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FEB BLOGPOSTS:

(click on a title to open post)

[OMV: Healthcare](#)

From the "Oh, My Vanuatu" files ... a look back at our first hospital experience ;)

[A Dilemma: Part 1](#)

We've recently become increasingly aware of the prevalence of spousal abuse in Vanuatu, and share our struggles with how to deal with this type of dilemma.

[OMV: Translation](#)

Another post from the "Oh, My Vanuatu" files ... an enticing (?) appeal to the community ;)

[Transitions](#)

Our most-read and most-commented on post of the month, which considers the struggle of re-adapting.

[OMV: Invention](#)

Lastly from the "Oh, My Vanuatu" files ... living in Vanuatu necessitates some creativity and ingenuity ;)



I (still) do

The institution of marriage is an interesting one here in Vanuatu. More than once someone will introduce you to "their husband," and in the next breath mention that they are "not yet married." Confused? We were initially, as well. Over the years, we've come to have a better understanding of both the culture and how God's design for marriage fits into it.

I was honored to officiate over a ceremony this month wherein Flexon and Fiona publicly stated their vows to each other, fulfilling the government's requirements for a marriage license. While they (and I) know that they were joined together by God years ago, this was the last step in their endeavor to please her family by having an official ceremony. It was a joyous occasion. In the coming weeks, I plan to blog about this issue in consideration of the ways in which western influences have caused confusion.

Mission: House hunt **COMPLETE!**

With the month of February came a new set of listings for rental properties, and we quickly saw three that we thought would work for us. We ended up choosing a 2 bedroom / 1 bath duplex in an area called "Numbatu," which is a mixed community of both



Prayer Requests:

- **Christian Marriages**

The families in Tanna request our prayers that God will work in their marriages in light of our recent studies together on that topic. Too, several Christian sisters are dealing with very difficult situations, as they try to honor non-Christian husbands.

- **Cyclone Lusi**

Vanuatu is in the midst of a tropical cyclone that has claimed one life, canceled flights, and caused some damage to houses and crops.

- **Mike Olson**

Mike plans to spend a week in Vila with us before moving to the US on March 22. He will be sorely missed.

Prayer Updates:

- **Baby Ralph**

...had his final skin graft and was released from the hospital. He and his family are staying with some Christians in Etas Village for the time being, so they can continue to have access to the hospital.

- **Permanent housing**

...we are very pleased with the duplex we are in. The price, location and setup are just what we needed at this time.

Thanks for your prayers!!

expats and locals (and our duplex neighbors are Mormon missionaries). We are within walking distance to the grocery store and town, which has been a blessing since we are currently without a vehicle. There is not a lot of yard space, but we've committed to taking family walks on a regular basis for exercise and fresh air, and hopefully we will be able to build relationships with some in the neighborhood in the process. God supplies!

In Memory...

We are deeply saddened to share the news that a dear friend and brother died at the end of the month. Claude Kalsakau was known for being a great conversationalist, and was always seeking to learn something new (especially in relation to the Bible). He greatly desired to bless others. Practically all who have visited Vanuatu in the past few years will remember visiting with him.

The details are sketchy (we were in Tanna with no cellular reception, and only learned about his passing several days after the fact). A few years ago, Claude had really become focused on his health, as he had been diagnosed with "sik suga" (diabetes). With diet and exercise he lost a lot of weight and seemed to be in good health. However, he had an episode at the end of the month, and passed away very unexpectedly less than a day later.

He leaves behind a wife (Rosemary), a son (Tari, 8 years) and a daughter (Liz, 4years). We've been proud of how well the local churches have rallied around the family during this very difficult time, with several island congregations sending calls, letters and donations to Rosemary and the kids. Flexon ended up conducting the funeral on only a moment's notice - his first such experience. We too will be seeking out ways in which we can minister to the family going forward.

This serves as another tragic reminder that life is short, and we need to be making the most of every moment, ensuring that our hope is in Jesus.

