

Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANDELLS IN VANUATU

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Team Update

The Bakers report that their first official month with the congregation in Foristell, MO went well. At the end of the month, Aaron returned to Vanuatu. He will spend one week working with the Christians in Etas Village, and two weeks teaching in Tanna. I enjoyed spending the day with him in Vila on the 31st before he started his work.

I got to spend time with Mike this month as well, as we traveled together to Southwest Bay, Malekula. He spent a few days at our house before and after that trip, and preached in Tulwei one Sunday. He stayed busy this month helping the brethren in Shark Bay construct a small meeting house and studying the Bible with Jesse in town.



✧ Timothy Fund ✧

“Paul and Timothy, bond-servants of Christ Jesus...” (Phil 1:1)

The main goal for our work centers around evangelism, edification and equipping. Experience has shown that one of the best ways to do all three is to follow a plan modeled by the apostle Paul - to take younger Christians with you as you do the Lord's work. This month we established a “Timothy Fund” that will be used to pay for local Christians to travel with us to teach and preach. Such a scenario is fruitful because it blesses our work with local knowledge, provides the local Christian with on-the-job training, and serves as a great encouragement and example to those who are visited.

OPEN DOORS

“Praying at the same time for us as well, that God will open up to us a door for the word...” (Col 4:3).

I have been praying a lot lately for open doors, and the Lord opened one quite wide this month.

We first heard from Aiel Massing when he responded to our newspaper ad offering free Bible correspondence courses in 2006.



He received his first course, but waited almost two years before completing it and returning it to us. It took him another year or so to complete the entire series of courses.

After a few failed attempts to go and meet with him face to face for further study, we were finally able to go to Lembinwen Village (Southwest Malekula Island) this month to follow up with him.

After a couple hours of Bible study, Aiel was baptized into Christ. I was so glad that Alsen (one our first Timothy Fund beneficiaries) came with us on the trip, because he too was once the only Christian in his village. He was able to encourage and counsel Aiel in a way that we never would have been able to do. Another Christian from Tulwei, Williamson, also came with us on the trip, and served as an encouragement as well. You can read more about our inaugural trip at www.missionvanuatu.blogspot.com/2012/07/new-brother-in-christ.html.

Ten days later, Titus and I made another trip to Lembinwen, this time accompanied by the rest of our family as well as John Claude's family (wife, Leisande, and teenage boys, Wesly and Bronsly). I especially wanted this family to come because I knew that they would really "hit it off" with Aiel and Nancy. After a study with Shawnda and Leisande, Nancy decided that she too was ready to Christ on in baptism. Jean Claude and Leisande proved to be a great encouragement to Aiel and Nancy, as they spent hours and hours together visiting, studying and working together. As I watched them one day, I remember thinking to myself, "wow Christianity is awesome." Here were two couples who had known each other for only a couple of days, and yet you would have guessed they had been friends for years. The bond we share in Christ is truly second-to-none.

I will soon begin working on a comprehensive report of our first trips to Lembinwen, and will make it available when it is complete. Please keep Aiel and Nancy in your prayers, that they will be faithful to the good confession they made and that they will be a light among their community. We plan to visit them monthly for the rest of the year, culminating in a week-long campaign effort the second week of November.



**Left- Mission Team 1;
Right- Mission Team 2;
Below- First meeting of
the church in
Lembinwen Village**





Our sleeping quarters, inside and out



Above- Toilet; Below-Bathing room



Williamson and Alsen warming themselves by the fire in Aiel's kitchen



Above- Aiel ready for Bible study; Left- Location of our public preaching



LADIES DAY (BY SHAWNDA)

The ladies in Tulwei village are such a neat group. It's so encouraging that they enjoy being together. This month they decided to meet at our house, and asked me to teach them how to bake a chocolate cake. I tried a different recipe, wanting to use one that called for ingredients that are available in the village. While it wasn't terrible, it wasn't great. But even with the cake not turning out so great, the fellowship still did. Everyone seemed to enjoy just being together.

We also had two special guests join us. Our friend Jacqui, who is a volunteer for the New Zealand equivalent of the US Peace Corps, brought her niece and stayed with us for a few days. Lexi and I enjoyed showing them around the village and introducing them to our lovely friends and "family" here. It was especially nice to have overnight visitors while Eric and Titus were in Southwest Bay.

