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Campers “mekem stael” (do your own thing) at Holiday Youth Camp 2016

Another Great Week

We hosted our second annual Holiday Youth Camp this month, titled “Holiday” because it is conducted during the two-week break (i.e. “holiday” in this part of the world) from school between the first and second terms. Our first such camp last year had 12 campers, and this year we better-than-doubled that number with 25. Our plan has been to invite Etas in 2015, all of Efate Island in 2016, and ultimately go nationwide in 2017. The number one suggestion for improvement from the campers was to “make it longer” next year so I think we can call this year’s effort another success.

The theme verse for our youth group is 2 Timothy 2:22, and this year we focused on the youthful lusts of drunkenness and unwholesome speech. Each day we had morning devotions, word studies, and group discussions that touched on these common issues. A highlight for me was the public debate on the casual consumption of kava. Kava is a root that is ground up, mixed with water and consumed for its numbing (and ultimately intoxicating) effect. In my opinion, it is the most detrimental element to ni-Vanuatu families. I was very proud of the four youth (two teams) who took part in the debate. Our intention is to get them thinking about this and other similar issues in terms of longterm consequences of their decisions.

Prayer Requests:

- **New Ministry Efforts**

June will mark the initiation of two new ministries for the church in Etas. We are scheduled to begin Tuesday night fellowships in various homes, and youth days one Saturday per month.

- **Family Trip to Malekula**

Titus and Alexis will have their second school break next month, which means our family will head to Malekula for two weeks to visit Christians in Lembinwen and Tulwei Villages. We are excited to share this experience with our five interns as well.

- **Silvy & Kaitib**

Please make it a point to add these two youth group members to your prayer list, as they've recently made the decision to follow Christ. They each face unique challenges going forward, and will benefit from our prayers.



Prayer Updates:

- **Summer Visitors**

As of this writing our summer interns from OC have already arrived, and the campaign group from Harding is set to be here in a couple of days. It is always a busy but richly rewarding time as we host these and other groups throughout the summer months.

Spending the week with them always reminds me what an important junction youth have come to, as they begin making decisions that will potentially impact them for the rest of their lives. We believe it very important that God's way and Jesus' example be put forth as the best option for choosing a lifestyle and worldview, as we know that Satan is competing hard against us. We all rejoiced as Silvy (from Etas) and Kaitib (from Vila) made the decision to confess Jesus as their Lord and were baptized into Christ. Both of them had spent a lot of time studying and contemplating this decision in the months leading up to camp, and we were excited to share this important time with them. You can check out our [Facebook page](#) for more details and pics from the week.

Update from Etas

As we moved outside of town this year and as doors opened up, our family is devoting the bulk of our time to the congregation that meets in the Etas area. This month we want to share a little about the weekly women's program.

The effort has been on-again-off-again for several years, but it seems that we have found a groove recently as they shifted from meeting at the church building to meeting in various homes. More specifically, the "regulars" go and visit someone who is struggling in one way or another, bring them a small gift (as culture dictates), and make a concerted effort to be an encouragement to them. All this is done in a very non-controversial way and has become something that all the ladies, both visitors and "visitees", look forward to. Included on the schedule for next month are some non-Christians who have visited our assemblies on occasion, and we are excited about this outreach effort.

From the Homefront

May was our first month in the new house, and though it took a few days it already feels like home. As we've mentioned it is a bit of a fixer-upper, I spent several days this month replacing all of the windows. Several of them were broken, and none were very secure, and we are happy with the change.

We acquired two kittens this month, Tiger and Oreo, who've been a valuable addition as they've already begun killing mice!

