

From ^O_R Point ^O_F View

the Ladies of Mission Vanuatu

A Journal Excerpt by Cindy Baker (May 15th to June 13th)

Tuesday 5-17-05

When reading Brenda Rutherford's book, "Brenda's Diary" about her time on the mission field in Africa I always wondered why she sometimes would go 2 or 3 days without writing. I mean, it's just a short daily journal entry, right? Ha! Now I know why! Some days get so busy that I forget to write.

Now I have to back log. Yesterday Shawnda and I had our Bible study with Yoland. It went very well – Shawnda did an overview of the Bible and God's plan of redemption through time. We study again on Friday. Then, we came home and left for the grocery store as soon as Kaela woke up from her nap. Yesterday evening the guys met again about the car situation. Aaron found a good deal on a car for our family so they needed to talk about it. Then we and the Brandell's played cards while Mike used the Internet.

Today Shawnda, Kaela and I went to Women's Bible study at Rose-Hannah's. Before we went there though our land lady, Yvette, came to take us to pick out paint so we can paint our houses. She bought the paint and we will do the work. This is a great deal for us since our houses need painting very badly (especially the Brandell's) and the paint cost totaled \$180US.

Tonight we are going to the Coral Motel to watch the Survivor finale. It starts at 9:40pm and won't be over until 3:30am, probably. Needless to say, we will be staying the night there.

Wednesday 5-18-05

This morning didn't start off well – at least once we got home. We all got up at 6am (when Kaela decided that we should all wake up), then left the motel for home. When we got to our back porch we found 3 of our 4 kittens dead. From what we could tell probably one of the large stray dogs that wanders around found them during the night and killed them. Miss Dorothy was the only one that lived and we think it is because she hid in a hole under a cabinet on our porch. She seems okay, although she is a little scared and confused. It is just so sad. We were all pretty bummed about it. I know they are just cats and these things happen sometimes. But, I can't help feeling sad over it all. We put a lot of care into those kittens and had fun watching them grow. Even though our plan was to give them away as soon as they were weaned, we just didn't want to find them the way we did.

This afternoon the floodgates of heaven opened and we had quite a downpour for a good half hour. It had been thundering for quite a while but, that was all and then all of a sudden – wan bigfala rain (a big rain)! It's a good thing that we were borrowing a car from the Coral Motel owner that night. We were able to drive to Bible study instead of walk.

Thursday 5-19-05

Rachel came today to do laundry and clean. This afternoon Aaron and I went down to Nambatu to buy trash cans for our kitchen and bathroom. Since moving here I've realized that you have to have trash can with a lid in your kitchen, otherwise bugs can become a real problem. We take the trash out every night but, I don't want to encourage any unwanted houseguests during the day! We treated ourselves to an ice cream cone on the way home. I got chocolate and it was SO GOOD!!! It was Brahm's quality – anyone who's ever had Brahm's knows how good that is! Tonight is our team meeting, dinner and game night.

Friday 5-20-05

This morning Shawnda and I had our Bible study with Yoland. It went very well again and we will study again on Monday afternoon. She also told us that she wants to come to worship with us on Sunday. We will meet her in the park downtown and then walk to Steven and Rose-Hannah's from there. The rest of the day Eric, Shawnda, Aaron and I spent painting the Brandell's house. Morris came over to help us and even played with Kaela for quite a while so I could work. It took us all day and 3 coats of paint to get their living/dining room and hall painted.

Saturday 5-21-05

Today was day 2 of painting Eric and Shawnda's house. We worked on the 3 bedrooms today and now we are finished! It took 4 people and two 8 hour days to finish, with 3 coats of paint in each room. My feet are killing me from standing barefoot on tile all day and who knows how long I will have paint on my hands and feet! We start on our house on Monday. It should only take one coat for our house because our walls are white to begin with instead

of grayish blue. It is also good because we are getting low on paint because it took almost 8 gallons of paint to paint their house!

Sunday 5-22-05

We took a break from painting today which was a real relief to us all. This morning Shawnda and I met Yoland at the park, walked to our house and picked up Aaron and Kaela, and then walked together to worship. We wanted to meet her at the park because we knew it would be difficult for her to come to worship for the first time at a strangers house. It sure will be nice when we have a building to meet in. She seemed to really enjoy worship and even knew a few of the Christians there. Today is Eric's 26th birthday so Shawnda and I went shopping for him at Nambatu supermarket. It's funny how food makes a great gift! Aaron and I gave him m&m's and candy sprinkles for his toast (which is kind of weird but he seems to like them). Lissie came over this afternoon and we talked for a couple of hours, then she left and Mike came for Eric's b-day party. We all ate together, had cake and ice cream and played games. It was a fun evening.

