

From ^O_R Point ^O_F View

the Ladies of Mission Vanuatu

Shawnda's Journal (June 15th – July 14th)

Wednesday, June 15th – This morning Cindy and I went into town to buy calico (material) to cover our couch cushions with. We both found what we wanted and bought it. Now we are going to have to talk with Rose to see when she can make them. I spent the rest of the morning working on my lesson for Epau.

This afternoon Eric and I walked into town to talk to Yoland and see if she wanted to go to Epau on Friday. She did. We'll leave at 7:00 Friday morning.

This evening we had Bible study at Stephen's house. Plenty of young people came – Flexon came (but Daniel had to stay and work – Chu made him stay to work on a truck for a customer), Samson, Lissie, Kal and Stanley came too. After Bible study Eric talked with Samson. Samson read a Gospel Tidings newspaper out loud to Eric (Samson wanted to make sure he was reading it correctly) and Eric said it was awesome hearing him speak the truth – even though he doesn't believe it yet. He has such potential. While Eric and Samson were talking, Aaron talked with Flexon – he asked Aaron about baptism. He told him to ask Eric about it (he didn't want to get ahead of where they were in their study together). Aaron told Eric what Flexon had told him, so when Flexon asked (as soon as he shut the door of the car) "I want to study about baptism..." Eric wasn't totally blown out of his seat. He wanted to know whether baptism was okay as a sprinkling, or was it immersion (a burial)? Eric asked him if he wanted to study the next night, Flexon said Friday would be fine. So. They set up a time to study on Friday. Eric is excited that Flexon brought it up.

Thursday, June 16th – Rachel didn't come again today. It looks like our worries were true. We are still hoping that maybe she is just not feeling well, but it looks as if she isn't coming back. She is a Mormon and in the US I know they won't let people study the Bible with people other than Mormons, so we are suspicious that the Mormons here have told her to stop studying with us.

Rachel not coming put a "kink" in my schedule. I had planned to get some other things done while she was here, but since she didn't come, I had to do what I had planned for her to do and the stuff I had planned to do as well. I hand washed a load of towels, tablecloths, etc. Then Mike told us we could use his washer, so Cindy and I took some clothes over there. It rained all morning, which means our clothes really didn't get too dry by this afternoon when we needed to take them down. I cooked and deboned a chicken, swept the house, and prepared some more for the lesson in Epau. I have had the hardest time with this lesson. Today I changed my mind again about what I wanted to speak about – so I spent quite a bit of time putting that new lesson together.

Bislama class again tonight. John and Kerrie asked us if we wanted to come over and have afternoon tea with them (and talk about diving, etc...John is a diving instructor). They said that Monday would be good for them. Another frustrating class, but not much longer now...

Friday, June 17th – We left this morning at about 7:00 and went by to get Kal and Lissie. Lissie couldn't go – she had to work. Kal and Stanley came though. At Eton Eric talked with Eddie about the posts for the volleyball net. Then we went to Epau. It seemed like the kids came out of the woodwork

when we drove up – they came from everywhere and just watched us as we unloaded. Willie had already gone to the garden, so Yoland went to find him. About an hour or so later, Yoland and Willie came walking toward us, both carrying huge stalks of bananas and some other produce from the garden. Yoland sat down and talked with me and gave some cookies to the kids. Then Willie came and sat with us and talked for a few minutes until Eric and Ata came back from Paunangisu (they had run over there really quick to talk to Harry and Chris). When they got back, Eric and Willie walked off to talk, Yoland and I waited for a while and Yoland said, “Let’s go over there...” So we did. Just as we walked around the corner, Eric told us that Willie wanted to be baptized. So we walked through the “bush” to the ocean. Those who had walked down there, gathered at the shore and Eric said a quick prayer (in Bislama) and then Ata and Willie walked into the water and Willie was baptized. It was a neat moment.

