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BLOGPOSTS:

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[Youth for Jesus](#)

Youth group meetings in Etas Village every Sunday are a highlight of our week. We are particularly excited about these three making a decision for Jesus.

[... We Made It](#)

What a great "summer" we have had. Lots of fun and encouragement with visitors galore. Read all about it...

[At the Farm](#)

Our family heads up the hill to the farm each Thursday evening for dinner and a Bible study in the bush. What's that like?

[Jesus' sermon](#)

Several of us are studying thru the Sermon on the Mount together on Wednesday nights. It's been great to discuss these important texts together as a church.



[Klutts and Keel Clans](#)

While on assignment as Visiting Missionaries at OC late last year, we were blessed to be a part of a young-marrieds Bible class at the Edmond Church of Christ. Being a congregation of over 1,000 people, the smaller Bible class setting provided the ideal scenario for us to get to know several people on a deeper level. In particular, the first couple we met (who actually led us to their class) were Phil and Tara Klutts. The Brandell quiet-to-talkative ratio is very similar to the Klutts' ratio (I'll let you figure out who is who), and thus our families got along great from the start. I also enjoyed being a part of the men's Bible study group that Phil led. Thus, you can imagine our excitement when we heard that they, along with the Keel family (Dustin, Hannah, Briar, Silas), were planning a trip to Vanuatu!

Work and family schedules only allowed them to be in country for about a week, which means our time together was fast and furious (well... as much as Vanuatu-time will allow!). Upon their arrival and hotel check-in, we went straight to the Wednesday night dinner and Bible study. They were real troopers, as traveling overseas and immediately listening to a Bible study in a different language after dark can be a chore.

Thursday morning us guys helped a few of the local Christians with some cement work at the Vila church building, while the

Prayer Requests:

- **Travel**

Lord willing, I will be boarding a plane for Santo on 11 Sept, to spend a long weekend with the brethren there. Please be praying for safety and success for the trip, and also for Shawnda and the kids as they stay behind in Vila.

- **Youth Camp**

Plans are now in the works for our first ever youth camp. It is going to be scheduled over the Christmas school holidays, and our theme is going to be purity. This is a MUCH NEEDED topic among the youth in Vanuatu, and we covet your prayers that we and the parents can handle this important subject with wisdom and clarity.

Prayer Updates:

- **Marriages**

One marriage relationship in particular is now at a critical level, and it absolutely breaks our hearts. We don't name names here for sake of privacy, but please be praying for this Christian couple, that their hearts will be softened and that Satan won't succeed in destroying their relationship. Such a decision will adversely affect their faith and the church.

- **Jake and Anna**

We mention this couple and their two boys often, and they are now beginning to make plans to return home to Tanna Island after almost a year in Vila. Be praying for them as they return to a village where the gospel is desperately needed.

ladies went with Shawnda to her regular weekly study at Anna's. After a quick afternoon break, we headed for the farm (see associated "Farm" blogpost). As soon as we were about to leave town, a torrential downpour came through, and so we made a last minute decision that only the guys would go to the farm (since half of our group was riding in the back of our truck). The ladies went back to the house and worked on some Bible class materials for a new congregation in Tanna Island, while we went to eat and study with Patrick and his family.

Our Friday "culture day" plans were also spoiled by the rain (you can't make a laplap with wet stones and firewood!), but we still went and had coffee with Eddie in Eton Village. He loves having opportunities to talk about the old days, and especially his conversion and subsequent experiences as a Christian. People always tell us that visiting with him is one of the highlights of their trip. We all enjoyed a local fire show in town that evening.

On Saturday, we assisted the Etas Village congregation with their Pikinini Baebol Klab meeting, and walked around town for a bit that afternoon. Sunday was full on as well, as we assembled with the Christians in Eton Village, and headed straight for our youth group meeting in Etas Village after lunch.

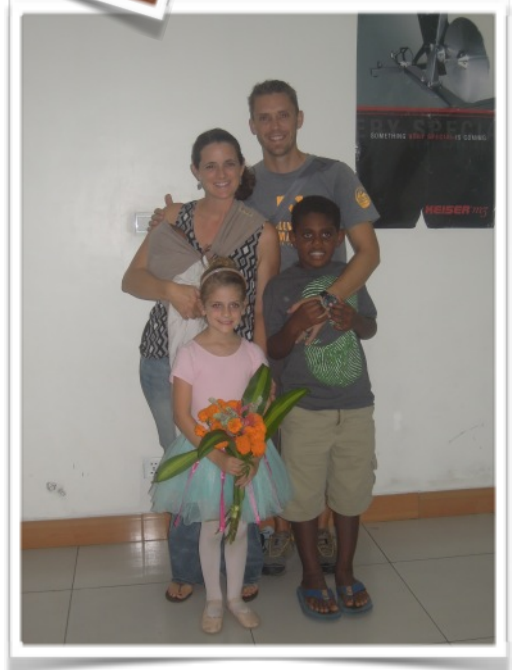
In between, we enjoyed getting to visit. The Keels were our first visitors to ever bring along their children... Titus and Alexis LOVED all the time with their new friends. It was all fantastic!

Life on Efate

We spent the month of August "at home" in Vila, but still stayed plenty busy. Shawnda and I have around 6 one-on-one studies every week, and then a couple more small group Bible studies. We visit around the local congregations here on the main island on Sundays, and have youth group in Etas every week. I preached in Etas once and Vila twice this month.

As they grow, Titus and Alexis are staying active with school, playdates, and other activities (e.g. archery, hand drums and ballet). They do better than we sometimes give them credit for with all the transition and traveling we do! Grayson is the sweetest baby. He continues to eat and sleep well, and is really growing. What a blessing he is to our family! Another special blessing this month was getting to spend a lot of time with fellow-American friends, the Jones family, on a break in Vila from their home and work on Uripiv Island. Thanks so much, guys!!!

August 2014



With Alexis after her ballet recital >



^ Great times with the Klutts and Keel families (visiting with Eddie and Bible study at Anna's)

New Christians: Tino, Merriam, Jimmy >