Monday 5-23-05

I let my baby go today for the first time since we have been here. She's been to a baby-sitter before in the States but, this was my first time to let her stay with someone here. Kaela went and stayed with Jaclyn and her 13 year old daughter, Melinda, while Shawnda and I did our grocery shopping. Jaclyn and Melinda live out at Eton village and come into town often so they have seen Kaela quite a bit. Melinda loves playing with her and Kaela really likes both of them so I wasn't worried about how she would do with them. I could tell that Melinda was very excited to spend time with Kaela. Although she is like many of the island children and doesn't talk much around me. I think she is just so very shy, which is common. When I talk to her she sometimes hides her face in embarrassment. It is interesting to me to get used to the "island way" --- many people here are VERY shy, which is why they talk so softly to the white man and I am always thinking I am going deaf! Very different from America where EVERYONE is loud! Its always important for me to remember that one culture isn't necessarily better than the other when it comes to being quiet or loud...they are just different. Anyway, when I picked Kaela up Jaclyn said that she did great. She played with them, ate rice, and didn't even cry once. I was so happy to hear that. It is good for me to send Kaela to stay with local Christians. It helps them to see that I trust them with my child and it builds relationships because of that. It is very good for Kaela to get used to being around local people...someone other than our white-skinned team. It will give her a good mix of American culture and Ni-Van culture.

Tuesday 5-24-05

This morning Shawnda, Kaela and I went to Bible study at Rose Hannah's. I am reading excerpts from Deanna Beauchamp's book "A Helper Fit for Him (The Church Leader's Wife). It is an excellent book – one of the best I have ever read on the women's side of ministry. At 1:30pm today Lissie came over and showed Shawnda and I how to make yams with coconut milk the Island way. First, you use a knife to cut off the skin of the yam. You have to make sure and wash your hands when you finish because something in the skin can cause your skin to itch. After the skin is peeled, the meat of the yam is very slippery...slimy almost...I don't really know why, but it is. And it's a good thing that the sliminess goes away when you cook it – otherwise I don't think I would like yams. Then, we cut the yam into 1" slices and put it on the stove in some water to boil. While they were boiling we went outside and Lissie showed us how to break open the coconuts. She held it in her hand and hit it very hard with the backside of a bush knife, which is really just a big machete. Delightful. I must say I am a little scared to do that since I'm not really into cutting my hand off. (I can just see that happening to me, even though you don't use the blade of the knife – somehow, someway I know that would happen to me!) I think I will break my coconuts on the ground. Then, Lissie poured the water from the coconut into a bowl. We then took the coconuts inside and she showed us how to scrape the meat out. The coconut inside is very hard so you can't just scrape it out with a fork or a knife. Islanders use a coconut scraper which is a small wooden rectangular stool that has a metal disc nailed to one end of the stool. The metal disc is flat and had sharp points sticking out all around the edge of it. You sit down on the stool with the disc end between your legs, take a ½ of a coconut in both hands and press down as you turn the coconut. That motion scrapes the meat out and it drops into a bowl that sits on the floor under the disc. It is VERY HARD work and takes a lot of energy to scrape all the meat out of a coconut because the meat is so hard and solidly packed in there. Lissie scraped one coconut and Shawnda and I each did a ½ a coconut. By the end she and I both had small cuts on our hands from the force you put into pressing down while you scrape that coconut...sometimes your hand slips if you aren't careful. After we got them all scraped Lissie took the bowl of coconut shavings, poured a little of the coconut water into it, mixed it around and then put a handful of coconut shavings into one of my flour sack towels. She then showed us how to squeeze the milk from the coconut by twisting the towel with the meat inside. After that she put the milk in a saucepan and we let it simmer until it began to thicken and stick to the bottom slightly and then it was done. While that was simmering we drained the water off the yams and let them cool some. To serve the yams with coconut milk, we put the yam slices on a platter and spooned the thickened coconut milk over them. The first time I ever came to Vanuatu we were served a few

different things with this lumpy looking white stuff on it. I was completely grossed out by it simply because I didn't know what it was. My mind imagined all kinds of unappetizing things – curdled milk, fermenting cottage cheese, etc. But now that I know it is just cooked coconut milk – it doesn't gross me out and I really like the taste! I love yams and coconut milk! It is one of my favorite island dishes!