After, we all congratulated him and then we walked back to Ata’s and Leisong (a Christian in Epau) had made us some lunch. We ate rice and island cabbage. We enjoyed the conversation and laughing. I was really impressed with Willie. He is a really good guy – I hadn’t really been around him before, so it was good to see what Yoland’s future husband was like. Eric gave him his Bislama Bible because Willie doesn’t have a Bible. He told him to study it and keep learning. Ata said he would help him. We talked about the gospel meeting coming up and told Willie that we really wanted him to come – Ata said he and Willie would come together b/c he wanted to come too.

Willie decided he wanted to ride into Vila with us b/c he needed to get some things taken care of in town. He and Sanin rode with us.

Before we left, Leisong sat down and taught me how to make a fan – one variety that women make here. My first attempt at fan making wasn’t the greatest – it is a “leaner” – it leans to the left, but it still works. She said that she would teach me better the next time we come out to Epau. She said that I would learn, it just takes practice. :o) She was a really good teacher. She took my hands and guided them – didn’t just expect me to watch and imitate. I liked her “Teaching method.”

On the way back, we stopped in Eton to pick up the posts. Eddie hopped in the car and told us to go and he would show us where they were. We turned off of the main road and went back into the bush. It was the place where Eddie’s business (sawmill) cuts trees and gets lumber. The guys had cut two posts for us and left them back in the bush. When we got there, they loaded the posts and we went on our way.

When we got to Vila, we dropped off the posts at home and then went into town to drop them off and to buy some vegetables at the market.

Flexon and Daniel came tonight to study with Eric. They studied baptism, and they were both ready to be baptized, but once Eric went over “Count the Cost,” they both decided to wait because they knew it was a big, important decision. So, they said they wanted to think about it.

Saturday, June 18th – Cindy and I took our material to Rose’s sister so she could make the covers for our cushions. We really don’t have any idea how long it will take her, but we are going to be patient. Eric and Aaron worked a lot of the day on the volleyball posts and net. They are putting it in mine and Eric’s front yard (we have lots of open space). So, Cindy, Kaela and I sat on a mat in the shade. Kaela played and Cindy and I worked on visuals for Bible class. After she brought Kaela in and put her to sleep, we had a good, long talk about staying positive and not getting frustrated. We both think we are doing well, but sometimes we have to help each other with what we are struggling with. Mike came over this evening and we ate and played games.

Sunday, June 19th – It was a great day. Bible class went well. Akisa is a great teacher – I love teaching with her...I wish I could think of a better way to divide children’s Bible class responsibilities. Akisa

won't teach again until November I think. Anyway, that's a long time (especially since she has been used to teaching them all the time). But, today it was a great class – I felt like the kids really got it. I did an illustration of sin – how it looks nice, but when we do it, it is no good. But how God's way is the best way. I think they understood what I was trying to get across. Also, I talked about the Lord's Supper as a part of worship. They seemed to understand that too.

Worship was great. We had lots of people there. After worship we invited everyone to come over to our house (The Bakers and Brandells) to play volleyball this afternoon at 3:00. Eric and I set up the net and got everything ready while Aaron was having a study with Samson.

Akisa and her friends, Eva, Helena, and Marian showed up at about 3:30. When Gomon's truck arrived soon after, the back was full of young guys. Moses brought 3 friends too, Crem, Mala, and George. Seselo brought Noel. We all had a great time. We played volleyball for about 2 hours then we sang a few songs, had a short devo and a prayer. We told them that we wanted to do this regularly. They all seemed interested. It was a great experience. None of the friends that Akisa and Moses brought go to church anywhere. It will be a great outreach for those kids. We are hoping to get to know them in this informal setting, so that we can study with them in time.

We went down to SeaView Takeaway to see Yoland and get some ice cream. She left pretty quickly this morning, I wanted to make sure she was all right. She was. She said she just wanted to hurry and go see Kaltanak and Leital at the hospital before she had to go to work.

Monday, June 20th – Eric noticed today that he has a rash on his forearm and his fingers. We are thinking it may be because of them working at the church land on Saturday. He has such easily irritated skin, I am sure that is what it is. Anyway, we are hoping it doesn't spread.

