

Shawnda's Journal (September 15th – October 14th)

Thursday, September 15th - Cindy and I decided to go to town for a while and try to find some things that we needed. We walked around for about an hour or so and then went and ate at SeaView Takeaway. We saw Ure sitting there as soon as we walked up. She and Gomon were eating lunch. Then Morris came too. So, we ate with Ure while Gomon and Morris ate together and visited. It was a nice lunch. Ure told us that Seselo had a concert with his school at the park this afternoon if we wanted to come. So, when we got home I asked Eric if he wanted to go watch him. We decided that after I studied with Asneth at 3:00 we would walk to town and see his concert.

I studied with Asneth today and it went really well. We studied sin and repentance. I am still trying to encourage her to come to worship on Sundays, but she doesn't seem interested at this point in that. I will keep praying and trying.

Eric and I walked to town to hear Seselo. His concert (which we found out was a joint music festival of all of the primary schools in Vila who wished to participate) was supposed to start at 4:00 but didn't start until 5:30. Even then they had a little devotional and a short speaker before the kids even started singing. Then we found out that Seselo's school was performing last. So, we sat and enjoyed some cute kids groups singing until it was Seselo's turn. We were glad to see him and his school perform and then we went home. We got home at about 8:00. We weren't expecting a full evening outing, but it was fun. We thought we were coming home to a cooked dinner since I had started a crock pot with soup earlier. Well, ditzzy me, I forgot to turn the plug on, so it wasn't ready when we got home! We ended up eating leftovers and will save the soup for another night.

Friday, September 16th – Eric and I walked around town for almost 3 hours this morning in an effort to find some things for Paul's kids (just some things we noticed while we were visiting them in Ambae that we thought they would enjoy). It was definitely a labor of love. We walked the entire town twice since there are so many shops that are “a little of this and a little of that.” It took a while, but we finally found what we were looking for.

This afternoon Cindy and I went to see Rahab and visit with her. She seems to be doing pretty well. She said she would come on Tuesday with us again, so that is encouraging.

This evening we had fajitas with the team and enjoyed some games and then we watched a TV special from the States (Dateline) about Benny Hinn. It pretty much made us all sick—it seems some people have no conscious whatsoever! It was talking about how he spends the ministry's money. There are some churches (Assembly of God and Holiness churches) in Vanuatu who send their “tithes” straight to his ministry, so I'm sure they'd be interested to see this TV program and see that their hard earned money is making it so that he can stay in hotels that cost more per night than most ni-Vans make in 5 years! That's ridiculous...

Sunday, September 18th – It was a really good day today. Most of the Christians were there. Flexon and Daniel didn't come and Donald didn't come, but everyone else was there. (Yoland was working today.) After worship, the men met for a little while while the women sat around and talked. The men decided to make some changes to when we meet mid-week. We have been meeting at Stephen's but it has just been the mission team, Ure, and Stephen's family. So, they decided to have each man be in charge of one week and he would decide when and where we meet that week and tell everyone the Sunday before. So, it may be Wednesday night, it may be Thursday or Friday night, or it might be during

lunch in the park. The men are hoping that this will get more people involved and encourage everyone. They know that 7 days is too much time – they said the Christians need to be together to strengthen each other, but so far they hadn't found a way to be able to do that effectively. So, hopefully this new idea will work. The men have said that if it doesn't work, that we'll try something else. Also, they decided that since we rent the room at Dumbea Hall for the entire day on Sunday we might as well use it. So, they want to have an afternoon fellowship every Sunday (Singing, prayer, and teaching or watching a Bible video or something like that). Anyway, we all left feeling very encouraged. This afternoon the teens came to play volleyball. It was a great afternoon. The teens are starting to get more comfortable around us I think. There were about 18 teens plus a few kids and 5 adults. So, it was a good group and we had fun.

