

From ^U_R Point ^O_F View

the Ladies of Mission Vanuatu

Shawnda's Journal - May 2008

Monday, May 11th - We left the US on May 9th, and after two full days of travelling, we have arrived back home in Vanuatu. Thankfully both of the kids did great on the trip. It's so exciting and great to be back. It is pretty humid, but we're hopeful that the cooler temperatures of our cool season are on their way! Lexi is adjusting well, and the Christians here are so excited to meet her. Titus is loving the openness of our house and re-discovering all of his toys. Also, my mom is here with us and is loving the Mema time with her grandkids. :o) It's great to be with Cindy, Kaela, Melia and Mike again. Aaron is in Ambae and we look forward to his return too. Kaela is really grown up now that she's going to preschool. I can really see a difference in her maturity. Melia has changed so so much. It's great to be able to get to know her. She is such a sweet little girl. She's at such a fun age too. Titus and Kaela are having so much fun together. They laugh, run, and generally "bounce off the walls" around each other. They are really funny together. We sure did miss our mission team while we were in the States.

Friday, May 23rd - Eric and I decided to go visit Claude and Rosemary today. We had a great visit. I sat inside and visited with Rosemary while the men stood outside and talked. I just love Rosemary. She and I had the best visit. We talked about all manner of things from Lexi's birth, to Claude's brother's death, to taking the Bible classes, to ladies fellowships. It was so nice to just sit and have a nice conversation with my Christian sister. She has such natural leadership qualities, but has always been tentative in wanting to lead. Cindy and I both think that she's afraid of leading because it would mean she would have to be committed to being at worship each week, etc. But, we're hoping that the more she builds relationships with the other Christian ladies, and grows in her faith, the more she'll want to be with other Christians to worship. Anyway, she brought up starting ladies fellowships again. We talked about several options and ideas that might help ladies get more involved. So I asked her to take the lead on Sunday and call a meeting of the ladies and ask for their opinions and share the ideas we had discussed. I left there feeling very encouraged. She has wonderful potential to be a great leader among the women.

Sunday, May 25th - Today was an awesome day. We had a great group of Christians there. Literally all of the "regulars" were there today except one lady. There were 17 local Christian adults there! That is so encouraging.

Also, Eric preached and I got to hear it! Usually when Eric preaches, I come home exhausted and ready for a nap (and usually not in a good mood to tell you the truth). Of course it's not because of what Eric preaches, it's because I usually don't get to hear a word of it!!! Titus usually has to be taken out so many times to train him, that I can't participate in worship at all. But...today I didn't have to take Titus out of worship one time!!!! It has literally been at least 6 months since I have been able to sit through an entire time of worship without having to get up to take Titus out. It was wonderful. He just sat and played with his quiet toys and obeyed when I asked him to sit still! Of course my mom held Lexi (who slept the whole time) so I could deal with Titus, but I didn't even need to correct him really. He was great.

Then, to top it off...we had a meeting with the ladies. I reminded Rosemary (privately) to take charge of the meeting and she did!!! Several of the ladies shared their ideas. In the past we have tried meeting every week, meeting every other week, etc. But, there were usually just one or two other women (besides myself and Cindy). So, after much discussion we decided to meet the last Saturday of every month, at the church building, at the same time. That way we always know where it is, what time, etc. A different woman will be in charge of it each month (meaning she will be responsible for reminding the men to make the announcement, choosing what we do, and who will lead prayers, songs, or whatever). We are all really excited about it and hope to have a large turnout this week for our first one. It is gatherings like these that will help make the women in Vila strong, connected, and encouraged to fight the good fight!