This afternoon we went to John and Kerrie's (our friends from Bislama class) and she made brownies and banana muffins! It was delicious and we had a great time visiting.

Tuesday, June 21st – Rose Hannah's for Bible study with the women. Rose Hannah only works two more days and then she gets to take off for maternity leave. That will be nice for her to be able to rest the next couple of weeks. We had a nice time of fellowship and study.

Eric went to the doctor to get some medicine for his rash and make sure it was okay. It has been spreading some. The doctor gave him a shot and a prescription and sent him on his way.

We studied with Yoland again – it went well. She came to our house and then she and I went to the hospital to see Kaltanak, from Epau. He will get to go home on Monday.

Daniel and Flexon came tonight and they studied the church that Christ built, what its characteristics are, and how to be a part of that church. They realized that the Presbyterian church (which is what they had grown up in, but haven't been attending for a couple of years) was not the church that Christ built - that He only established one church and that we read about that church in the New Testament. So, they decided that they wanted to be baptized so their sins could be forgiven (Acts 2:38, Acts 22:16) and so that they could be a part of the church that Christ built (His body - 1 Corin. 12:13). It was about 7:00 when they decided to be baptized. We got some towels and called Morris, who was in town from Eton, to baptize them. We drove out to Malapoa, to the same place Yoland was baptized, and we all witnessed a beautiful baptism by moonlight.

Wednesday, June 22nd – Eric, Aaron and Mike left for Paonangisu. We are all really excited for their trip. Bible study tonight was different. When we got there, Ure, Rose Hannah, and Yoland were there. We waited until about 6:30, and noone else came, so we started singing and then each of us shared a scripture and talked about it for a few minutes. I encouraged Yoland to share too and she did. She read 2 Timothy 3:16 and summarized our study from the other day. I was really proud of her. She did a

great job. After that we sang a few more songs and then Stephen came in. We stopped what we were doing and let him take the lead. He led 2 or 3 more songs and then said a prayer to dismiss us. It was a good time, it was just different since there weren't any men there until the very end. I did enjoy the women's time together though. After Stephen walked us home since it was dark. Lissie came later that evening to spend the night.

Thursday and Friday, June 23rd and 24th - I had some things that had to get done before this weekend. I had a Bible study with Yoland on Friday afternoon, so I prepared for that on Thursday and Friday (and thankfully, it ended up being a two-part study so that means I already have the lesson for tomorrow (Monday) taken care of...). Let's see...I also had to make a book for children's Bible class in Vila. Usually Akisa teaches the lesson and then I do some sort of application or activity, etc. Anyway, I wrote my first children's flip book in Bislama! It was fun. Then I illustrated it (just black and white, not too many details since I needed to reproduce the characters on other pages...) So, I finished that Friday night and gave it to Ure (Akisa's mom) on Saturday. Also on Friday I spent several hours going over and making sure I had my lesson finished that I was to present on Saturday to the ladies at Epau. In between all that, we were taking loads of laundry to and from Mike's house, running a few errands in town and trying to track down a transport for Saturday for the women.

