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Teaching & Training

Every Sunday morning, the congregation here in Tulwei Village conducts two Sunday school classes - the women teach the younger kids (currently going through the stories of the Old Testament) and the men teach the youth (currently going through a chapter-by-chapter study of Genesis).

Following our Sunday assembly, Alsen conducts a Bible club meeting with the kids, with an emphasis on memorizing Bible facts and the location of key people and accounts.

Each Sunday evening, the Christians meet together to study through a book of the Bible. This trip we are going through the five books of wisdom literature in the OT.

Each Wednesday morning, the ladies gather at one of their houses for a time of fellowship

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Mema & Papa

Our family was excited to welcome Shawnda's parents to Vanuatu this month. Mema and Papa are scheduled to be with us in Malekula for three weeks, and then we will all head to Vila for another three weeks. We have all enjoyed spending time together, and favorite activities have included swimming in the

river, playing games, reading books, riding bikes, school lessons, watching videos and work projects. Before leaving Malekula, we are scheduled to make a voyage down to Southwest Bay to encourage Aiel and his family. It should be fun to share that experience with them.



NOTICE BOARD: We added 2 more Bible correspondence course students this month, bringing our total to 11. The board continues to be an effective tool.



BIBLE STUDY: Rovia was so excited about the things that he was learning in our studies, that he began sharing with his friends. Five of them joined us this month.



BABY: Rensly's part of our youth group, and his family welcomed a new baby this month. The congregation here used it as an opportunity to reach out to his parents.

and study. They just finished up a series on the fruit of the Spirit.

Every Wednesday night, the congregation gathers together for a mid-week meeting. When our family is present, I conduct a series of lessons (Biblical Parenting is the current trip's topic). When our family is away, the Christians meet to sing and pray together.

Beginning this month, I am meeting with the men every

Thursday morning for a series of studies on preaching and leadership.

The village school meets for half a day on Fridays, at which time the youth group comes to our house for lunch and a Bible study. We are currently studying principles from the book of James, and working on developing leadership skills.

Beginning in 2011, we committed to live and work in

Tulwei through the end of 2013. As we quickly approach the end of our time, we are excited about the trajectory of the work here. Lives are being changed for the better as God's word is studied and applied, and we pray that He will continue to use us all as lights within the community.



Ladies' Ministry

Every Wednesday morning, the ladies and I meet together for a time of fellowship, prayer and Bible study. We have covered various topics in the past, but usually on a question-by-question basis.

However, several months ago one of the older ladies asked if I would do a study on helping them live the Christian life everyday. I decided that it needed to be an on-going study instead of just one week. So, last time we were in Malekula, we began a study on the deeds of the flesh vs. the fruit of the Spirit from Galatians 5.

It has been a wonderful study. The first week we started by talking about what the deeds of the flesh are and how we could avoid that worldly life and way of thinking (and that if we choose to live that way, we will not inherit the kingdom of God). Each week after that, we focused on one aspect of the fruit of the Spirit (Love, Joy, Peace...). I encouraged the ladies to focus on that area for the entire week, read the verses we referenced in the study, memorize the memory verse, and look for ways to evidence it in their daily lives.

When you really focus on these things, it is amazing how much your perspective and actions change throughout the week. These ladies told me several times that they messed up and did something they knew was opposite of the fruit they should be evidencing. But, when they recognized it, they stopped, repented, and refocused on being a bearer of the fruit of the Spirit rather than a doer of worldly deeds. There was also one particular lady

who regularly took the studies and shared them with her friends and neighbors. It has been so encouraging to see God's word affect the daily lives of these sisters.

This past Wednesday was our last study of the series. When we finished going over the last study (self-control), I asked for questions or comments. One lady spoke up and said, "This has been a good study. I know it's true. But I also know it's not easy to show the fruit of the Spirit. I have been convicted that I do not show the fruit in my life enough. I am going to pray and ask God to help me show His fruit instead of just doing what the world does." She talked of specific things in her life that she knew needed to change and asked for prayer. When she finished, others added their desire to show the fruit more in their life as well. We then



talked about how we can hold each other accountable as sisters in Christ. Not a one of us is perfect, so we can't go around correcting each other with a prideful attitude, but one of humility, brotherly love and a mutual desire to live our lives in a way that pleases our Master.

This has been a very thought-provoking study for both the local Christian ladies and myself. As we go forward from here, my prayer is that these studies will make a difference in our daily lives - how we treat others, how we react when things don't go our way, how we talk to others, &

how we teach and train our children. I pray that these differences will not only bless our lives and our family's life, but cause others to question the cause of the change...and want it for themselves.

- Shawnda

In Loving Memory...

