



# Brandell e-Scr@pbook

*A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu*



Since our arrival back in 2005, July has always proven to be an "interesting" month. Read on to find out more...

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INDEPENDENCE



Vanuatu gained her independence from Colonial rule July 30, 1980. The holiday is celebrated more vigorously than any other here in Vanuatu. At a minimum, the last week of the month is dedicated to celebrations of various sorts, including music, sport, feasts, and relaxing.

While I am all for Independence and its celebration, it seems inevitable that the wheels just fall off any type of work that we attempt to accomplish in the month of July! Most notably, our Bible School's 3rd term met each Tuesday and Thursday of the month. While we started with a record number of students this term (13 full-time), by the end there were only three left. As you might imagine, it was rather discouraging for Aaron and me to have devoted so much time to preparation, with such little interest. Thankfully, there is a good long break between the 3rd and 4th terms, and hopefully interest will be rekindled in that amount of time.

To a lesser degree, attendance for worship, fellowships and Bible studies was also very sporadic. We are all grateful to see August arrive!

*From the home-front...*

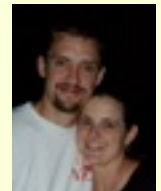
Seeing my parents go home was tough for me (all of us really). It was so great to be able to share our "Vanuatu life" with them. With them gone and Eric teaching this quarter, I got used to having the kids on my own. It has been a tough adjustment, but gets better each day. Having two under two years old will wear you out! But, they are both such a joy and I wouldn't trade this for anything in the world.

Cindy and I were able to have a little "mom's morning out" this month. Nothing fancy, just a little time to ourselves while our husbands watched the kids.

A new store opened this month that imports American products on a regular basis. We are able to get some things that haven't been available in the past (or have been too expensive to buy if they were). So, that was exciting.

July is a slow month in regard to the work, but we did meet a few new people who are interested. We hope to have some new studies soon. Please keep praying for the work in Vanuatu.

- Shawnda





SUNDAY IN EPAU

I was excited to receive a phone call from Arthur this month, inviting me to come and spend a Sunday with them in Epau Village. Between Lexi's birth and the Truth Bible School, I have not been able to spend much time with the brethren in Epau.

I took Kal with me, a student from Eton Village who lives and goes to school in Vila. It was nice to have the company, and we always like taking a local man with us on trips when we have the opportunity.

It was a pleasure to be with the brethren in Epau again. I preached a lesson entitled "Salvation is Free," dealing with the misconception that is sometimes held that we need to do all the good works we can so we can earn our way to heaven.

The congregation also asked me to prepare a study for an afternoon session, so after lunch we gathered again. I taught a lesson about the grammatical ramifications of the phrase "church of Christ" (that sounds much more technical than it actually was). Since I am not scheduled to teach in the Bible School again until early next year, I should have a chance to visit Epau each month as was my practice in the past. I plan to cover all 8 of my lessons on the church during those times together, and the Christians seem excited about the material.



TITUS AND LEXI

Our kids continue to be the joy of our lives (they provide a few frustrations too!). We prayed for children and God has certainly blessed us richly! With Shawnda's parents departing Vanuatu in early July, we were back to two-on-two. It has gone rather well, though we certainly miss the help. I must say that I am amazed by all that Shawnda is able to juggle on a daily basis. She certainly has earned my respect!

Titus has fallen in love with all things "Cars" (the Disney-Pixar animated movie). He would watch it non-stop every day if we let him. He is always pushing around his Lightning McQueen toy car, and lives for the days that he gets to wear his "vrooom-vrooom" shirts. He is working hard on learning how to NOT throw his toys (or rocks, or food, or whatever else he can get his hands on). He is also learning to be obedient, as well as the consequences of being disobedient. He likes to help out by taking dirty diapers to the trash and depositing used dishes in the sink. He can jump several inches off the ground (pretty impressive for a 20-month old), and loves to run. He tries his best to keep up with Kaela, but she is just too speedy!

Lexi has started cooing and laughing on a regular basis. She rolls without much effort now, which means she can't be left unattended anymore. Shawnda introduced baby cereal this month, which Lexi is very fond of...but she dislikes having to wait in between bites! We can tell that her personality is really developing now, and enjoy getting to know more about her every day.