Saturday, June 25th - We (Cindy, Kaela, Ure and I) left Saturday morning to go to Epau. The other ladies from Vila couldn't go due to various things, which was disappointing, but we had a nice time nonetheless. When we got there only two of the Christian women were there, Leisong and Winnie. (Winnie is the daughter of the couple we spent the night with - she's 24.) Anyway, so they told us that the women all thought that we were having the Bible study in the afternoon since Cindy and I were spending the night, so they had all gone to the garden, to a wedding, or to town. So, we just sat down, talked and enjoyed ourselves. There were so many children around. Since all the kids were gathered around, we started singing songs that they knew. Since I have been teaching Bible class in Vila this month, I was familiar enough with the songs that I could at least help them start them (even if I got a little mixed up with the words in the middle...) It was so fun. I loved just sitting there with the kids. We talked with Leisong and Winnie and enjoyed their company too - in between Winnie keeping busy with the chores that she needed to do. She brought out the coconuts and coconut scraper and I said, "Mi wantem givhan long yu, sipos i oraet." (I want to help you if it's alright.) I then proceeded to scrape a coconut (just like Lissie had taught me - she'd be so proud). I really got the hang of it and ended up scraping 3 whole coconuts (6 halves!) - there at the end, I was so hot and sweaty, but I wanted to do them all, so I just kept going until they were done. They took the coconut meat that I had scraped, and made coconut milk to put on our lap-lap for lunch - had I but known what my efforts would have been used for, I wouldn't have volunteered so readily. Just kidding. :o) We ate lunch then (and I was a little nervous about teaching in Bislama, so I couldn't eat my whole plate of food). I ate half of a huge piece of lap-lap, most of my rice with island cabbage on it and a piece of grapefruit. Anyway, it was a pretty good meal. I can't truthfully say that I like lap-lap yet, but I can say that I am getting more used to it.

After lunch we all moved a mat out under a shade tree beside the road and relaxed - or in Bislama "Yumi go spel nao." (Let's go rest now.) It was so nice and relaxing. I gave the kids some lolli (candy) and the ladies too. Some young guys from Epau walked by who had been fishing (with their "spears" they had made from some sort of stake or something) and one of them had caught a blow fish! It was so cool to see it in real life. When we asked the ladies what it was, they couldn't tell us a name, they just said it was a fish that has lots of needles all over it's body. We finally figured out it was a blowfish

and told them we had only seen them in a book and in a movie. By that time, the guys were already down the road a ways and they called that guy to come back and show us the fish. He did – it was really cool looking (actually a little ugly, but cool nonetheless!)

After a while, Cindy decided to try to put Kaela down for a nap – while she was doing that, Leisong asked if I wanted to go to the river and feed the fish. We walked down to the river with about 5 or 6 kids and we sang all the way there and all the way back. They taught me the words I had been missing in the Bislama songs they sang. It was fun. I later took Cindy back to the river and about 10 kids went with us that time. I felt like the pied piper – it was kind of funny.

Finally at about 4:00, the other ladies were back from their various places and we started. We sang a few songs and then I taught. I think I did a pretty good job. I feel like I communicated well and Cindy told me later that she was really proud of me. She said I did a great job. I taught on loving our Christian brothers and sisters and loving those who weren't Christians. It sounds like a "fluff" lesson, but it wasn't. The church in Epau had some problems with the Presbyterian church in the past, and Yoland suggested that I teach on loving enemies or making peace, or something like that. So, I talked about how we love and why we love. It seemed to be received well by the ladies. It was a good first experience in teaching Ladies in Bislama. Many more to come, I am sure... :o) Then, we ate dinner, talked, sang and then went to bed.

Sunday, June 26th - . It was really hot Saturday night so I felt like I was swimming in my own sweat. I think it was because it was raining – really humid. When we woke up I swam (took a shower) and I felt much better. I then put on my island dress and was ready for the day. On Saturday Winnie presented Kaela with an island dress and then later in the day, she gave both Cindy and I matching island dresses. Winnie gave the dresses to us with the instruction: wear these tomorrow to Paunangisu for worship. So, that's just what we did. I have to admit I felt a little funny at first, then I forgot I was even wearing it and adjusted. Winnie kept saying, I think if you wear this, your husbands won't even recognize you. They'll just think, "There's some women of Vanuatu." They recognized us right away though – maybe the blindingly white skin gave us away?

Eric arrived to carry us to Paunangisu in the truck and we piled in. Worship was nice. I enjoyed meeting some new people and worshipping with the other Christians. Poor Eric was miserable! His rash has spread and is out of control. It is so painful for him. I am taking him to the hospital tomorrow. Anyway, all of that to say that Eric was ready to get home. But, there is no rushing these Sunday afternoons with the Christians.

We finally left Paunangisu at about 2:45 or so. It had been a long day already. I do like the fact that I am not having to think so hard when I am around people speaking Bislama. My brain doesn't get so tired anymore. It was a nice change to the Sundays I had spent in the villages before today.