Thursday 5-26-05

Today Shawnda, Kaela and I went into town to look at material to cover our couch cushions with. Our couches are made with a black wood frame. Hers is styled like a normal couch with 3 sitting cushions and 3 leaning cushions. I have 2 bench style couches with 2 long cushions on each one. Plus we each have a black wood frame chair with 2 cushions on each one of them. The material on them now is a very faded pastel floral design and she and both want something brighter. Rose said that if we buy the material and supplies her mother will sew the covers for us! Yea!

Saturday 5-28-05

Oh how I miss cheese! Good 'ol American made *cheap* cheese! We can get plenty of cheese here. But, it is all made in Australia or New Zealand which makes it taste different and it is ALL expensive! Who would have thought cheese would be a luxury item? Not me. I used to use it all the time when I cooked in the States and it is probably better for me now that I don't use it. But, oh how I miss it!

Yesterday we had our Bible study with Yoland. It went very well. Shawnda taught on Christ building His church, the one true church and the comparison of it being His body and He is head of it. Things are progressing very well and next time we will either talk about being "In Christ" or "Conversions in the book of Acts".

We finally are set up to take our Bislama class! We start on Thursday the 2nd and have it every Monday and Thursday from 5-7pm for 3 weeks, I think. We are all looking forward to this. Kaela will spend the 2 hrs we are in class at Ure' and Gomon's house.

Sunday 5-29-05

This morning we left the house for worship in Epau. We took Eric and Shawnda's truck and picked up Mike on the way. Kal, Junior and Taal (Morris and Rebekah's grandson) went with us. We stopped in Eton first for about 45 minutes. Junior and Taal stayed behind in Eton. We then picked up about 7 other people from Eton Village, piled in the truck and headed for worship at Epau Village. The drive from Vila to Epau took about an hour and a half total – which is making GREAT time! The road was in exceptional condition with only a few potholes and bumps. It had recently been graded and we haven't had much rain lately. This was my first time to go to Epau. It was nice to meet some of the Christians that we had heard so much about, and also Yoland's mother, father and brother. We worshipped there and had lunch with the Christians. Today was a special Sunday in Epau because they took up a special collection for their building project. They currently meet under a temporary shelter. It is a small shed with a corrugated steel roof and an added on section made of bamboo poles covered by a large blue tarp. This wasn't Kaela's best day as she didn't quite get her full morning nap. That always tends to make her cranky and clingy. Sometimes I wonder if she feels overwhelmed by all the attention she gets. Being the only white baby around she is kind of a novelty, especially with the children. They ALL love to talk to her and touch her and kiss her and play with her, especially the young girls. I think at one point today she was swarmed by about 10 or 15 kids. Usually, she is good natured about it (who wouldn't be with all that attention of kids who think you are the neatest thing ever) ... but, today...she wasn't so much loving all the attention. It is difficult to know how to handle this because she can be a bit of a distraction during class and worship. Not because she does anything but, because the children tend to flock around her wanting her to play with them. This is especially a problem in Vila sometimes. I don't know quite how to handle it because while I know that all that attention is not good for her and can be distracting during class and worship, I also know I can't handle it the way I would in America. This is a different place, with a language barrier (especially with children) and during worship we are not "restricted" to pews because we sit on the floor wherever there is a spot. So things are different. I guess I will just think on it and pray on it and the answer will come to me in time.

Monday 5-30-05

This morning at 9am Shawnda and I went to our Bible study with Yoland. Things had been progressing very well with her and we both felt like today she might be ready to make the decision to be baptized. And she was. She knew that she needed to be forgiven of her sin but, she also knew she had sin to repent of – she is in a pre-marital relationship with her boyfriend, George, who lives at Epau. We don't really know all of the details...just that they live together when he is in town. But, she knows she needs to take that sin out of her life before she is baptized. I admire her so much not only for knowing that she needed to be baptized but also for realizing how important it is for her to take care of her sin before she does that.

