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Our family thoroughly enjoyed our visit to the Green Point area of South Tanna this month. It was our first opportunity to meet many of the new Christians there (inset).

## Outer Island Trip: Tanna Island (Part 2)

As reported in our last edition, our family spent the last week of March in Loun Village (central Tanna). As the calendar turned to April, we shifted to another village on the south side of the island. Heavy rains meant that the road out of Loun was impassable by truck, so we carried our stuff (with lots of help) down to Lenekel - a one hour walk. We were originally scheduled to spend our second week in latukun Village, but as they often do in the outer islands of Vanuatu, signals got crossed and plans changed at the last minute. As I like to say: “things rarely work out like you plan them to, but they almost always work out.”

We ended up heading even further south than originally planned, and got to make our first ever visit to the Green Point area of Tanna. Some of you may recall our reporting in years past about Jack and Anna. Their family spent all of 2014 in Port Vila tending to the medical needs of their infant son who had rolled into the cooking fire. Shawnda and I spent many hours in study and discussion with them that year, and were excited to send them back to Tanna to plant the church in their home village. It

was an honor to get to go and see firsthand the fruit of their labors. Since their return in late 2014, Jack has studied with and baptized seven others, including most recently Jimmy, who was baptized during our trip.

While I had originally prepared lessons from the book of Titus, Jack and I agreed that I should alter the program to better suit these very young Christians. Green Point is unlike most other areas of Vanuatu, as there are only a few small evangelical Christian groups in the region. “Kastom” (traditional, animistic) religion is the most prevalent, followed closely by the John Frum Cargo Cult movement, and lastly Mormonism. Thus many of the new Christians know little-to-nothing about the Bible, and several are illiterate as well. We spent time during the week talking about the Bible as a book and then as a story, about who Jesus was and what he did/taught, and lastly what a person’s ongoing faith-response is. We were pleased that, in addition to the nine Christians, there were several visitors from the community who showed interest in the studies. I am planning to return in October to run a series of “open-air” meetings to further reach out into the community.



Jack and Anna with their four kids

I would be remiss if I did not mention how wonderful it was to be with Jack and Anna again. They are one of the sweetest couples you will ever meet, and they are truly living for Jesus. The week together with them was one of our most-fulfilling as missionaries!



Following each study, Jack gave a short summary in their local language



A good problem: the church building quickly proved to be too small for our crowd, and so an extension was added on the back

## Ladies’ Retreat: Malekula Island

Due to our family’s new schedule that only affords us one visit to each outer island location per year (in accordance with Titus and Alexis’ school schedule), we decided it would be good for Shawnda and Abbie to make a quick trip to Malekula this month to lead a retreat for the ladies there. A similar retreat in Tanna late last year got rave reviews, and this experience was no different. Christian sisters and visitors from Wiaru, Lembinwen, Pikair, Brenwe and Tulwei Villages all came together for

## Prayer Requests:

- **Youth Group Meetings**

Our Saturday meetings went well in 2014, and our Wednesday afternoon meetings were very well received in 2015, but we've had trouble getting things started this year. We have a few ideas in store, and seek your prayers as we try to find the best way to be involved in the lives of the youth.

- **Interns & Campaigners**

As summertime arrives in the Northern Hemisphere, several are gearing up for mission trips. We are looking forward to hosting three interns from OC for six weeks, and a campaign group from Harding for a week.

- **New Brother in Tanna**

Jimmy is a 23 year old auto mechanic. He has shown great interest in learning more about the gospel since Jack and Anna returned to the island in late 2014, and decided to be baptized into Christ this month.



## Prayer Updates:

- **Malekula Ladies Program**

Prayers for success and safety during this month's trip were answered. As a follow-up, please be praying for several ladies in Malekula (and throughout the country) who face very difficult home life situations.

a few days of fellowship through Bible study, games, and meals. Shawnda taught lessons on unity from Ephesians, and extracurriculars included how to cook "kumatillas" (a Shawnda-and-Abbie-original), the introduction of new songs, and fingernail painting. Lastly, the ladies enjoyed getting to distribute pillowcase dresses to many of the local girls that were sewn and sent by students in Marlow, OK, as a part of their home economics program. The idea behind the effort is that many young girls in developing countries never have the chance to own a new dress, and they are seeking to show them that they are indeed valuable and loved.



## The Big Move

For the first time, we are officially home-owners (alongside the bank, anyway!). In between our travels we stayed busy getting the house ready and ultimately moving in on the last day of the month. The house had been vacant for over a year, and thus had a fair bit of water damage and vandalism.



We are excited about the property, and pray that it will serve to bring much fruit to the kingdom over the next decade.