Monday, June 27th – Eric went to the doctor – he said that Eric just needed to keep using the medicine he'd given him and wait it out. That was a little frustrating for Eric, but I guess there's not really anything he can do but wait. Cindy and I went to the grocery store, had a Bible study with Yoland, and tried to get our houses straightened up since Wayne, Weezie, Ken and Betty are coming tomorrow. We found out that Mike was not doing well at all. Cindy took him to the doctor. The doctor told him that he had a really bad infection in his leg and it had spread throughout his body. He has to get shots for five days in a row. The doctor said that should help him. But he has been so tired and drained of energy the last few days, so he really couldn't even get out of bed today. Aaron, Cindy and I went over there this evening to clean the place so that it would be nice and clean when Ken arrives tomorrow. When we got to his house, he was asleep on the couch and didn't even wake up for about 15 or 20 minutes (and we were talking and asking each other questions, etc. Even when he woke up he still

wasn't able to even sit up. He was totally out of it. Then we came home and all went to bed. It was kind of a stressful day for all of us.

Tuesday, June 28th – Mike looked much better today – more rested. He said he was feeling fine (except his leg really hurt when he stood up). When we got to the airport, we were all really anxious to see everyone. We waited up top and when they stepped off of the plane, we all waved and were so excited. It was neat. Right before they walked inside, Wayne yells, “If they won't let me in, it's because of all of this food I'm carrying.” Leave it to Burger to say something like that right in front of the customs officials. He cracks me up. Of course, Vanuatu isn't strict about bringing commercialized food in, they just don't want you bringing seeds or produce or anything like that. They got through with everything and met us on the other side about 30 minutes later. It seemed like forever, but it wasn't too long of a wait.

The ladies headed to the doctor for Mike to get his shot, then we took them to the hotel, came to our house and cooked lunch for Ladies Bible class, went back and got them and then went to Rose Hannah's. We had a nice time together. It is weird to me to hear Ure and Rose Hannah speaking English with Weezie and Betty. We never hear them speak English. Anyway, we had a nice time of singing and a short time of sharing and plenty of fellowship.

The rest of the day we spent mainly at our houses. We visited and cooked dinner. Daniel and Flexon came tonight for a study with Eric. They ate with everyone. I think at first it was a little overwhelming, but they actually handled it really well. Then they came to our house and sat and talked with Eric. Eric wanted to have a good talk with them about where they were, what they wanted to study next, the decision they had made, and their commitment.

Wednesday, June 29th – Today Wayne, Weezie, Ken, and Betty tried to relax and get acclimated. This evening we went to Stephen and Rose Hannah's for Bible study. Wayne did a lesson on Psalm 19 (we are studying the Psalms on Wednesday nights). It was good. At the end, Flexon led a closing prayer. I was so proud of him. I think he will be a leader in the coming years. He has the potential to be. (Even if he is a quiet leader...) After Bible study we ate dinner together. It was a nice time together.

Thursday, June 30th – Today we drove around the island. It was really neat. Cindy and I had not been around the island yet and it really gave me a new perspective on what the island is like, how big it is, etc. I really liked seeing the different landscapes and trees, etc. It was neat. We stopped in Eton, Epau and Paunangisu to see the Christians there. It was good to see them all.

I was to have a Bible study with Lissie when we got back. She said she wanted to study the church, but when I walked to her house to get her, Kal said she was working. Her boss said she needed to stay and work the afternoon shift as well. That was disappointing, but that's okay. I know we will have more opportunities.

We all went out to eat tonight – Wayne didn't want us to cook since we'd had a long day. Neither Cindy nor I argued. It was a nice break from cooking. We all enjoyed the meal and the time of fellowship.

Friday, July 1st – The day started out hectic from the get go. Eric, Aaron and Mike found out that there was someone already set up at the stage at the park where we were to have preaching today. They spent some time and got that all worked out. Eric's flyer, that he had worked up much earlier wouldn't print correctly, so he had to redo the whole thing. That was frustrating for him. Also, he needed to go pick up the guys who were to do the sound system, so that put him in a little time crunch.