There are things about the Ni-Van culture that are sometimes difficult to understand. And sometimes it is hard to have a positive attitude toward aspects of the culture when you know that it can keep Christians from being

faithful and from worshipping with the Lord's body. Backsliding (falling away) can be a problem because while people know what is right and are baptized, if their family or husband is not a Christian it is VERY difficult for them to pull away from the religion of their family. There are expectations within the Ni-Van culture that make being the lone Christian in the family very difficult. In the States if you are the lone Christian it is still hard because you must motivate yourself to go to worship even though your family doesn't go with you and doesn't understand. But, rarely are women or children "forbidden" to go. That is because in America from birth women and young adults are taught to stand up for themselves. In Vanuatu it isn't that way. If you are a women or a young adult you are EXPECTED to attend church wherever your husband or family goes – no questions asked. Women and young adults that are new Christians here need courage and boldness to stand up for what they know is right, even if it does not make their family happy. Shawnda and I are spending much time in prayer on behalf of Yoland because her boyfriend is not a Christian.

Also today, I set up a Bible study with Rachel, our house girl. We will study on Wednesday morning. I am very excited about it! I did find out that she is not a Presbyterian, although her family on Malakula Island is. She, however, is a Mormon. That should make for some interesting studies. I really don't believe Mormonism is marketed by the Mormon church leaders the way it is in America. Because most Ni-Van's don't have much communication with the world outside of Vanuatu they probably have no idea about all the strange false doctrines of the Mormons. Most people don't have Internet access and the library is very small so I doubt they have read the numerous article and evidence that the Book of Mormon is a fallacy.

Thursday 6-2-05

Yesterday morning Shawnda and I studied with Rachel. We studied the authority and inspiration of the Bible. Shawnda felt like it went well but, it is hard for me to say because I never can tell when I am the one doing the talking. It is such an out of body experience for me because I get nervous and afraid that I will forget what I have studied! It's funny how your mind plays tricks on you. The whole time we were studying I felt like I kept repeating myself. And I felt like the more I tried not to – the more I did! Later, when we were finished I told Shawnda what I was thinking and she said she didn't notice me repeating myself at all! Anyway, the study went well. Rachel didn't talk much or ask questions so it was hard for me to tell what she was thinking. But, she said she wanted to study again so we are going to study again this morning. I will do an extensive overview of the Bible. I am really excited about this study – it is one of my favorites. It seems that we rarely think about how God worked out His plan of redemption for man through time. It is an eye-opener when we stop to look at how God continually demands not only faith, but also obedience from His people. He has always expected that from man – complete faith and obedience! I believe studying that helps us, as Christians, to respect His authority and the fact that since the beginning of time God has always meant what He said.

Yesterday also in the afternoon Shawnda and I walked to town to check on Yoland. We wanted to know if she had talked with her boyfriend yet about being baptized. We were fortunate because when we got to Seaview Takeaway, he was there with her. She said she talked to him and he understood her decision but, neither of them know what to do about their pre-marital relationship. He did say he wanted to talk with and study with Aaron and Eric. So Shawnda and I raced back home so Aaron and Eric could get to the restaurant before 4pm. Willie was to leave for Epau village at 4pm. As it turns out his name is Willie...not George. (We found out later that Joe is his father's name and George is their family (last) name – prepare to be confused when you ask someone's name!) Anyway, Aaron and Eric talked with him and he wants to study so they are making a trip out to Epau. They will leave tomorrow and it will be their 1st trip out of town. Lissie is coming to stay with Shawnda and me while they are gone. Shawnda and I already don't like staying alone at night – so it's perfect that we have each other! We have also heard that it is good for a local to stay the night with us when the boys are gone.

Friday 6-3-05

Praise God!!! Shawnda and I went to our Bible study with Yoland this morning. She decided that today she wanted to be baptized! She understands that even though Aaron and Eric went to Epau to study with Willie that he may not decide to become a Christian. And if he doesn't she will still have to stand up strong. She understands this and she really believes Willie will want to be baptized. But, she also knows she can't wait for him to make her decision. She understands that they cannot live together while he is in town and so Shawnda and I offered for her to come stay with us when he is in town so they won't be tempted. Aaron and Eric left today to go to Epau to study with Willie, and also Yoland's family, so they weren't here to witness her baptism. We called Mike (he was staying with Kaela at our house) from the park and told him we were coming home so Yoland could change clothes. We also called Shem to ask him to take us to a place and baptize her. But, we couldn't get a hold of him. So, when the three of us got to our house we picked up Mike and Kaela and all drove out to Shem's house. Then the 6 of us (Mike, Shem, Shawnda, Yoland, Kaela and I) piled in our car and drove to a beach that was a great place to baptize. It was in a lagoon so the water was very calm. Shem baptized Yoland. We were all so happy! Now we pray that Willie will make a decision for Christ also!