Wednesday, September 21st – I studied with Jennifer today. She said she went back over last week's study on baptism and that she knows that her baptism was done in the right way and for the right purpose. Last week I really encouraged her to examine it b/c she was the only one who could answer that question and she was the one who would have to stand before God someday and answer for her decision. So, she said she really studied and thought about it and that she knows it was right. But she was worried that if she wasn't baptized, I would stop studying with her. I told her "No way!" I told her we can study as long as she wants to, that I was not putting any pressure on her and that she was my friend no matter what. Plus, since her baptism was "stret" (correct) she was my sister in Christ. So, at that point we talked about the fact that she knows when she was baptized for the right reason in the right way, God added her to His church and that she needed to be worshipping with His church. I told her that it was very important that she prioritize and make sure she is worshipping with the church.

Then we studied the examples of conversion in the book of Acts. It went well – after that she said she knew for sure that is what she had done when she was baptized.

This evening we went to Stephen's and it was a nice time of fellowship and praise. We sang for a while, then the men (specifically Aaron and Stephen) talked about their meeting on Sunday and what had been decided. I think everyone is excited about that. Then we prayed and talked for a while.

Thursday, September 22nd - I studied with Asneth today. We studied Confession and Baptism. She knows that when she was baptized at 11 years old, she didn't believe first. She says she is Seventh Day Adventist but doesn't go. She said that she and her husband are their own church. We talked about her need to be baptized and her need to worship with the church once she was. She understood, but asked this question, "What if someone is baptized and then they go back to their own church?" I told her that was a good question, that is was important to know what a commitment you were making before you were baptized. If you want to be baptized because you know your sins need to be forgiven, but you aren't ready to follow through with commitment to Christ after baptism, then there was no point in being baptized in the first place. We studied Luke 14 – consider the cost. She got the point. Then she said she was worried because she knew the Bible talked about "One baptism." She didn't want to be baptized again b/c she had already been baptized. I told her my story. I was put under the water when I was 7, but I wasn't baptized because at 7 I didn't know that baptism was to wash away my sins and so God could add me to His church. So, when, at 25, I was baptized for the forgiveness of my sins and so God could add me to His one church, I wasn't baptized AGAIN, I was baptized for the right

reason and in the right way, so that was Biblical baptism. The Bible does teach “One baptism” and it means it – one baptism that is Biblical. It doesn’t matter how many times you have gone under the water in the baptistery...the question is...were any of those times Biblical baptism? If so, great...if not, then you need to be baptized for the right reason and in the right way – Biblically. That is the “One baptism” of the Bible. She said she needed to think about it. We prayed and I really encouraged her to come to church on Sunday. She already knows all of the ladies, so hopefully that will help her have the courage to come. I left there feeling good about the study and about Asneth’s need to think about it – it’s a big decision.

This evening Shem, Rose, Jonah, Alsen and Donald came over to eat and for fellowship. We had a great time. We ate BBQ beef sandwiches and visited. Then we decided to play a game – we played “Win, Lose or Draw.” We all laughed and enjoyed every minute of it. Then the guys played “Uno” and Cindy, Rose, Jonah and I played “Go Fish” and “Memory.” It was a great night. I really think Shem made an effort to get to know Alsen and Donald. It was a successful night.

Friday, September 23rd – This afternoon I watched Kaela for about an hour. Since we needed to get some supplies for the trip to Epau and Eric was busy, I decided that Kaela and I could go get them. I loaded her up in her stroller and off we went. We shopped and then I looked at the stroller and looked at my bags of groceries and not until this point did it hit me how stupid this idea was! I ended up unloading all of the bags and stuffing everything in the basket of the stroller. I think it weighed an extra 20 pounds...at least it felt like it as soon as I started pushing the stroller back to the house. It felt like one of the longest stretches of road I had ever been on. Needless to say, by the time I got home, I was dripping with sweat, Kaela was whining (it was hot) and I thought I was going to fall down from exhaustion. Now, I can make that walk to the grocery store and back with no problems whatsoever under normal circumstances, but with the stroller full of groceries, it was the hardest workout I have had in a long time! I was proud of myself, but have no desire whatsoever to make that trip again with the stroller anytime soon!

