

# Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANDELLS IN VANUATU

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

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## ✧ New Year, New Look ✧

*As promised, we've tweaked the way we are communicating with our supporters in the new year. You will recall that we plan to provide weekly updates via our family blog. Our monthly updates will include a general update along with excerpts from those posts. Enjoy!*

### A LOOK BACK AT JANUARY

January was originally supposed to be our first official month in Malekula, but things don't always go as planned in Vanuatu!

As it turns out, it was good for us to be in town for another month. Much of my time was consumed in working with two difficult issues, including the misuse of church funds and drunkenness. I also got to wear my marriage counseling hat a couple of times - a hat that, I must say, doesn't fit as well as I would like for it to. My admiration for King Solomon's request for wisdom continues to grow as I see the great need for godly wisdom in handling everyday challenges.

A highlight of the month was a combined worship service that took place in Vila near the end of the month. The local brethren

had begun to feel a sense of urgency as our departure dates grew near (even though it seems to us that they keep getting pushed further and further away), and scheduled an island-wide day of worship, fellowship and discussion. I was asked to preach on church growth, and appreciated all the positive feedback the lesson received. Following our time of worship and pot-luck, the leaders from Vila, Etas, Eton, Epau and Paunangisu met to encourage one another, especially in light of the mission team's new work schedule. The meeting went quite well, and I was pleased at the spiritual maturity that was exhibited by several of the men as they discussed various issues. It is encouraging to know that the congregations have capable leaders



### Team Update

*[Each month, we will plan to give a brief update from our teammates.]*

This month we watched as the Baker family boarded the plane for their new work/home on the island of Tanna. It was a bitter-sweet experience for all of us, as we have grown so used to being together. But, we are excited for them and this opportunity.

They seem to be adjusting well after their first week, and we pray that theirs will be a very fruitful and fulfilling work.



at the helm, and it is our prayer that each of them will reach their potential in serving the Lord and His church. While the men were meeting, the local women also met and decided to reinstitute the Pikinini Baebol Klab beginning next month, which is equally encouraging!

Last but not least, we officially weathered our first cyclone in Vanuatu. Cyclone Vanua most-directly

affected the islands south of us, but the winds and rain here were still quite substantial. The following morning there were numerous downed trees, and many of the signs in town had been blown down. It gave us a new respect for the power of the weather, as this was merely a category one storm, and was well over 100 miles away. Imagine enduring a category four head on!



**From left, clockwise:**

*I appreciated the help on a construction project for our house in Malekula - talk about skilled labor!; A benefit of living half way around the world is that Christmas presents trickle in for weeks before and after the actual holiday; Titus and Lexi are playing well together and really became good friends this month; School at home with mom every morning is paying off as Titus is learning his letters and has begun successfully sounding out two-letter blends.*

## JANUARY BLOG-POSTS

### [It all started when...](#)

*A look back at some of the ways in which God has worked to provide us the opportunity to serve Him in Malekula. [1/6/11]*

### [A few fun facts](#)

*You've heard of Malekula, but where is it and what is it like? In this post we take a look at our future residence. [1/12/11]*

### [Plan your work](#)

*As we prepare to start this new phase in our work, we share some of our plans, dreams and goals for the next 3 years. [1/18/11]*

### [The rest of our lives](#)

*Our team has been together for years, and the Bakers' departure for Tanna marked an end...and a beginning. [1/24/11]*

\*click on a title to view the full blog post