Also today, Shawnda and I were in town and went to get an ice cream cone. As we were walking my ice cream (the yummy Brahm's-like chocolate kind) fell off my cone and rolled on the sidewalk about 2 feet away from me! I was so dismayed and I didn't want to use my special savings to go buy another. So what did I do??? Yep. I did it. I picked up my ball of ice cream and put it back on my cone, wiped the dirt off as best as I could and ate the rest! – And it tasted good!!!! You know what they say – God made dirt and dirt don't hurt! :o)

Saturday 6-4-05

Today Ure' came over to teach Shawnda, Lissie, Yoland and I how to make bilums. A bilum is a style of bag made from yarn that has been twisted together to make a very small string. Then you use the twisted yarn to make a bag. It is a style of bag that they make in Papua New Guinea (PNG), where Ure' is from. We spent several hours today just working on rolling our yarn. What a long process! I think it will take me forever to roll my yarn but, Ure' was kind enough to help all of us with our yarn rolling. It's a good thing I am learning how to make a bilum because to buy one here in Vila costs about \$50.

I am feeling a little sad today because I have hardly gotten any mail since we have been here. I know I have much to be thankful for and I am grateful because I know I have more blessings here than many missionary families before us have ever had on the field. But, the truth is that it is hard sometimes. I remember how life is in the US – it is chaotic and busy and crazy. I remember that. I think sometimes that our families and friends forget that we are here living day to day in a country that is not our own. And while life here is good and I have no doubts about our decision to come, it is difficult to live everyday in a culture, with a people and try to speak a language that is not familiar to me. It makes me sad because I also know that when I had friends living overseas while I was in the States, I was not as thoughtful to send mail as I should have been. I wish sometimes I could tell the world that when you are away from your family and friends – mail becomes the highlight of the day! We get more excited over one letter than we do 10 emails! I am trying to keep my chin up though.

Sunday 6-5-05

I am feeling much better today. Yesterday afternoon I was a little down in the dumps, but, today I am feeling better. I am also very anxious for Aaron to get home. I know it has only been 2 days but, things just aren't the same when he is gone. Kaela for sure isn't the same! She is fussy and very clingy. It is like she can tell that something isn't quite right but she doesn't know what. --- Aaron and Eric got home about 6:30pm tonight. We were expecting them about 3pm but, they were delayed from leaving, as we had expected. I was so happy to see Aaron I could have jumped out of my skin and Kaela was so excited to see her daddy that she nearly jumped out of my arms! Mike came over and we were all really excited to hear about their trip. Since the details are in Mission Vanuatu Minutes – I won't write about it in my journal. All I'll say is that it was so successful for teaching and it went really well. They both came back and were so amazed at the desire that the people of Epau had to learn the Bible. They said the people would just sit and drink in the Word for hours. That news put excitement in the hearts of all of us! Yoland's Grandma was baptized – which is wonderful news! As for Willie – Eric spent a lot of time studying with him. He was receptive and understood all that the Bible said. While he knew that he needed to be baptized to forgive his sins, he was hanging back because he wanted to talk with Yoland. On one hand we know that salvation is an urgent matter – and the guys wanted to convey that to him, which he understood. But, we also understand why he wants to talk with Yoland. This is a big decision and change in their lifestyle. We all feel confident that he will be baptized soon. As for now, Yoland doesn't know all that happened while Eric and Aaron were in Epau so Shawnda and I look forward to telling her in our Bible Study tomorrow afternoon.

Monday 6-6-05

Shawnda and I did get to tell Yoland about her Grandma and Willie. Shawnda has seen Yoland earlier today at her work, but only told a small bit of what happened. So it was fun to relate to her the whole story and see how excited she was! We are all looking forward to Willie's next visit to town. Also this evening our team went to our second Bislama class. Again, same as last week, we already knew the material covered – use of pronouns and practicing dialogue. We get to practice our dialogue every day so we were way ahead of the other four students in the class. We are hoping this class isn't a waste of time and money. We were all disappointed that we didn't go over vocab in class since that is where we need our main help. We will see what Thursday holds.

