

From ^O_R Point ^O_F View

the Ladies of Mission Vanuatu

Shawnda's Journal
June 2008

Saturday, June 14th - We had a ladies day at Etas. We had four local ladies come from Vila, my mom, me and several children from here too. There were lots of ladies from the Etas congregation there with us. We had a really nice time together. It was so encouraging to see the ladies from Vila and the ladies from Etas interacting and getting to know each other. Mom enjoyed it too. She met some ladies she hadn't met before and they said she looked really young...she really liked that. :o)

Sunday, June 15th - Dad arrived today. We are all so excited, but no one as much as Titus. He loves his Papa. In fact, he was so glad to see his Papa that he actually sat pretty still in church b/c he was on his Papa's lap. :o) It was a nice day of worship. There were many Christians there and we had a nice time together singing, praying and hearing preaching from God's word. I think dad really enjoyed meeting the Christians I've spoken of so often. This evening we (our family, the Bakers and Mike) all went to the park at the Seafront for a picnic and playing in the park. The kids love this so much, that we are thinking of making it a weekly tradition.

Tuesday, June 17th - We drove around the island today. We stopped in Eton to see the new house Eddie is building near the beach (he and his family used to live there over 20 years ago, but a big hurricane came, destroyed it all and they moved more inland in the village). It is looking nice. We found out that Lexi doesn't care for the wind! She also decided that she needed to have several dirty diapers today, which gave her a slight diaper rash, which made her scream a lot. Poor baby. After leaving Eton village, we stopped at Eton beach and enjoyed a picnic lunch, a short swim, watched a local man catch a Baracuda, Lexi took a nap, and Titus played and played in the sand. When we were ready to leave, we headed to Epau village. One of our good friend's son passed away this past weekend and the entire family was gathered at their house in Epau. We stopped to visit with them. They all met Lexi for the first time and I think it brightened their spirits a little. People in Vanuatu love babies. Titus was also a "hit." He & Lexi made lots of grieving people smile that day. Leisong took mom aside and gave her a basket, mat and island dress. It was really thoughtful of her. Mom was very honored by the special gifts. We continued to make our way around the island without any more stops until we reached Vila. It was a nice day, but as usual, very tiring.

Thursday, June 19th - Went to eat this evening at the Waterfront. It has amazing ribs. Titus was pretty well behaved (that's saying a lot...he's not at a great age for eating out at restaurants). Anyway, he enjoyed being close to the boats. Lexi was pretty good too. Something that happens at most restaurants here in Vanuatu that would never happen in the States is that the waitresses/hostesses will come and take your baby and hold them while you eat. When Titus was little, they would offer to do that, but I was a little uncomfortable with it. I gradually realized that it was common. Not many babies go out to eat here, and like I said, people in Vanuatu love babies. Anyway, so this evening two of the girls held Lexi while we ate (which was nice since we

were eating ribs!) :o) Mom thinks this is such an unusual thing (built in babysitting) that she tried to catch the girls holding Lexi in a picture (candid), but every time they saw the camera, they posed. It was funny.

Saturday, June 21st - We went to Kaela's school to a carnival. It was such a nice time and we were glad to be able to help in a fundraiser for her school. We are planning to send Titus (and Lexi if we're here that long) to the same school, so it was great that my parents were able to see where the kids would be going to school. We even got to see two of the classrooms. Titus loved the menu...ice cream, a hamburger, a sucker and a piece of cake. Ha! I guess it's okay for every once in a while. :o)

Wednesday, June 25th & Thursday, June 26th - Mom, Dad, Eric, the kids and I went to Moso island (about a 30 minute boat ride from the main island). There is a little ecotourism "resort" there. It's mainly a dive resort and is pretty barebones, but we love it. It's really relaxed and so nice for a getaway. The meals were delicious, the kids both slept well. I think Titus thought he was in paradise. I mean he literally played outside all day long. He slept for about an hour, but played non-stop the rest of the time. He also slept through the night. Lexi did pretty well sleeping too. Since the resort is owned by the same man who owns the boat "Coongoola" that does a day cruise, we were able to hop on that the next day and join them for the day cruise. It goes to the other side of the island from where we were staying, they do snorkelling, provide a lunch, and it's just lots of fun. Dad loved the snorkelling. Poor mom held Lexi for literally two hours while she slept. The rest of us took turns playing in the same with Titus, going snorkelling, etc. We all thoroughly enjoyed our time out there. We loved it!

Friday, June 27th - Some friends from New Zealand, John and Anne Shepherd, have been here all week on a holiday. They are staying at Hideaway Island and have come over for a couple of meals with our team. They joined us for team night tonight. We had a great time visiting. John came over originally in 2006 to help with the building project.

Saturday, June 28th - We had ladies day at the building today. Carol made this banana & pineapple cake that was so yummy! I made pizza and others brought other things. It was a great time together. John and Ann brought some second hand clothes with them to share with the Christians here. So, we took a bag to the ladies fellowship for everyone to go through. We divided them evenly with all of the Christian ladies here in Vila. It was fun going through everything together and deciding who needed what. It worked out really well b/c there were all different sizes of clothes, so there was something for everyone.