



Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu



We spent all of July having lots of fun with family and friends in Colorado. What a beautiful place!

FURLOUGH UPDATE

The final step in "Operation: Titus" was completed this month when we applied for and received his US passport and social security number. What a relief! We thank God for all the answered prayers, and thank you all for your support during our journey.

This was our "Colorado month," and we thoroughly enjoyed spending time with our brethren, getting reacquainted and meeting new folks. We were able to spend a good amount of time with our sponsoring congregation, **Columbine**, which continues to be a great support to our work. We were surprised by a "special collection" taken up by the Christians at **Miller Street** during our time with them one Sunday evening, where it was a great pleasure to meet their new minister, Anthony Warnes, and his wife. The congregation there seems to be doing really well, and we were encouraged by their continued interest. I was given the opportunity to preach and present at the congregation in **Monte Vista** while we were in the area, and it was a pleasure to get to know some of the brethren there. The **Rye** congregation has been supporting us since we were students at Bear Valley, and had planned a campout for the weekend we were there. It was great to get to spend time with these brethren in a casual setting - and the beauty of the San Isabel National Forest reminded us all of what an awesome God we serve. We had the opportunity to make a presentation to the **Parker** congregation for the first time, and went out for pizza afterwards with several old and new friends.

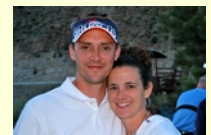
From the home-front...

What a fun month! We got to spend lots of quality family time with my mom, dad, sister and brother-in-law in Colorado. We also had a family reunion (my mom's siblings, their kids and grandkids). There were 46 of us in all. It was great to see everyone and get to know the newest additions to the family. It was also a treat to get to spend the 4th of July with everyone. This year was extra special since it was Titus' first celebration as a US Citizen! We enjoyed fireworks, hotdogs and hamburgers, and lots of family time and games.

While in Denver, we had a great time catching up with various friends, including the Bakers! It was great to see Titus, Alexis, Kaela and Melia reunited after months apart. They were adorable. We also got to share meals with several families who are very dear to us. It was great to hear how they were and to be able to share what's been happening in our lives as well. What a blessing!

One of the highlights of the month was getting to be involved in the Tahoe Family Encampment. We enjoyed the lessons, times of worship and especially getting to hear some great men like Caleb O'Hara, Brad Harrub, and Glen Colley speak. We loved getting to visit with many friends from our Bear Valley days, and meet new friends too. It was a special time of encouragement and strengthening for us before we headed back to Vanuatu.

Love to you all...
Shawnda <><



They have a “send a missionary a burger” ministry in which the members forego a fast-food meal during the week and instead contribute the money saved to a missionary - we appreciated their sacrifice! Last, we were able to spend a Lord’s day with the **Cherry Vista** congregation, which has also been supporting us since our Bear Valley days. They are always very generous and encouraging.

In between Sunday and Wednesday appointments, we had the privilege of spending time with Shawnda’s parents and sister/brother-in-law, including a trip to South Fork for two weeks. A week of that time was a family reunion where we got to catch up with cousins, aunts and uncles. It was lots of fun to be together, especially for the 4th of July. We had a great time playing, fishing, eating, visiting and golfing together.

We capped off our furlough with a trip to the Tahoe Family Encampment, which is held annually at Camp Richardson in South Lake Tahoe, California. This was our family’s first opportunity to experience anything like it, and it was very enriching. We stayed in a hotel with our good friends, Caleb and Valerie O’Hara, and also got to catch up with several other Bear Valley classmates and instructors. The keynotes and classes were encouraging, and being together with some 1,000 Christians was inspiring. It was a great end to a great three-month furlough!

Next month’s scrapbook will be delivered “from the field,” and we look forward to getting back to work!