After Kaela and I got home, I realized I needed to be in town in less than 15 minutes. I was so exhausted I couldn’t even think about walking to town, so I asked Eric to drive me. When I got to the park, I saw Willie and Yoland standing there waiting on me. It was good to see Willie – we haven’t seen him in a long time (probably two months). So, we visited for a few minutes and then Yoland and I went off to study. We talked for a long time about her and how things were going. She is really concerned about her brother (he was just sentenced to 5 years in prison). She is waiting for a while, but if he isn’t released soon, she is considering going back to Epau to live (to help her parents in their garden – and to help Willie in their garden too). We’ll see.

We studied the books of Philippians and Colossians. Those are really good books for helping a Christian grow up in Christ. So, I really encouraged her to read and study these two books over the next several weeks.

Saturday, September 24th – Eric studied with Alsen and then we packed up and headed to Epau at about 12:30 or so. We took it slow so I could video a little for our families along the way. When we got to PangPang (the village before Epau) we saw Rosie and she jumped in with us and rode the rest of the way to Epau. Two of her sons live in PangPang so she had gone that morning to spend some time with them.

When we got to Epau we just relaxed, talked with Ata and Rosie and then Rosie, Leisande and I made a broom. I had been wanting a local broom, but didn't know how to make one, so Rosie and Leisande said they would help me. Ata went and got a young man to climb a coconut tree and cut down 4 or 5 branches. Once we had those, we (actually Eric and Ata) drug them behind the house and the three of us ladies say down and started working. First you cut the stem (bone) out of each individual leaf part and then you trim the excess of it off until it is bare. It's kind of hard to explain, but it was fairly easy once you got the hang of it. Anyway, we ended up making a pretty good broom I thought.

We ate dinner and then waited on the ones who had gone to the market to come back. Winnie was in town at the market, along with Leisong and several others. So, we wanted to make sure they got back before we started.

This evening's study was great – "Who is lost?" But the problem was that there were only like 6 people there and all of them are already Christians. There are about 5 or 6 people who come pretty regularly to worship that Eric was hoping would be there tonight, but they weren't. The other bad part is that the rest of the lessons are based on this lesson. It's okay, I know Ata was really processing the information and asked some really good questions, so that was good.

Sunday, September 25th - This morning there was a full house, but, as usual the kids got there about 30 minutes before the adults, so Ata asked me to tell them a story. I brought some things for Bible class for the ones who have taught the kids in the past (we didn't get around to going over those things, but will next time we go). Anyway, I had some visual aids with me, so I taught the story of Abraham and Sarah, the promise and the birth of Isaac. The kids loved the visual aids.

Then we started singing and many more came to join us. There were 12 adults, 4 non-Christians and about 20 kids. It was a good group. Eric taught a lesson on the Book of Life (Is your name written in the book of life?) It went well. We ate lunch and then played with the kids for a while. Eric and I made some paper footballs and we played that for a long time with several of the kids then we walked down to the river and fed the fish. Then we walked to the ocean so I could video a little. We ended up having about 15 kids follow us and when they saw I had my video camera, they started jumping in. We heard lots of "Hey, look at me," "Take a picture of me," and "Watch this." It was really cute and the kids had a blast. I showed them the video when we got back to Ata and Rosie's and they just loved it. Then I played some card games with Winnie and some of the older kids. We had a good time doing that. Eric rested for a while and then he came out and played with the kids and I rested. I don't know what it is about being in the village, but I get tired. Anyway, it was nice to have a little rest.

This evening we had a really big group come for the study. There were 14 adults, 5 non-Christians and about 10 kids. Eric did a study on our responsibility to those who are lost. Then, several asked some good questions. There was one non-Christian, Kaltanak (the one Yoland and I went and visited several times in the hospital back in June or so) – he asked lots of good questions. He seems to be seeking. Eric is hoping to get to study with him, but wasn't able to this weekend. Maybe next month while we are there...

Monday, September 26th – This morning Rosie said, "Yu harem graon I sek sek taem yu slip?" (Did you feel the earthquake when you were sleeping?) I told her that I knew I had felt something, but I had thought I was dreaming. Apparently, the earthquake worked its way into my dream so I really didn't wake up. We found out later that it had registered as

6.1 on the Richter scale. It was our first time to be in an earthquake and we slept through it! :o)

We ate breakfast, told everyone goodbye and loaded up our stuff (with lots of extra bananas and pawpaw thrown in for good measure). Ata and Kalsef rode back with us (Kalsef drives a bus in town during the week and Ata needed a part for his lawnmower). Of course we were glad for them to ride back with us. Once we got to town, we dropped them off and came home.

