



Brandell e-Scrapbook

A monthly report on our life in Vanuatu



After a few weeks in Colorado, we were back in Vanuatu for the remainder of the month. It took some time to get settled back in, especially with the new edition to the family. We hope you enjoy getting caught up with us this month!

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COLORADO, USA

We did our best to make the most of our last two weeks of family time, cool temperatures, fast-food, and sports on television while in Denver with Shawnda's family. Titus enjoyed another tour of the Denver Broncos' stadium with Papa, and even got to run out on the field [pictured]!



I was asked to speak in chapel again at Bear Valley, and made a presentation on our work in Vanuatu. We enjoyed worshipping with brethren at Columbine, Cherry Vista and Bear Valley this month.

As our departure time came close, we took care of all our last-minute shopping needs at

From the home-front...

May was an exciting month. We spent the first week or so with my family in Denver. We even enjoyed a quick trip to Southfork one weekend. We ate lots of good food with friends and family, enjoyed introducing Lexi to everyone, made several trips to WalMart, and just really enjoyed our last days in the States.

On May 9th we headed home to Vanuatu. We were blessed to have my mom make the trip with us. She helped with the kids for travelling and is staying with us for two months to help us get settled in and make the adjustment to living and working with two kids under two!

It has been so good to be back in Vanuatu. We were so glad to see the brethren in Vila and are really enjoying introducing Lexi to everyone. Both of the kids are doing well. They are so fun.

We started ladies fellowships again in Vila. It was wonderful to visit with the ladies and share a time of singing and prayer. We are encouraged by this fresh start.

We love you
- Shawnda





WalMart and Target (imagine getting years' worth of items all at one time!), ate at our favorite restaurants (Shawnda's - Red Lobster; Eric's - Texas Roadhouse), and even made it to a Colorado Rockies game.

We were grateful that my parents and sisters were able to make a quick trip out to Denver to spend some time and see us off at the airport. We were also grateful that Shawnda's mom graciously agreed to make the long trip back with us, which made a big difference. The flights went relatively well, but flying 17 hours, plus layovers, with two kids under two years is quite an endeavor! We arrived safely in Port Vila on May 11.



Titus having fun with Papa and Uncle Rod.



Lexi with Aunt Leesha and Uncle Matt.



Family pics with Mema and Papa



Titus get a good-bye hug from cousin Kylie

GETTING SETTLED

We headed straight for church from the airport, as we arrived on a Sunday. We were glad to get to see everyone again, and all the Christians enjoyed getting to meet Lexi. It always takes some time to get back into the swing of things in a foreign country, especially when you've been gone for three months. We picked the language back up pretty easily, but it took us a while to get our bags unpacked and everything at the house and office situated.

Shawnda's mom has been a wonderful help with the kids. Even Kaela has taken a liking to "Momma Nancy," Shawnda and I keep asking ourselves, "what are we going to do when she leaves?!?" We know it was a sacrifice for her to come and stay for almost two months, but we sure do appreciate it! We look forward to Shawnda's dad being able to join us in mid-June.



Lexi's always content in her baby carrier.



Happy Mother's Day!



°° Bubbles °°



Abbh....a fresh diaper



TRUTH BIBLE SCHOOL

It has always been a goal of our team to build up congregations and Christians that will be strong and faithful long after we depart the mission field. We recognize that one of the most effective ways of accomplishing that goal is to equip the Christians with a solid knowledge of the Bible. Taking our lead from Paul (Acts 19:9-10) and many other successful ministries, we decided to start the Truth Bible School in Port Vila this year. The school's purpose is assist Christians who are interested in learning and willing to put forth the effort to do so.

The school's first term began February 5 and lasted six weeks. We meet each Tuesday and Thursday evening from 6-8:30, with two courses taking place each evening. Throughout that first term, Aaron taught a course entitled, "How to the Study the Bible" during the first block (6-7), and Mike taught "The Scheme of Redemption" in the second (7:30-8:30). We had as many as 22 students at any one time, and 15 of them completed the courses in such a way to earn a grade.

The second term began this month, with Mike teaching the first block course of "The Old and New Covenants," and myself teaching a course on "The Church." Some students from the first term were not able to commit this time, but we were glad to welcome a few new students this term. We currently have 12 full-time students (7 men and 5 women) from four different congregations, and always have a few visitors for each class. In many instances, our visitors are unable to read or write, and thus simply "audit" the courses.

