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Birthday outing for Mom!

Back in the saddle again

We arrived back in country on January 31, and the kids began school the next day, albeit a couple of days into the new semester. Titus is now in 5th grade, Alexis in 4th, and Grayson started a morning preschool program on Monday/Wednesday/Friday.

We were able to see most of our brethren here on Efate Island the first Sunday of the month, at the island-wide combined assembly in Port Vila. I was asked to preach, and took the opportunity to speak about Christian Hospitality, especially as it relates to our Vanuatu-context. It was a joy to get caught up with everyone after being away for two months.

Cross-cultural transition always takes a week or so, but before long we had everything sorted and were able to get back into the swing of things. The majority of my work during the month centered around preparing for our 2nd Annual Men's Camp, which this year also required some special fundraising efforts. We are excited about all of our 2018 LaetHaos events, and look forward to getting off to a good start next month.



Prayer Requests:

- **Men's Camp**

Our next LaetHaos event is scheduled to begin March 5. We will be studying what it means to be a disciple of Jesus at this year's men's camp. Please pray for safety and success.

- **Efate Churches**

Our family will be rotating around more than in years past, and hope that our Sunday visits will be an encouragement to the local churches here on the main island.

- **Family mission trip**

Our first trip of the year is scheduled to begin March 28, as we plan to visit brethren in two parts of Malekula Island.

- **Fundraising**

We started the year approximately \$800/mo short of our budgeted need, but that has now been cut in half. To learn more about special funding opportunities, you can visit missionvanuatu.com/fundraising.

- **Discipleship Session 1**

We are very excited about a new ministry this year, wherein we will be inviting four young men to stay with us for three weeks of intensive discipleship training, with our first session set to begin in May.

- **Mom-to-be**

Meriam and Jack in Etas are expecting their first baby, due mid-March.

- **Brandell kids**

We continue to seek your prayers for our kids. We are grateful for the blessing they are to our family, and for the educational opportunities they have.

A super special 40th surprise

As Shawnda neared the big 4-0, I learned that her longtime best friend had planned a surprise visit! Our entire family was excited to have Tara with us for ten days. Amazingly, we were able to keep the secret until our truck pulled into the driveway. It was quite evident that the two of them had a great time together, making it a very well deserved week-long celebration. Shawnda is an ideal Christian wife and mother, and we pray for many more healthy years together.



Monthly youth day

A primary ministry effort again this year will be hosting our monthly youth day. We restarted this month with eleven youth present. A new year almost always means significant turnover, and this was no different. We all enjoyed eating, singing, studying, swimming and playing games together. It proved to be an especially eventful day, as first an intoxicated villager attempted to jump in the truck as we were headed back to our house, and later a non-verbal young lady unexpectedly wandered onto our back porch. I was proud of how well the youth handled both of these somewhat tense moments.