But, when we finally got there and the preaching started, it turned out to be a great day. The preaching was great, drew the right kind of people, and everyone I talked to while it was going on was really interested. While someone was preaching, the rest of us handed out fliers and talked with people one on one. I met several who were interested in coming to the gospel meeting and in studying later. Eric, Aaron and Mike all had little studies with at least one person. It was a great success. Morris and Eddie preached tonight and did a wonderful job – short and to the point. They were so excited. It was the first time either of them has preached in public (besides in Eton) so they were ecstatic. Eric and I drove them back to Eton this evening. It was a long and tiring day, but a great one nonetheless.

Saturday, July 2nd – Wayne, Weezie, Betty and Ken left for Santo today. Cindy and I used the down time to try to get some things done. We went to the grocery store to get the food for the 4th of July celebration. We both hate going to the grocery store on Saturday, but it was our only choice. This evening we had a team dinner and games. It was a nice, relaxing day.

Sunday, July 3rd - Big crowd at worship this morning. I was a little disappointed when we first got there since the children's class was just going to be Alfonia and Tamata, but then about 30 minutes later Seselo, Noel, and Rinet came too. It went well. I taught them a song I had come up with the last night about Noah. It was in Bislama and they seemed to like it. It was my first class to teach without Akisa – it was challenging, but went pretty well. Rose was supposed to help me, but wasn't there. Spent the afternoon playing volleyball with the teens who came over. There were 14 teens there (including Akisa and Moses), 4 kids (Seselo and some of his friends), and several adults. Rose Hannah, Tamata and Alfonia came later and just sat and talked with us. It was good to have them here too.

Monday, July 4th – Weezie fell in Santo and really hurt her elbow. I feel so bad for her, it's got to be really uncomfortable.

Cindy and I spent the morning cooking and preparing for the 4th of July celebration. Several friends came with us to the 4th of July celebration at Eton – Ure, Lissie, Kal and Samson.

The celebration was great fun. We sang our national anthems, the guys talked about American independence, Wayne talked about the independence we have in Christ by being citizens of His kingdom. It was well received. Some Christians from Epau joined us and we ended up having quite a crowd.

I think everyone liked the American food we made. It was somewhat difficult to come up with some American dishes with the lack of American products we have here – and without our baking dishes, crock pot, etc. that are still in the container (crate) that we haven't received yet. But, we thought of a few things and did the best we could with what we had. We made: brownies (from a chocolate cookie mix), peanut butter cookies, BBQ beef sandwiches, Fajita meat served with rice, spaghetti, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, mashed potatoes, and corn casserole. Everyone seemed to really like it. Then, later in the evening, when Eric and Aaron passed out sparklers and glow in the dark bracelets for all the kids, it really topped off the celebration. The kids really liked the sparklers, but they went nuts over the bracelets. They ran around, threw them up in the air and made us our own little fireworks show. What a great time. Ken said, "This is the kind of memory that these kids will never forget."

Tuesday, July 5th – Weezie went to the doctor this morning and found out her elbow is broken and needs surgery immediately. The doctor suggested that she take the next available flight to the US, so Wayne and Weezie are going to be leaving on Thursday. It is disappointing since we were planning to have them for another week, but we all understand and want Weezie to make sure she is taken care of. We are all concerned for her and the upcoming surgery.

Even with the broken elbow, Weezie decided to go ahead and teach the ladies class today. She taught on the fruit of the Spirit and it was an excellent lesson. It was something we all needed to hear and be reminded of. She gave the women some bookmarks to remember the lesson and they all liked that. I washed some clothes this morning and this afternoon when I looked out the window, I saw smoke drifted right across the clean clothes I had hanging up to dry. I wanted to scream or cry or something, but instead I just walked out there, took them down, put them right next to the laundry sink and decided I'd wash them again tomorrow. But it is quite frustrating when you spend several hours of your morning washing just to have wash those same clothes again the next day. It wasn't the end of the world by any means, but it was frustrating.

