



Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu



In this month's issue...

I spent the majority of my time this month continuing work on the building project here in Vila (it's a marathon, not a sprint!).

Our team was also blessed with an opportunity to visit Australia [photo above] for a week, which we thoroughly enjoyed.

We had two local house guests spend a Friday night with us, which made for an exciting weekend, and the Vila ladies visited the farm.

We hope you enjoy this month's scrapbook. We love and appreciate all of you so very much!

From the home-front...

Can it be that August has already come and gone? It sure passed quickly. We had some fun times at the Brandell house this month. It's always fun when we have kids in the house and one weekend this month we had Joshua and Olivier stay with us (Patrick and Leisava's kids). They call us "Mommy Shawnda" and "Daddy Eric," which we both love. It was Olivier's first time to sleep away from home, so there was about an hour there that we thought we were going to have to drive him home, but a little "Mommy Shawnda" lap time with some books and we were good to go. The big event of the month was our team's trip to Australia. What a wonderful opportunity to rest and relax. We are blessed with great elders who know the need to "get away" and recharge our batteries. Thank you!

- Shawnda



PROGRESS: PORT VILA BUILDING PROJECT

We are getting closer to completion with each passing day (but I must admit I am beginning to wonder if we'll ever make it). This month we were able to complete the rendering of the main building, made a good start on the roof by fastening 22 sheets of corrugated steel [left]. We also made some significant progress on



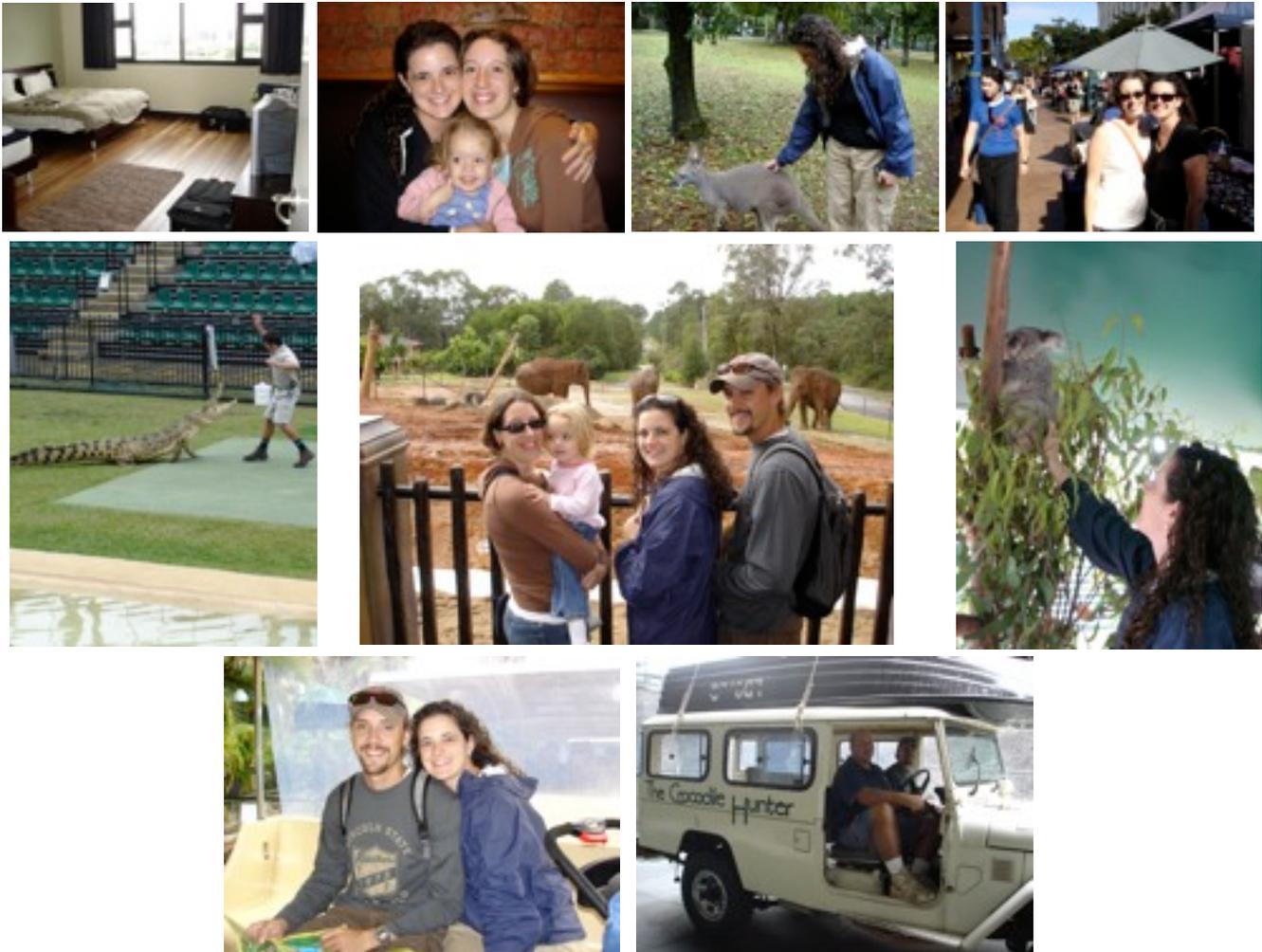
the bathrooms [right]. Lots and lots of time has gone into this project, and we believe it will be well worth it in the end. We have especially enjoyed getting to work alongside our brethren in this effort. More to come next month!





SURPRISE! A TRIP TO AUSTRALIA

Our team was pleasantly surprised this month when our elders at Columbine announced to us that they were sending us on a one-week vacation to Australia. August marked our 16th month in Vanuatu, and they felt it was time that we take a break. We were flattered by the offer, and had a wonderful time in Brisbane, Australia. The girls liked shopping the most, while we guys especially enjoyed attending a professional Australian Rules' Football game. Kaela really enjoyed her first trip to the zoo (the Australia Zoo, home of the Crocodile Hunter...we were so sad to hear that he was killed by a stingray the day we returned to Vanuatu). It was a really nice break, and we wish to again express our thanks for the trip! We hope you can rejoice with us as you look at these photos from our trip.



HOUSE GUESTS: JOSHUA AND OLIVIER

You may recall our mentioning that we study the Bible each week with Patrick and Leisava. They were baptized last April and proceeded to ask us to study with them about how to have a Christian home. Each Sunday afternoon Shawnda and I go to their house here in Vila to study, sing and visit. We have become very close to this family and re-





ceive so much encouragement from them and their desire to apply biblical principles to their lives. We absolutely love that their children, Joshua (10), Olivina (6), Olivier (4) and Shawnda (6 months), refer to us as “daddy-Eric” and “mommy-Shawnda.” The two boys frequently ask when they can come and stay with us, so we finally set a date for them to come spend the night with us one Friday night in August. We ate fajitas (Olivier would later tell his parents that he put ice cream on his, though it was actually sour cream), colored, and watched the movie *Robots* on Friday night, and went to the store to buy sweet bread for breakfast on Saturday morning. We all enjoyed the weekend and look forward to next time!



LADIES' BIBLE STUDY: THE FARM

The ladies here in Port Vila continue to meet together once a week to encourage one another. Once a month during this time they visit a village congregation. This month they went to “the farm” on the north side of town where a number of Christian ladies work and live. As always, they sang, studied, ate, and laughed a lot. Near the end of their time together they got really silly as you can tell from these photos (is Shawnda rubbing off on them or what?!?).

