



# Brandell e-Scr@pbook

*A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu*



We celebrated America's independence on the 4th, and Vanuatu's on the 30th. We are grateful that God has blessed these two countries with continued freedom. May it always be so! We hope you enjoy a few updates from the month ...

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## A NEW BIBLE CORRESPONDENCE COURSE

### TRUTH BIBLE COURSE



"...Your word is truth" (John 17:17)

LESSON 1  
- HOW WE GOT THE BIBLE -

When we first arrived in Vanuatu back in April 2005, we began offering some English Bible courses that we brought with us from the States. A year or so later we wrote a series of lessons in Bislama, and to date we have been offering the courses in both languages. Recently, our team decided to translate our Bislama courses into English, as the content and format were designed specifically with the ni-Vanuatu Bible student in mind. We hope that both the Bislama and English courses will continue to be effective study tools.

## *From the home-front...*

We had another great few weeks with the Brandell women this month. We were sad to see them go home on the 19th, but so thankful for the 6 weeks we were able to share together in Vanuatu. Family is truly a blessing.

All four of us suffered from a nasty cold at the end of the month. Mine hit on the day of PBK. I went in the morning, helped set up and did the puppet skit, but had to head home soon after that. But, PBK did go great in my absence. The ladies are really stepping up and making this such a success. I am so proud of them!

As far as our household goes...we are enjoying the kids so much. We are really working with Titus about not whining and throwing fits. He's also begun to use his imagination, which is lots of fun! Lexi is learning to run and loves playing chase. She also enjoys getting into whatever Titus is doing. It's great that they are playing together now that they're a little older.

I have begun a new schedule for my "free time" while the kids are napping. I am enjoying having time to exercise each day. It makes such a difference in my attitude and energy level.

Thanks for all you do to help support our family. We love you all.

- Shawnda



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 VILA UPDATE

For the past several weeks, we have been hard at work once again on the facilities of the church in Vila. Specifically, we've been mixing and pouring cement in an effort to complete the wall that surrounds the property. I am happy to report that we poured the final post this month, which means that the wall is structurally complete. We will render and paint the wall at some point in the near future, and will also be installing a metal gate at the entrance. The wall's completion will really make the building and grounds look nice to passersby, and the entire facility continues to be an effective tool for the work in Vila.



Vila hosted the second meeting of the newly-established Pikinini Baebol Klab on the last Saturday of the month. Our entire family was sick that weekend, so much so that Shawnda had to leave PBK as soon as the puppet skit was over. However, this provided an opportunity for Rosmary to step up and really help out. She didn't miss a beat as she filled in for Shawnda's puppet voice and also filled in for another mom who was sick that day. Rosemary is normally fairly shy and tends to keep to herself, but we were all so excited that she really played an important role in this month's effort. PBK again enjoyed over 30 children, several of whom came from "the farm" near the airport, where several unfaithful Christians live. We are prayerful that perhaps this will be the inroads to win them back.



We conducted our regular men's meeting with Claude and Flexon this month. These meetings are always a source of encouragement to our mission team, as we continue to see growth and maturity in these two leaders. Of course we are praying for more men like them, but for the time being we are grateful for their leadership and desire to grow. The two of them, along with Patrick (who lives and works about 45 minutes outside of town), continue to rotate the preaching responsibilities with us, which means there are six men to share the pulpit in Vila. Their preaching abilities are improving with each month. Please be praying for these men and their families as they continue to lead the church in Vila.

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 MALEKULA UPDATE

You may recall my report in last month's edition of our recent trip into Tulwei Village. I am happy to report that Flexon's brother, Alsen, called me this month to say that people have taken all the studies and tracts we left with him, and that several are asking when we are going to come back to teach. Flexon and I have met and determined that we will return to Tulwei in October hoping to plant the church in that village. Lord willing, Flexon will stay for a few weeks after I depart to assist the newly-established church, and we will make visits every few months to encourage, strengthen and train the church. Please be praying that these efforts will be fruitful, and that God will be glorified.

Note: For those who may be interested, I have posted a journal of our first trip to Tulwei on the website, which provides much more detail than the scrapbook, and also has several more photos.



FAMILY UPDATE

Though we had to say goodbye to my dad at the end of June, we enjoyed having my mom and sisters with us until July 19. For starters, it meant that they were able to stay with Shawnda and the kids while I was in Malekula the first week of July. I know that Shawnda appreciated having extra help with the kids. Shawnda also enjoyed some one-on-one time with each of my sisters and my mom, as well as a tour of the Tanna Coffee factory and a trip to The Secret Garden. One of the highlights of their visit this month was a day trip to Epau Village where the Christian ladies there taught them how to make laplap (Vanuatu's national dish) and how to weave a local mat. We enjoy taking people on this type of "tour" as it shows how the ni-Vanuatu live in comparison to us in the States.

One Saturday we made a day trip to a nearby beach. While snorkeling, I got carried out into the Pacific by the tide and had to be saved by two local boys who had a kick board and flippers. I wasn't really in any danger, per se, but there was just absolutely nothing I could do get back towards the shore. It was embarrassing, but I sure appreciated their assistance, as I think I would have floated all the way to Los Angeles had it not been for them! I have a newfound respect for the ocean...

We finally enjoyed some "winter" temperatures in late July, but with the lower temps brought cold and flu symptoms to all four of us. Sick kids plus a sick mom and dad make for a yucky time! Thankfully we had medicine that perked us all back up within 3-4 days. We have to enjoy the few remaining months of the "cool" season, as things will no doubt begin heating up way before we're ready.

From our family to yours, thanks so much for your interest in our life and work. We are grateful for all of our many supporters, and hope that you feel well-communicated-with. If ever you have any thoughts or questions, please don't hesitate to contact us. May God be glorified by all that we are accomplishing together for Him in Vanuatu!



*Hard at work making laplap*



*Happy 4th of July!*



*Happy Birthday to Kaela!*

