

# From <sup>O</sup><sub>R</sub> Point <sup>O</sup><sub>F</sub> View

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## the Ladies of Mission Vanuatu

**Shawnda's Journal**  
October 2007

**Monday, October 1st** - We didn't do much today. Eric and Mike worked for a few hours this morning and Titus and I stayed here. This afternoon Eric needed to run some errands, so Titus and I went with him. We've started doing that if Eric needs to run errands. We've always enjoyed running errands together, but it's also really good for Titus to get out of the house when he can. He enjoys riding in the truck, seeing lots of people, and just looking at new stuff. :o)

**Tuesday, October 2nd** - Eric and Mike worked at the church building today. They painted the outside of the building and it's looking good. When Eric got home, we went and visited some friends out at the "farm" - we hadn't been out there since we got back from the States, so it was good to see everyone. They were all "oohing" and "aahing" over how much Titus had grown and everything. There was a nice cool breeze, so we just sat out there under the trees, on mats for a few hours. We let the kids play and we all visited. It was a nice time. We had our "team" dinner tonight since Eric and Paul are planning to be gone to Emau this weekend when we'd normally do it. We all just brought our own food, but it was still a nice time of fellowship. We really enjoy that time together.

**Wednesday, October 3rd** - Well, Eric is sick again. Poor guy. He is running a fever, is achy, and has a sore throat. I feel terrible for him b/c he's so miserable, but there's just nothing I can do for him except make tea, give him medicine and pray. He's still planning to go to Emau this weekend, but if he gets worse I don't know how he can. Titus and I played on the front porch a lot today...we brought the soccer ball out and let him push that around. He really enjoyed that. Then we went on a walk to get some bread for lunch. He loves to be outside, so he did really well. I wish I could take him on a walk every day (and I really should), but I just don't have the energy most days. Carrying him around, my body changing and doing household "chores" keep me a little "zapped." But every once in a while (like today) I get a little burst of energy and can do things like that. :o) I know he enjoyed it. I made pizza tonight for dinner. I tried a new crust recipe (much easier) but it wasn't as good as the one I usually make. It'll definitely do when I'm in a hurry though. So, that's good.

**Sunday, October 7th** - Today was a very busy day. It was a great time of worship with a good group there. There were several visitors and many Christians. We had a fellowship meal after worship. It was the first one we have had a fellowship at the church building (since the bathrooms are finished now, it makes it easier to have them at the building). Anyway, most everyone stayed for the fellowship and we were glad to get to visit with lots of people. Patrick and Leisava came today with all the kids, so it was great to get to spend some time with them again. Titus was full of energy (as usual) and a handful. But thankfully during worship he actually did pretty good. While we were all eating and visiting, some of the older kids took Titus and played with him, so that was nice. He enjoyed that and I got to visit. :o) It was a great day, but by the time we got home (at 2:00), I was exhausted. Too bad Titus wasn't wanting to sleep! He did eventually take a nap, but was a little grumpy all day. Sometimes with church and fellowship he gets a

little too wound up and can't get settled back down for the rest of the day! It's tough on him. But, he's doing well.

**Wednesday, October 10th** - We went to Etas tonight for a study. We always arrive well before anyone else, so we just sat and visited with Pbles, Ruth, and a girl who lives with them, Morinda. They are sweet. Pbles decided to feed the chickens and Titus LOVED it. He sat really close and tried to touch them, but they were a little scared of him. But, when Pbles would throw the feed close to Titus so the chickens would come close, Titus seemed to be scared of them. So, they couldn't get it worked out. :o) But, it was cute. Titus likes being outside, playing in the dirt, and watching the other kids out there. He had a great time. The study went well and we got to visit with the Christians for a while afterwards. Those people are wonderful! I tell you what, when I get discouraged about the work in Vanuatu, all I have to do is think about or spend some time with the Christians from Etas and hope is restored. They are a great group of Christians, eager to grow, desirous of being taught, and wanting to do what God wants. It's great. We told them about the plans for when the Columbine group is here and they were all excited about it. I always leave Etas physically tired, but rested and renewed spiritually and emotionally.