"Precious in the sight of the Lord is the death of His godly ones" (Psalm 116:15)

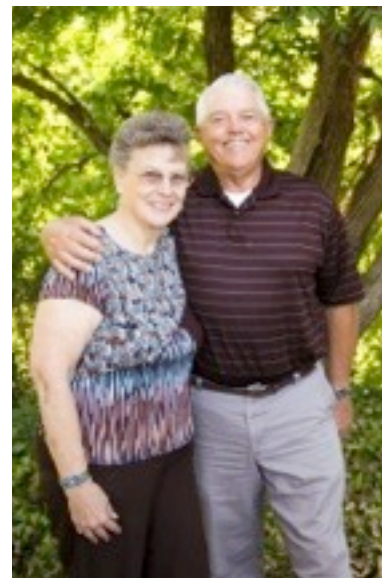
Two precious souls went on to their reward this month, both of whom were great blessings to us and the Vanuatu work.

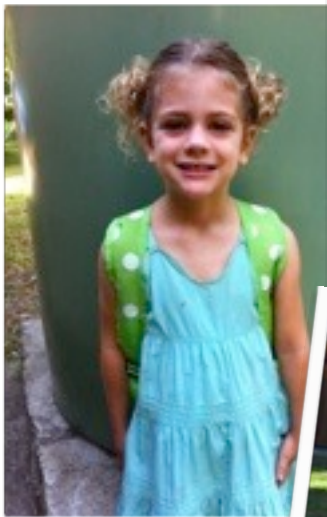
Dwayne "Andy" Anderson was a very active part of the missions committee of one of our supporting congregations in Duncan, OK. I still remember calling him back in 2005, and how excited he was about our plans to move to Vanuatu. He and his wife always reminded us that they were "big fans" of us and our work. We were grateful to have spent a good amount of time with him during our last furlough, knowing that his illness was progressing and that his time was limited. He had a positive attitude to the end, and leaves behind his sweet wife.



We met Pinky Hawes and her husband, Jack, during a furlough visit to Ripon, CA, in 2007. They began supporting us financially soon after that first meeting. We were only blessed with a few brief opportunities to be with them, but it was obvious that Ms. Pinky was a great servant of the Lord. If there was work to do, she was there to do it. She was also a faithful companion to Jack as he served their congregation as an elder.

Both of these Christians leave behind a large hole that will be difficult to fill, because of all of the good works in which they were engaged. Their families and congregations will miss them dearly, but we are all comforted by the fact that they both proudly lived their lives for Jesus.





Alexis started a new year at Kindy. She was scared of a cow on the road, so Titus went and walked her home from school. It was extra special to have Mema and Papa walk her to school for 2 weeks.



Nothing says "welcome to Malekula" like laplap sorsor.



An expert teacher, Titus and Alexis have both enjoyed having Mema conduct daily homeschooling sessions.



We got a pack of UNO cards this month, and Titus is a GREAT player. He plays at least 10 times per day.



HELPING OUT: Mema and Papa got right to work in Malekula, sanding our table, feeding Alexis (affectionately nicknamed "Mo" because she's slower than "mo-lasses" when she eats), hauling water, mending fences, and hand-washing clothes. Thanks!!

Toilet Remodel: Village Edition

1. Note that the palm-tree-plank floor of your current "outhouse-style" toilet is severely rotten (wrong step means you take the "poo-plunge")
2. Note that your in-laws arrive in just under a month (and you do not want them taking said poo-plunge!)
3. Dig a deep hole (enlist help)
4. If you don't have timber for boxing, dig out a rectangular bed to size for slab
5. Call Mike in Santo to send you rebar, PVC, and roofing iron
6. Once you receive order (may take the ship 3 weeks to make the 12 hour voyage), lay plastic vapor shield and place rebar
7. Place round dish (hole for toilet) and pvc (exhaust) in correct location
8. Hand mix concrete in wheelbarrow (need five mixes for 7x150x200cm slab) and pour
9. Rinse slab 2-3 times per day for 3 days while concrete hardens
10. Early the next morning, find all the helpers you can to move the slab over the hole (helpful hint: use coconuts as rollers if too heavy - it works!)
11. Go coconut fishing (small rebar as spear to retrieve coconut "rollers" that fell into the hole during step 10) - you don't want them in there because you'll need all the space you can get
12. Fill in gaps between slab and ground with crushed coral
13. Hunt around your house and your neighbors' houses for random pieces of timber (ask before taking neighbor's timber)
14. Install four posts, rafters, battens and roofing iron - duct tape seams ;)
15. Install plywood walls, hinged door
16. Install fiberglass toilet seat
17. Celebrate your success with a cold Coke

