

# Brandell e~Scr@pbook

[facebook.com/v2brandells](https://facebook.com/v2brandells)

[www.missionvanuatu.com](http://www.missionvanuatu.com)



## Build, Build, Build

“Build” was the theme for this month, as it was confirmed that the grand opening of the Etas church building was scheduled for the first Sunday of March. To help with the blitz, several

A major project on the agenda this month was installing and painting the ceiling. Thankfully we had some “young backs” that were willing to pitch in and help with all the over-the-head work.



A shot from one of our many planning sessions, as we prepare for the grand opening next month.

of the youth pitched in for a week before starting back to school, and we hired four guys to help complete the toilet block. It was a team effort, and it meant I was in Etas almost everyday this month, but it will all be worth it once the congregation and community can begin experiencing the fruit of our labor next month. The to-do list included ceiling installation & paint, interior & exterior wall paint, window & door installation, and toilet block rendering.

## New School Year In Full Swing

We continue to be amazed at how well Titus and Alexis have adjusted to their new school. It is particularly significant that Titus has not once complained about not wanting to go. Both seem to be learning, making new friends, and figuring out life. The new arrangement has also taught us to value family time more.

The government schools started this month, which is always a bittersweet time. Secondary schools, in particular, are fairly sparse and so most of them offer boarding for students who come from long distances. This was a “bad” year as we lost several youth group members. Not only do we miss seeing them on a regular basis, but we hate for them to be away from family and community influences at such a young age. Many of the schools have major discipline issues. We will praying for them while they are away, and hope that the majority of them will be able to come back and attend our youth camp during the school break in May.

## Happy Birthday



She doesn't get near the credit or celebration she deserves, but our family enjoyed wishing Mom a happy birthday this month. We took part in our family tradition of going to a local resort for dinner and a swim.

“Ooooooo...that’s nice.”

- GRAYSON, anytime he sees something he likes



Top: LenJon (hiding in the back left with a purple shirt) made his first ever trip to Vila this month to attend 11th grade on the north side of Efate Island, and several of the youth group went to help him get settled in to his new surroundings.

Middle: During our island-wide combined assembly in Vila this month, we called all the school kids up front to pray over them as they begin the new school year, especially those who are traveling to other islands.

Bottom: We enjoyed a day at the beach with the youth group during a public holiday this month.

## Prayer Requests:

- **General Unrest**

It's somewhat difficult to describe, but Vanuatu is going through a tough time currently. Cyclone Pam's influence has been well documented, which was immediately followed by drought. The volcano in Tanna is overly active, causing massive damage to crops and water supplies. 14 of the country's 52 Members of Parliament were imprisoned for bribery late last year, resulting ultimately in a total dissolution of the parliament, with snap elections held early this year. The country's international runway was recently declared unfit by several neighboring countries, which has been a huge hit to the tourism market (our economy's primary financial driver). And lastly, there has been a significant increase in public violence, as the aforementioned issues create tension and stress. We definitely sense this heaviness, and aren't really sure what to do to combat it. Please be praying that these and other similar issues can be resolved soon, and that we will have wisdom as we seek to minister in this unusual environment.



## Prayer Updates:

- **Rain!**

We are very grateful to report that the rains have come. We've been praising God for answering our prayers, and hope that other areas that are experiencing El Niño-related drought will find relief soon.

- **New home base**

Our offer on the house just outside of town was accepted back in May 2015, and we are so excited to announce that we closed on the property this month! We have fair bit of work to do on the house before we can move in, and will begin focusing on that project as soon as the Etas building is complete.