We started the gospel meeting tonight. It was a little stressful because we all have so many things to do to get ready for it. The guys are really organized, but there are just so many little details that have to be taken care of. Harry (from Paunangisu) came today and he will be staying with Eric and me. He is sleeping in the office where he has his own bathroom, but we offered the guest bedroom to him. He preferred the office, so that was fine.

The meeting went well. We had lots of guests and many wanting to ask questions. We are all excited about the possibilities of several studies that have come as a result of tonight.

Wednesday, July 6th – Wayne and Ken came over to meet with the guys. Cindy and I talked with Lissie and went about our daily tasks. I had to rewash the clothes from the day before so I did that first thing. By the end of that, I started to notice that my foot was hurting right around a sore I had on the top of my foot. When I looked at it, it was all red. Cindy and Aaron said it was probably getting infected, so I washed it with soap and water, put some Neosporin and a band aid on it and then elevated it like Mike's doctor had told him. Later, when I got up to walk, I couldn't put any weight on it. It was horrible. I even started to cry because it hurt so badly. I told Eric I wanted to go to the doctor but since he had only gone last month, I didn't want to have to pay again. So, since Lissie was still here, I decided if she would go with me, I would go to the hospital, where it is free. She went with me, we talked to a doctor, he gave me some medicine (penicillin and a pain killer) and a "dressing," told me to take the medicine and come back Friday for a new dressing. It was pretty painless and free. Can't beat that.

The rest of the day was pretty much "shot" for me. My body felt like it had been run over by a truck. I was so tired and sore. I just laid in bed and drifted in and out of sleep. I debated as to whether or not I should go to the meeting tonight, and decided that I didn't want to miss it, so I went. It wasn't a good choice. I made it through Ken's lesson, which was fairly short, but I felt terrible. So, about 5 minutes into Wayne's lesson, I had to go. I went straight home and went to sleep. I slept about 12 hours that night. My body needed to rest and fight the infection I think.

Thursday, July 7th – My body felt much better today. My foot was sore, but I was able to walk without much pain. I actually was able to sweep the house and get a few things done around the house. I even went into town with Cindy so we could get a few things we needed. Later I realized I had walked too much that day b/c my foot was swollen, red, and burning up hot, but it was really nice just to feel better and be able to walk without very much pain.

Shem and Rose came by to tell the Burgers and Betty "goodbye" and Morris and Rebecca came later to talk with them too. It was nice of them to go out of their way to let Wayne, Weezie and Betty know that they are appreciated.

We took Wayne, Weezie, and Betty to the airport to see them off. There were lots of Christians there to see them off too. Many from Epau and Eton had come to see them off. They had asked their bus driver to bring them early so they could say goodbye to Wayne, Weezie and Betty. It was nice of them to do

so. It was sad to see them go, but since we all had to be at the meeting in less than an hour, we didn't get to see them go to the plane and fly off. I think that actually helped me. I don't think I would have been able to hold back the tears if I had to do that. It was hard to see them go. We were so glad to have them here with us so soon after moving. It was a great treat.

The meeting tonight was great again. Eric taught in Wayne's place, in Bislama, about the church. He did a great job. I am constantly amazed at how well he is doing with teaching in Bislama. He presented it so clearly and everyone seemed to understand. Cindy set up a study with two young ladies, Eric is to study with a young man, I am to study with Pella (a waitress at Jill's café who has been visiting the meeting), and there are several others who are interested who we have talked with. That alone makes these meetings a success.

Friday, July 8th - Cindy and I went to the grocery store and tried to get some things done around our houses. I went back to the hospital to get a new dressing on my foot. It was different since I went by myself this time. There were lots of other people there too. But I soon found out that if all you needed was a new dressing, your waiting time was really short. I was out of there in less than 30 minutes. Eric studied with Alsen (the guy who ran the sound at the gospel meeting) and it went really well. He is from Malekula and wants the guys to go to Malekula and teach. (We are meeting so many people from Malekula who want them to go teach – Flexon, Samson, and now Alsen.) This evening the guys had their weekly meeting and Cindy and I fixed dinner. We all ate and then played games. It was a lot of fun. It was a nice, relaxing time together after a very hectic week.