**Friday, October 12th** - Eric and Paul were all ready to go to Emau today. But, when Eric called the island to make sure they were expecting him, they said it would be better to wait until another weekend b/c there was a "ded" (funeral) and a "mared" (wedding) that most of them would be involved in this weekend. So, this is the third time in a month that they've had to postpone (first two times were because Eric was so sick). Anyway, they were disappointed, but know that this just happens sometimes.

Eric and I ended up watching a movie tonight after Titus went to bed. We haven't done that in a while, so it was a nice treat. :o)

**Saturday, October 13th** - It has been really hot lately, so today we decided that we'd go swimming at Erakor island. It was Titus' first trip to the beach...and he LOVED it! He kept crawling into and out of the water. He'd crawl until he couldn't reach anymore (and we'd be there to "save" him). Then we'd turn him around and he'd start all over again. He had a blast. He also enjoyed playing in the sand. He didn't care for having his diaper changed outside (it was windy) but besides that, he loved every minute of it. It was also a nice break to just get away and not have to think about anything besides enjoying the water with Titus.

**Sunday, October 14th** - What a great day with the brethren in Vila. There were so many people there today. There were lots and lots of visitors and a great group of Christians too. I had 13 kids for Bible class and it was lots of fun. They all participated and seemed to enjoy it. I am enjoying preparing and teaching the kids Bible class again. We had a spell of about 6 months where we really didn't have any kids, and then they all just started coming back recently, so we started Bible class again. It's fun. Leila helped me today (mainly with Titus) but I want to visit with her about teaching sometimes. She is very good with kids and is capable of teaching. I am going to really encourage her to get involved and start teaching when she is ready.

For lunch today we decided that we wanted to go out b/c I was tired and didn't want to cook anything and we hadn't been out to eat in a while. Unfortunately Mike was sick today and didn't want to go, but Paul went with us. We took Titus' seat, so that helped keep him corraled while we ate, but that child is so full of energy, I don't know if we'll be able to go out to eat much until he gets a little older! He just doesn't want to sit still! Oh, it made me tired. :o) So, when we got home, Titus went down for a nap and I did too! It was nice to be able to rest for a while.

**Tuesday, October 16th** - This morning I went on a study with Mike to Carol's house. It went really well. She really appreciated us doing the study with her and wants to continue each week on Tuesday mornings. I am so glad to be a part of a study again. I really enjoyed the study and spending time with her and her sisters. They seem to be really excited and searching.

I had another appointment with the doctor today. It went well. He said everything looks perfect for how far along I am. He said that I should start feeling the baby kicking in the next couple of weeks...that's exciting! He didn't tell me anything extraordinary...but it was a good visit none-the-less. It was good to hear that everything is fine. Next month we'll do another ultrasound just to make sure everything is progressing like it should be. Looking forward to seeing the baby again. That will be fun.

**Friday, October 19th** - Mike, Eric and I ate fajitas for dinner...yummy. Paul was supposed to be back from Tanna (he just went for the night to see the volcano), but he didn't make it for dinner. I was so tired today (all day...don't know why). So, we ended up not playing games like we usually do. But, about 15 minutes after Mike left to go home, I felt someone in the room, so I looked up and about had a heart attack b/c Paul was just standing there. He didn't say anything when he came in, so we didn't hear him (he's really a quiet guy). He said he didn't say anything b/c he didn't want to startle us...well that didn't work! :o) After that, I think it gave my heart a shot of adrenaline, I was a lot more awake. So, we sat and talked for about an hour and then headed to bed.

**Sunday, October 21st** - It was another good day. It's been raining for two days straight now, so the kids are a little antsy...and it showed. They were pretty good during Bible class, but once we started worship, they just couldn't be quiet. It doesn't help that about half of the kids were sitting on a mat in the back (I hate that...but we're trying to be patient and teach the parents that it's not good for the kids to do that). Anyway, most of these kids' parents don't come with them...they usually come with Carol (the lady Mike and I are studying with). So, it's hard for her to "control" them. So, since I'm their "teacher," I took it upon myself to go stand by them and try to impress upon them that they need to be quiet so that the adults can hear what's being said. It seemed to help, but not eliminate the talking. Titus was also being a handful today, so that didn't help...I kind of had to split my time between the two disruptions. Needless to say, I didn't get much of the lesson...but hopefully others were able to concentrate since I was handling the kids?! I do remind the kids before we finish Bible class each time to be quiet in worship so they don't disturb the others....but it hasn't sunken through yet. I'll keep trying. I may even try a whole lesson about how we should act in worship.