TRUTOK

BAEBOL SKUL

- Port Vila, Vanuatu -

I cannot accurately express my level of excitement about our work because of the school. Participation has been wonderful, and it really seems that the students are applying themselves and learning a lot. Preparing to teach the classes and transporting the students does take up a lot of time, but it is most certainly time well spent. The first teacher is responsible for transporting the students to class, and the second teacher is responsible for getting them home. This involves the teacher transporting some students (one is a 45 minute journey, one-way), a pre-arranged bus running a regular route, and an "island-transport" bringing one student from Epau Village, almost two hours one-way. Our team provides for the students' transportation to ensure that everyone is present at each class, and on time. The \$100 per week we spend on transportation is a great investment, no doubt!

Following a one-week break, Term 3 will begin June 24. Please join us in praying for these Bible students, that they will apply the lessons they are learning to their own lives, and that they will also be equipped to teach others.





VILA LADIES' FELLOWSHIP

During a recent trip to visit Claude and Rose Mary here in Vila, Rose Mary suggested to Shawnda that the women begin a monthly fellowship in Port Vila. Her desire stemmed from the fact that she had begun taking classes at our Bible school this term, and had been reminded how important it is for women to grow spiritually (and how difficult that task can sometimes be, especially with family responsibilities).

A meeting was called on Sunday morning following our period of worship, and the ladies decided that they would begin meeting the last Saturday of every month at the church building, with a different person being in charge of the study time each month. In the past, the group has tried to meet monthly, but on a different day and in a different location each time. They hope that having a set date and location will help everyone schedule their time appropriately. Rose Mary volunteered to be in charge of the May meeting.

The first installment of this new setup took place on Saturday, May 31, with 5 local women and several kids (previous studies of this type saw only 1-2 local women in attendance). Shawnda reports that the time of fellowship, worship and study was enjoyed by all.

It was agreed that the ladies would try to go and visit other congregations on the island, and Etas Village was selected for June. Maybel is in charge of this special outing, and Leikave volunteered to be in charge of the regular June study. We are all excited that so many different ladies are taking on a bit more responsibility, and hope that their time together each month will be encouraging and strengthening.



VEHICLE UPDATE

You may recall that we were able to sell our truck back in November. We were blessed to secure almost all of the funds we need to purchase a newer one during our latest furlough trip to the States, but are still in need of a few thousand dollars for this purchase (so please contact us if you are able to help). We are especially grateful to the congregations at 29th & Yale and Eastside for their generous special contributions.

Buying a used vehicle in Vanuatu is considerably different from the shopping experience we're used to the States. Perhaps the largest difference is in price. Almost without fail, used vehicles are twice the price here. The good news on that front is the fact that vehicles tend to retain their value well, so hopefully we will be able to recoup a large percentage of our money when we sell. Another significant difference is the process of finding what you are looking for. There really aren't any used car dealerships here, and there are certainly no websites featuring thousands of vehicles only a mouse-click away. Instead we rely on the Vanuatu Daily Post classified ads, notice boards at the grocery store, and For Sale signs in the windows of trucks on the road.

I found a couple of potential suitors late this month that met our requirements (four-wheel-drive, four doors, reliable, and in good condition). I hope to be able to report that we have made a purchase in next month's e-Scrapbook.



TITUS & LEXI

Kids sure do grow up fast! It's hard to believe that Titus was 18 months old as of May 24, and Lexi has now been with us for almost four months! Both are really enjoying the extra attention that Mema is able to give them.

Lexi is sleeping less and eating more, and has become a lot more interactive. She enjoys her Baby Einstein jungle gym (lights, sounds and rattles), and being bounced up and down by whoever has enough energy to hold her. She reluctantly received her two-month vaccinations this month, but was quite a trooper. She can smile when prompted, and is thus one of our new favorite subjects for photos.

Titus rarely walks anywhere anymore...he runs! He loves his truck, and especially enjoys carrying Kaela around on it. He can say all sorts of words, and unfortunately has learned to whine really well. His favorite foods are pizza, fajitas, popcorn, and candy (sounds a lot like dad's favorite foods!!). Titus rarely sleeps less than 10 hours at night, and usually takes two 1-2 hour naps each day. He is a blessing and a joy to be around.