Saturday, July 9th – I got lots of things done for Bible class and worked on some Bible studies. This evening we all went and ate at Rossi's (a restaurant here in Vila). They had a special of all you can eat pasta and pizza for a very reasonable price, so we decided to take advantage of that.

Sunday, July 10th – What a wonderful day of study, fellowship and worship. We met in a small building behind Dumbea Hall (where we had the gospel meeting last week) and had 7 visitors. It was really great. We were missing Stephen and Rose Hannah and their kids though. The visitors all stayed around after worship and talked with people. I studied for a while with Pella and her daughter Rose. They both want to learn more. Aaron and Mike studied with a few of the men who were visiting. It went well. I noticed that Shem made a point to greet and talk with all of the men who were visiting. He does a good job with that.

Eric and I went to SeaView for lunch and saw Yoland. I hate it that she can only worship with us every other week. That is not good, but for now it is the only option. I am really encouraging her to apply at Jill's Café because it is closed on Sundays and Saturday afternoons. That would give her a rest and she would have her Sundays free to worship. I keep trying to encourage her, but I think she is a little scared to make a big change like that. She is a precious young lady though that's for sure. I am so proud of her and her commitment to Christ.

Lissie came over to help Cindy study with the two young girls (Alsen's cousins). Before they came, I asked Lissie if she still wanted to study the church with me or if Eric's lesson on Thursday night had helped answer her questions. She said that his study was really clear – clearer than any study she had ever heard on the church. She also said that Ken's lesson today helped answer some of her questions. So, she said she is clear now, she understands. I was really glad to hear that.

Monday, July 11th – The guys went to check on the crate and she says it could be delivered any day now. We'll believe it when we see it! :o)

I met Yoland at the park and we studied Titus 2:4-5 about what we, as younger women, should be doing. It was a good study. After that we went to see Pella at Jill's Café, but since there is a cruise ship in town, it was really busy. That's okay, we talked to her a minute and then went on our way. We went to the market so I could buy some fruit and then she went to work and I went home.

Ken and Mike went to Eton – the rest of us stayed home. We all had other plans that needed to be taken care of today.

Wednesday, July 13th – We went to Eton this afternoon for classes. I love going to Eton. I feel comfortable and “at home.” We got to visit with several people and enjoyed that. Kaela was given a custom name by the people of Eton (to celebrate her 1st birthday) and that was really a special time. We ate together and the Christians gave Ken some gifts to thank him for coming. What a great day.

Thursday, July 14th – This morning while Eric and I were sitting in the living room working, we heard a large truck turn the corner. When we looked up, we saw the truck that delivers crates! We got so excited and ran outside to see if he was stopping at our house or not. He was...we ran next door and all of us started screaming all at once, Cindy, Eric and I walked out to watch it. The guy told us that a customs officer would be here this afternoon to watch us unload it. He didn't give us a time or a time frame. We had already made plans to go out to a big lunch before Ken left, so we did. We ate at the Waterfront – ribs – and they were delicious! We got home at about 1:30 and the customs official was waiting for us at the house. Samson was there waiting for us too. As soon as we arrived, the customs official opened the crate and told us to start unloading. He just stood there and watched. It was kind of funny that he didn't say anything at first. He just stood there and when we tried to talk to him he just gave a quick one-word answer. I think maybe he needed to stay “aloof” in case he had to inspect something. It took us 2 hours to unload and boy were we tired when we were finished. But, it was well worth it!

The guys took Ken to the airport this afternoon but Cindy and I told him goodbye at the house and stayed to get some things organized. Ken said he preferred it that way, so that is what we did. We were glad to meet him – he is a very kind and funny man. We enjoyed him.