I talked to Leila about teaching Bible class...or just trading off with me. She said she'd be happy to do that. So, we're going to get together and spend some time planning. She's so good with kids and they all really like her. I'm glad that there is finally a woman who is interested in teaching the kids.

I think the ladies are starting to figure out that I am pregnant. It's just different here...you don't "announce" that you are pregnant, you wait for someone to figure it out and ask you before you talk about it. So, I've been waiting to see when someone will notice. I think they are starting to figure it out. I think it's taken a while because the ladies here thought I couldn't get pregnant (we did too) so they didn't suspect it...they just thought I gained a lot of weight in the US! It'll be interesting to see who asks me about it first. :o)

**Monday, October 22nd** - It's literally been raining for three or four days straight. It makes me want to just sit around in my pajamas and read a good book...but with Titus, that's just not an option. So, I put on the comfiest clothes I can and read when I get a chance. :o) This cooler weather is also nice for sleeping at night (we have been using the quilt!) But, since my nose has been stopped up pretty much every day since we've been back, I have to breathe out of my mouth and it causes really dry, sore throats at night. Not the most pleasant thing. Thankfully drinking a lot of water in the night and drinking tea when I wake up in the morning helps. But, it still doesn't make for a restful night's sleep...not to mention that it's getting harder to get comfortable with this growing belly!

**Tuesday, October 23rd** - Mike and I had another study with Carol this morning. The studies are going really well, she's asking lots of good questions, and she shows a genuine desire to learn all she can from God's word. It's been great.

**Wednesday, October 24th** - We had another good night at Etas this evening. The study went well and they asked some good questions afterward. In fact, one man (Jimmy) who has been attending the studies with Aaron for several months indicated to Eric that he wanted to be baptized (Eric's lesson was on Mark 16). Eric spent some time discussing it with him...especially the need to count the cost. He said he'd think about it that evening and asked if Eric would come back the following afternoon. As usual, I was tired when we got home, but spiritually and emotionally rested.

**Thursday, October 25th** - Eric went back out to see Jimmy in Etas this afternoon. Not only he, but three others wanted to be baptized. They had all been attending the Bible studies for several months and were ready. So, Tom and Timothy baptized these 4 people into Christ. It is always neat to see these Christians (Tom and Timothy) be able to baptize their friends and family members into Christ. What a blessing!

**Saturday, October 27th** - We went to Erakor island again this afternoon (to swim at the beach). It's just so hot and Titus loves it so much. It's also nice to "get away" for a couple of hours. Titus loved it again...He still was in the water quite a bit, but found the sand pretty interesting too. (In fact, he kind of thinks he needs to "taste" it and see what it's about!)

**Tuesday, October 30th** - Mike and I had another study with Carol. It's going so well. She expressed her desire to be baptized, but after some more study, she decided that it was best if she waited until we had studied some more before she did it. She didn't want to do it without understanding exactly what it was she was doing. I am proud of her for coming to that conclusion. I really believe she will obey the gospel soon...it's just a matter of time. The Columbine group (George & Brenda Robison and Mike Ewing) arrived soon after the study with Carol was over. We greeted them at the airport and enjoyed a morning of "catching up" with them. What a blessing.

**Wednesday, October 31st** - We didn't do too much this morning. We did go to the grocery store and pick up a few things for the week. We had a nice hamburger lunch at the house and then headed out to Etas this evening. The Christians in Etas had gone out of their way to welcome the group from Columbine. They decorated the building with fresh flowers and leaves. Everyone enjoyed getting to know each other, George taught a good lesson about staying faithful to God, and we ate a great meal.