Thursday 6-9-05

Today we listened to the Word of Life program on the radio. Wayne Burger and Mike both do 15 minute sermons for it. It was so nice to hear Wayne's voice! To listen to him preach (in English!) right there in my kitchen, even though I know he is far away. It makes me all the more anxious to see him at the end of the month. Tonight is our Bislama class. Let's hope we learn something new tonight. The last two classes have been agonizingly long since we already know what is being taught.

Saturday 6-11-05

We have a rat. Living in or coming in our house. And I am so grossed out. I hate rats!!! Maybe he lives outside and just comes in for a visit, I don't know. I sure didn't invite him. Aaron saw him this afternoon so we will be getting a rat trap right away. I hope I never have the pleasure of meeting him alive.

One thing to get used to here is the frequent changing of our schedules. Aaron and I have always been pretty "scheduled" people. But, here you never know that will happen. When people come by for a visit, you never know how long they will stay. It isn't the "pop in and say hi" kind of place and "pop back out a few minutes later". It is the "pop in and stay for a few hours kind of place" and that is fine as long as we keep ourselves in the same frame of mind as the locals. I have learned that I just have to RELAX and just go with the flow. If someone comes – I just have to prepare myself to wipe my schedule slate clean for the next few hours. (Sometimes that is easier said than done). I have to adapt to the Island Way: If I don't do it today – I will do it tomorrow! Today, Aaron was to have a Bible study with John at 9am. John and his friend, Samson, came at 10:15am. Then John left at 11:30 and told Aaron he had to go see his Dad and would be back in a half an hour. Keep in mind that Ni-Vans have no concept of estimating – time, numbers, etc. I don't mean that as an insult *at all*. It is just the truth. Samson stayed at our house and talked with Aaron. At 12:15pm I told them that when John got back I would fix lunch. We waited and waited and waited. And true to the island way – he didn't make it back that afternoon. Aaron did get to study with Samson for about an hour though, so that was good. And even set up another Bible study for next week. People here spend a lot of time waiting. And they are the most easy-going people I know. It doesn't seem to bother them because it is just part of their life. We Americans would drive ourselves into a frenzy of worry, annoyance, frustration, anger, and complaining if we had to spend the time waiting that Ni-Vans do. Every once in a while I get a taste of that waiting and I am doing my best to CHILL OUT! So Aaron studied with Samson. I finally gave up on waiting for John and fixed them lunch at 3pm. And it all turned out okay. Aaron was a little hungry and had to tide himself over with cookies but, it was fine. And no one had a heart attack from having to wait.

Sunday 6-12-05

Kaela is 11 months old today. How time flies! Samson came over this morning and talked with Aaron at 7:30am. He came to tell him he would be back this afternoon to study with Aaron. Then he stayed and ate breakfast with us – our traditional Vanuatu breakfast of toast and juice. Gourmet. (I love that about the Ni-Vans. There isn't an expectation that when you serve a meal that it must be "perfect". We often serve beef and ramen noodles with grapefruit for dessert and they love it!) After worship we had lunch at Seaview Takeaway. We got home at 2pm and Samson came to study with Aaron at 2:30pm and stayed till 8:30 tonight. They studied for a long time then we all went over to Eric and Shawnda's and we talked, ate dinner and then Mike came over and the 4 guys talked for a long time about the Bible and also many Ni-Van customs. It was a great learning experience for Aaron, Eric and Mike. We all really like Samson. He has a very outgoing personality and we are hopeful that he will obey the gospel.

Monday 6-13-05

This morning Rachel didn't come wash laundry. I don't know if she was sick or not. I'm not even sure if she has a phone so I couldn't call her and she doesn't have our number so she didn't call me. I guess I will be doing laundry tomorrow. Then at 10:30am Shawnda, Kaela and I went grocery shopping at Nambatu. It wasn't the most wonderful experience. I realized how much I take for granted the stores in the US having what I want when I want it. No carrots, no potatoes, no onions today. The sea freight doesn't come in until Friday. But that sure did give me some frustration! I carefully think about and plan our weekly menu and consider the cost of every item so I can stay within my budget. So when the store doesn't have what I need – it REALLY throws a kink in my plans! So I spent a portion of this afternoon re-working my menu for the week.

I also worked on my Bible study for Rachel. We will study Old Testament and New Testament differences on Thursday. I am hoping at this study to get some idea of where Rachel stands in her thinking.