne, Ron, John and Mike went along with the Baker family, Mike Olson, and three locals to Tanna Island to evangelize in Lorakau Village. Wayne and Mike did lots of preaching while Ron and John taught several hands-on courses at the local Rural Training Center. By the end of the week, the church had been planted in Tanna with eight souls being baptized into Christ. The Bakers and Mike will be heavily involved in following up on this work in the future.

Shawnda and I enjoyed having Kevin and Ginny in town to work with us while the Tanna campaign group was out. Kevin and I worked several days helping to paint the Vila wall, while Shawnda and Ginny had two Bible studies in Teouma Village. We all enjoyed a cultural day in Epau Village where the Christians there taught Kevin and Ginny how to make laplap (Vanuatu's favorite local dish) and weave mats from Pandanas leaves. Kevin shared a devotional thought in Etas, Eton, Epau and Vila, and we also introduced the Bislama hymnbooks during these visits. In between all these activities, we labored together on some office work, visited and played games together. It was a wonderful time of fellowship, and we thoroughly enjoyed getting to know Kevin and Ginny - our kids were sad to see them leave!

Once we were all back in Vila, Wayne conducted a timely seminar on Islam - a religion that is beginning to take hold in Vanuatu. To publicize the seminar, we canvassed the area surrounding the church building inviting our neighbors to come, and twice conducted "Preaching in the Park" - we rent an outdoor stage in Waterfront Park where hundreds of locals eat their lunch. We passed out 1,000 invitations to the meetings, and had several visitors come in response. Aaron and Claude are currently studying the Bible with one of the visitors, and a few others have since come to our worship services.

Wayne stayed in Vanuatu a week longer than the rest of the group, so that he could lead our mission team in lessons from the Divided Kingdom. We all appreciated the opportunity to be taught and even enjoyed getting homework assignments! It was also a pleasure to have lots of time to talk with Wayne about various aspects of the work, and we worked together to complete an evaluation of all that has been accomplished the last five years. Our supporters will be receiving a copy of that report soon.



Ron, John, Mike & Wayne in Tanna



John teaching in Lorakau



Kevin & Ginny stuffing letters



Preaching in the Park

FAMILY HAPPENINGS

Our family continues to enjoy living and working in Vanuatu, and it's hard to believe that we celebrated *five years* of being on the field on April 14. So much has changed during that time, and we pray that God has been glorified by our efforts. We offer our heartfelt thanks to our many supporters for working with us during this time, and we are looking forward continuing our work together for several more years, as we strive to equip the church in Vanuatu to thrive without full-time missionaries.

Titus and Alexis continue to amaze us everyday with their growth and progress. Titus has officially reached the "why?" stage, loves playing with friends in the village, and has begun to act much better during worship services. Lexi is a ball of fire, enjoys playing with her baby dolls, and loves spending time with Christian women. Both of them are very excited about being in the States and being with family and friends there.

