

Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANDELLS IN VANUATU

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✧ Hooray for Visitors ✧

On the heels of the Baker family visit late last month, we enjoyed two more groups of visitors to Malekula this month. First, a group of six Christians from Perkins, OK came and helped the church in a number of ways, and then Mema and Papa (Shawnda's parents) - what fun!

END WITH A BANG

Our most recent (May-June) spell in Malekula did indeed end with a bang. We spent the first few days of the month prepping for the days ahead. Jean Claude, Williamson and I spent three days in the bush cutting down trees and ripping timber - lumber for the new church building. I will never cease to be amazed at all that "the bush" can provide.

I traveled alone to Vila to pick up Brady, Ashley, Travis, Cole, Rachel and Kalyn (two youth leaders and four teens) - members of the church in Perkins, which began financial support of our work in 2010. After a quick turnaround, we were all in the village. The main

goals for this group were [1] encourage the local Christians in their spiritual lives, [2] assist the brethren in the construction of a permanent meeting place, and [3] assisting with a gospel meeting. All of these goals and more were met, and our family thoroughly enjoyed having these brethren with us (and yes, all TEN of us slept in our little village house). It was a blessing



Team Update

The Bakers had a very exciting weekend this month. Aaron's been studying with a man in town for several months. Tom actually walks four hours one-way for these studies. He's a preacher in his village, but admittedly knew very little about the Bible. He and the other members invited Aaron to come and teach them what the Bible says about the church. It was a very fruitful visit, and there are hopes that the entire congregation will be converted during their next visit. Pray!

We actually got to spend a good amount of time with Mike this month, as we had significant layovers there each time we flew to/from Vila. He continues to saturate the town with Bible literature, and is excited about the prospects he's meeting.



every step of the way. We have already posted a few blog entries regarding this exciting week, with more still to come.

Shawnda escorted the Perkins group back to Vila, and the day they left the country Mema and Papa arrived for a one-month visit. The first week of that month was spent in Malekula. It was such a pleasure to introduce our “old family” to our “new family.” In fact, Papa and Jean Claude were referring to themselves as brothers before the week was up. Another highlight for the week was our “kakaē blong talem tankyu” - a meal we held in honor of those who worked hard to help us complete our house. It was great to get to share this special occasion with Shawnda’s folks. We will soon have blog posts up about this week together as well.

Titus and Alexis love being the center of attention, and of course there was plenty of attention paid to them this month - they loved having “our friends” come and stay with us. They continue to amaze us everyday. Titus goes everywhere on two wheels (and he got a new bike when we got back to Vila - a reward for a great, and much-improved, attitude over the past several weeks). He has really blossomed in the village, as he loves having

the freedom to follow the older boys on exciting adventures. They are so patient and kind to him - truly a blessing. He is really starting to try to speak Bislama to the locals, and his friends are helping him with that. Lexi is quite the chatterbox (wonder where she gets that!?!). Her favorite activity is still walking over to “Abu Mommy’s” house to help make laplap. She prances home so proudly after each visit, carrying a small portion of uncooked laplap in a banana leaf for her and mom to cook at home. And to prove that our kids are true ni-Vanuatu... Shawnda prepared fajitas (our once-a-week “splurge” meal in the village) one night that friends had also shared a couple peices of laplap with us - Titus and Lexi both chose to forego fajitas for a piece of laplap. We were a bit stunned, but proud at the same time. This is their home, as it’s really all they’ve ever known.

Last but not least, Shawnda and I celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary this month. I don’t normally like to gush, but will mention that we are more in love each day and absolutely treasure our life together. We were blessed that Mema and Papa watched the kids while we spent two nights at a new resort on the north side of the main island. A break from responsibilities = bliss!



American flare:
Flowered headbands are now “all the rage” in Tulwei Village, after they were given as gifts by our visitors.



Mission Accomplished:

The group from Perkins encouraged everyone they came into contact with - missionaries, local Christians, and non-Christians; and were encouraged themselves as well.

Fun with Mema and Papa:



JUNE BLOG-POSTS

Prayer request

We asked for your prayers as we embarked upon the Tulwei congregation's first ever gospel meeting

[6/5/11]

Two more added

We were delighted to share the news that Lolit and Annette obeyed the gospel.

[6/15/11]

Gud nius

Our prayers were answered. Here we present a look back at the gospel meeting

[6/24/11]

Mission accomplished

A detailed overview of all that the short-term mission team from Perkins was able to accomplish for the Lord's work in Malekula.

[6/29/11]