

Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANDELLS IN VANUATU

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✧ Summertime ✧

Let's make it official - the heat and humidity are upon us! And with it comes our stormy season as well. The Pacific has already experienced a cyclone and a tropical storm, and we request your prayers for those who have been or will be effected by the season. We are grateful to have fans (solar powered) at our house and a deep freezer at a store in the village for popsicles and ice cream.

TEACHING IN SWB

The holiday season is always a more challenging time work-wise, as school is out and everyone is in vacation mode. We scheduled our main activity for the month just before the lull, and it was a great time.

The tent meeting in Lembinwen Village (Southwest Bay, Malekula), proved to be a fruitful endeavor. We had 28 of us from Tulwei Village, Mike from Santo, and Aiel's family of five Christians together for a week of fellowship and Bible study.

Mike and I taught each evening for about 45 minutes, and then conducted a question and answer session. For two of those nights, the latter was heavily monopolized by Sabbatharians asking questions in promotion of their core doctrine. It became somewhat of an impromptu public debate. While not the design of the Q&A session, the outcome was that both sides were able to communicate their beliefs and everyone present was able to make their own conclusions in regard to the truth of the matter. I appreciated the opportunity to defend the truth in such a forum.

We had a devotional time together each morning, and then everyone enjoyed visiting, eating and working together for the remainder of the day. A major job was going to the bush to fetch five bushels of thatch to roof a house Aiel is building. It took seven of us half a day to cut down three trees, remove and bundle the leaves, and carry them back to the house - probably would have



Team Update

The Bakers continue their transition process in the States, and are very excited to have closed on a house near the St Louis area. Their work with the Forstell congregation is progressing nicely, and they enjoyed spending the holidays with family for the first time in a long time.

We were grateful to get to spend some time with Mike this month, including wishing him a happy birthday in person, as he spent one night at our house after our trip to Southwest Bay. He is planning a trip back to the States in early 2013.

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taken Aiel and his son two or three days to complete by themselves. We were happy to help out.

We were grateful to have several visitors for the nightly studies, two or three of whom were regular in attendance. We look forward to following up with them early next year.



**Lius has enjoyed her wheelchair, which allows her to get out of the house. Minnie (Tulwei), brought her this new island dress.**



**The ladies in Tulwei wove a mat for Nancy (in SWB) to say thanks for hosting our group.**



**All the kids had tons of fun playing on the beach and in the ocean - a week of non-stop fun!**



## MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

Our family was very fortunate to be blessed with the opportunity to spend part of the holiday season with Christian family in New Zealand. The Raine family in Wellington hosted us, and we had a great time. We enjoyed great fellowship, cool temperatures, beautiful scenery, yummy food, and shopping. Thanks to all who made this trip possible!

We were able to visit four different congregations on the north island, two of which have supported the work in Vanuatu in various ways in the past. The other two are mission congregations in new areas, which is exciting. I preached three times and presented on the work in Vanuatu twice.

We finished our trip off by visiting the Iseli family in Auckland whom we had met in Malekula. The time away was really refreshing and we were ready to get back to Vanuatu. We are excited to experience all that God has in store for us in 2013!

