

Brandell e-Scr@pbook

A MONTHLY UPDATE FROM THE BRANDELLS IN VANUATU

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✧ Happy Birthday, Titus ✧

Hard to believe, but our little guy is 6 years old as of November 24. Birthdays aren't really celebrated in the Vanuatu culture, so we kept it pretty low key. Titus enjoyed a decorated veranda, chocolate milk on his cereal and sprinkle-pancakes for breakfast, presents, a trip to swim in the river, two ice cream cones, a chocolate cake, and a water balloon fight. Thank you, God, for blessing our lives with Titus!

WELCOME, CALEB

We are always excited when an overseas Christian states his intention to come and visit. This month we were happy to have Caleb O'Hara (from Ripon, CA) spend a couple of weeks with us in Malekula. Much encouragement is realized from such short-term mission trips: resident missionaries, visiting missionaries, local Christians and non-Christians are almost always edified by the time together.

The theme of Caleb's trip was definitely "delay". First his flight from Fiji to Vanuatu was delayed, which caused him to miss his domestic flight on to Malekula and meant he was delayed in Vila overnight. On our way to Southwest Bay we were twice delayed - once for a couple of hours at high tide when the truck couldn't cross the river, and again for almost seven hours while we waited at the wharf on the captain of our boat to return from town. Last but not least, his Fiji to Los Angeles flight was delayed which caused an unscheduled overnight stay in Nadi. Despite all these delays (which in actuality gave him a very



Team Update

The Bakers enjoyed their first major family holiday back in America this month, as both sides of the family convened at their house in Missouri. They seem to be adjusting well to life in the States, and progressing in their work with the Foristell congregation.

Mike made a trip to South Tanna this month, to visit and teach the brethren there. He reports that the trip went well, and that the congregation in Yatukun continues to grow spiritually. Caleb and I were able to spend a few hours with Mike in Santo on our way to Vila. It was good to get to visit with him briefly.

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realistic view of life in the Pacific!), we still had a great time together.

Selfishly, my main goal for Caleb's visit was visiting/studying together with him. He and I were a year apart at the Bear Valley Bible Institute, and I have respected his spiritual wisdom since then. I thoroughly enjoyed talking about various topics throughout the two weeks, and felt like I was sufficiently "sharpened" as a result of our numerous discussions.

We made a weekend visit to Southwest Bay to do some prep work for our upcoming "tent meeting" that is scheduled for December 10-15. The entire Tulwei congregation is planning to travel there for that weeklong study. We built a place for washing dishes, dug a new outhouse toilet, mapped out post holes for the "tent" (tarp on bamboo posts), cut tree limbs to use as posts, and planted two gigantic posts (tree trunks) for a new sleeping room. Caleb preached a lesson on "Evaluating Traditions" during our Sunday assembly.

Back in Tulwei Village, Caleb conducted a three day seminar on Church Growth, emphasizing God's view of spiritual growth (primarily from Ephesians 4). It was a very relevant study for the congregation, and hopefully it will serve as a spring board for the upcoming year's events. He preached a lesson from Nehemiah on "Overcoming Discouragement" during the Sunday assembly.

The remainder of our time together involved sharing meals with local Christians, various work projects, visiting, and sharing our village life. Thanks for coming, Caleb!



**We spent much more time than anticipated at the wharf**



**Caleb visiting with Aiel in Southwest Bay**



**Getting the notice board ready to go**



**Above: preaching in Tulwei Village**

**Right: enjoying ice cream for Titus' birthday**



## THREE MORE CONVERTED TO CHRIST

We are pleased to share news with you of two new sisters and one new brother in Christ this month.

During our most recent trip to Southwest Bay, Aiel's son (Jansen-21yrs) and daughter (Lorenzi-23yrs) were baptized into Christ. **Jansen** was a part of our original studies with Aiel and Nancy, and **Lorenzi** recently moved back to the village from Port Vila, with her newborn baby, Lexi. Her dad has been promoting the church to her for months, and she was baptized following a long study with Shawnda during our visit. The next morning as we were getting ready to depart, Aiel tearfully referred to the picture of a mother-hen, now having his entire family (wife, sister, daughter and son) safe in Christ.

The following week, **Eva** (in Tulwei) announced her desire to be baptized. She studied with Shawnda for several weeks during our last trip to Malekula, and has been counting the cost of becoming a disciple ever since. She is married to Alsen and Flexon's youngest brother, Sam Pierre. We are hoping that he too will become interested in studying and obeying the gospel soon. They have two young boys - Samuel and Sylon.



## PROJECT COMPLETE



The congregation in Tulwei Village assembled for the first time in their new meeting place on Sunday, November 25. The new location allows us to accommodate everyone inside, unlike our former structure where many were forced to sit outside in the sun. We were happy to welcome three non-Christian visitors that morning as well. The brethren were honored to have Caleb preach that morning. In light of the occasion, we ate lunch together after our assembly, and the brethren decided to begin having a fellowship meal on the last Sunday of every month going forward. We pray that the new meeting place will serve to honor God as He is worshiped and His word is studied inside.

## PICS FROM THE MONTH



**6-year-old Titus!**



**Lexi gives Titus' birthday cake "two thumbs up"**



**Bible club in Tulwei Village**

