



Brandell e-Scrapbook

A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu



Happy New Year! We are grateful for the opportunity to continue our service to the Lord alongside all of our many faithful supporters in 2008. We're writing this edition of our family scrapbook from the United States. January was a month dedicated to getting ready for our trip back. We hope you enjoy getting caught up with our family...

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CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

We are grateful to report that the building project in Vila is very near to completion.



Main building just after the installation of security screens.

This month, we finally got security screens installed on all the windows of the main building. This allowed us to reinstall the ceiling fans and permanently move the chairs into the building (the fans and chairs were previously kept in the storage room to prevent theft). We look forward to continued growth and success in the nation's capital city.

From the home-front...

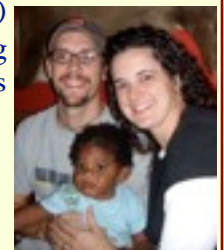
I was busy this month around the house trying to get ready for our trip back to the US. I spent several days cleaning, organizing and rearranging the guest room (getting it ready for my mom to stay in when we get back to Vanuatu with the new baby). And, of course we spent time getting our bags packed with the few "winter" clothes we have.

I had the opportunity to visit with some ladies who either hadn't been at worship in a while or were sick. It was good to get out and visit with these ladies, and encourage them in their Christian lives. I also continue to go study every week with Carol.

I went to two prenatal checkups this month...one with my regular doctor and one with the specialist at the hospital. We were reassured that the baby was growing like he/she should and had nothing to worry about for our long flight.

Titus loves playing in the sandbox at Kaela's, swimming in his new (blowup) pool, and getting to know the kids at Bible class.

We love you
- Shawnda





 MISSION WORK UPDATE

Though the majority of our time this month was spent in travel and baby preparation, I was able to translate a few more hymns into Bislama and make a several visits. The Etas congregation asked that I come and preach on the 6th, and I was honored to take part in the baptism of three new Christians afterwards: Emma, Charlie and Margaret [right photo]. The Etas congregation continues to grow in number and in faith, and we ask that you continue to keep these young Christians in your prayers.

I traveled to Epau the last weekend on the month, and was encouraged by the time together with the brethren there. I preached a sermon from the parable of the talents in Matthew 25, emphasizing the necessity of utilizing our physical blessings to honor God, regardless of whether those blessings are abundant or scarce. I plan to have a renewed focus on the work in Epau Village when we return, with a view towards strengthening the Christians there and implementing a focused evangelistic plan. Please be praying for these efforts.



Lastly, I wanted to mention that Patrick [left photo] preached in Vila for the second time in as many months. Patrick was converted back in December 2005, and has worked very hard studying since then. We are grateful for his devotion, and look forward to continuing our work together with him.



 FINAL PREPARATIONS

It takes a lot of work for us to travel to the States, and this month I thought I would give you a glimpse of all that is involved. The first order of business of course is to choose a time to leave Vanuatu. That was determined for us this time, with the baby due on March 26. Because of flight restrictions for pregnant mothers and the advice of our doctor, we decided to fly back on February 3.

I started investigating ticket prices back in November, as international ticket prices can fluctuate quite drastically from month to month. In the past we have always flown Air Pacific, which transits through Nadi, Fiji on the way to Los Angeles. However, ni-Vanuatu citizens like Titus are required to have a visa to enter another country, even if only for a few hours in the airport (a luxury we Americans often times take for granted). There is not a Fiji embassy in Vanuatu, which means getting a visa would be quite tedious. We are able to secure a visa at the New Zealand embassy in Port Vila to fly through that country for about \$85. The total cost to fly through New Zealand is normally \$500-\$1,000 more expensive than Fiji, but this time we were blessed to find a deal that was basically the same as the Air Pacific fare. Adult round-trip tickets for the Vila - Auckland - Los Angeles leg are approximately \$1,700 and infants cost \$200.

Titus also needs a visa to enter the United States. You may recall that I traveled to Papua New Guinea last April to secure a visa for our regularly-scheduled furlough in 2006. Thankfully, the US embassy in PNG (there is not one in Vanuatu) granted us a multiple entry, 5 year visa, which means Titus is allowed to come and go for that period. Titus will be eligible for US-citizenship in May 2009, two years after his adoption was finalized by the Vanuatu court system.

Once our international transportation schedule was set, we booked our domestic flights online, and began communicating with our supporters about when we could be together. We are also very grateful that our teammates are able to pick up the slack in Vanuatu while we are absent, as well as taking care of our house and bills. We look forward to seeing many of you in February or March! Our schedule is on the next page.



Sunday, Feb 3.....arrive in LA/Denver	Wednesday, March 19.....open
Wednesday, Feb 6.....Columbine	Sunday, March 23.....Elk Avenue (A); Eastside (P)
Sunday, Feb 10.....Columbine (A); Miller St (P)	Wednesday, March 26.....[BABY DUE] open
Wednesday, Feb 13.....Cherry Vista	Sunday, April 6.....open
Thursday, Feb 14.....travel to Duncan, OK	Wednesday, April 9.....open
Sunday, Feb 17.....Elk Avenue	Sunday, April 13.....open
Wednesday, Feb 20.....open	Wednesday, April 16.....open
Sunday, Feb 24.....29th & Yale (Tulsa)	Sunday, April 20.....open
Wednesday, Feb 27.....29th & Yale (Tulsa)	Wednesday, April 23.....travel to Denver [tentative]
Sunday, March 2.....Perkins	Sunday, April 27.....Columbine (A); Bear Valley (P)
Wednesday, March 5.....open	Wednesday, April 30.....Cherry Vista
Sunday, March 9.....Chisholm Trail	Sunday, May 4.....Columbine (A); Miller St (P)
Wednesday, March 12.....open	Wednesday, May 7.....Columbine
Sunday, March 16.....Elk Avenue	Friday, May 9.....return to Vanuatu

While in the States we can be contacted through our regular email addresses [brandell@missionvanuatu.com and shawnda@missionvanuatu.com] or on our US cell phone [303-330-8993].