One of the first things we wanted to do was shower...there had been something wrong with the water pipes or something in Epau, so we didn't shower there. Well, as I was getting out of the shower, the walls of the shower and the ground started to shake – aftershock...then not 5 minutes later, another one came... then, about 15 minutes later another small one came. It's hard to explain what it feels like, but it is definitely a strange feeling.

Got some things done today that I needed to, but still have lots left to do tomorrow. At about 1:00 or so, our water went out. Thankfully we have a rainwater tank, so that's good. It came back on (with really little pressure) later. But, since there is so little water pressure, we can't get the hot water to ignite...oh well, cold showers for a while.

This evening Mark (from Ambae) came over for dinner. He came into town this weekend and Aaron and Cindy invited him over for dinner. It was a good time. Mark really likes to talk, so that makes him fun company. We all ate and visited for a while and then Cindy and I did the dishes and made ourselves scarce so the guys could visit freely. We have noticed sometimes that men won't open up or talk too much if there are women around, so we found other things to keep ourselves busy.

Tuesday, September 27th – Water is still on low pressure today and the water from the kitchen sink looks like it has soapsuds in it. So, another day of rainwater for cooking, washing dishes, etc. But, that's okay. At least we have the rainwater tank just out the back door for convenience (okay, not as convenient as the tap, but when you spend time in the village, you realize how easy you have it in town). I tried to wash some clothes, but the water pressure is still really low, so it would have taken an hour just to fill up with water. So, we'll save that for tomorrow (hopefully it will be better by then). If not, I guess we'll be making a little trip to Mike's.

We went and picked up Rahab for Ladies Bible class. She is so sweet. She goes back to work in two weeks. Hopefully she has been enjoying it enough that she will want to keep coming even after she starts her job. The bad part is that she works for the same company Yoland does which means she can only commit to coming to things every other week. But, that's okay, it's better than nothing.

Ladies Bible class was good today. It was RoseHannah, Cindy, Rahab, Asneth and Rebecca. Ure stayed home with Seselo –he has a fever and stayed home from school today. We took turns and shared some scriptures and sang and prayed. We ate lunch and then RoseHannah had to go back to work. We had gotten pretty spoiled in having her around all the time. I am sad that she is gone back to work now, but I guess until Stephen's out of school, she doesn't really have much of a choice. She does the best she can with her situation.

Wednesday, September 28th – Met with Jennifer today for a Bible study. We studied "What God expects of a Christian." She was sick today with a toothache that she says bothers her pretty often. Today was the first day she was going to work all day since this

weekend. She didn't even come to work on Sunday or Monday and obly worked half of a day on Tuesday. Her boss offered to go with her to get it pulled since he needed one pulled too, but she said she didn't want to. She also said that the reason she didn't come on Sunday was because of the toothache. When I asked her if she was coming next Sunday she said, "Yes, as long as my toothache doesn't come back this weekend." That was a little frustrating, but hopefully she'll come.

This evening was the last Wednesday night meeting at Stephen's (until it's his month to plan the weekly fellowship). We needed to get some tracts ready for the preaching in the park tomorrow, so we folded those and I stapled them. We got them all finished then sat around and visited for a while.

Thursday, September 29th – This morning when we woke up it was raining pretty hard, so Mike went to see if the pavilion people would let us reschedule preaching in the park until next week. So, we will have it on Tuesday next week instead. Wouldn't you know that the rain let up late this morning, so it would have been alright, but how were we to know that would happen? Anyway, it's rescheduled, so we'll just do it then.

This afternoon I studied with Asneth, well, kind of. We really didn't study anything, we just talked. She knows what she needs to do, but isn't ready to obey the gospel yet. I just wanted to talk to her about why she's not ready. In a way, it comes down to her husband. He is Seventh Day Adventist, but neither of them go to church. She said she really needed to talk to him before making such an important decision. I told her that I understood. But we ended with the fact that even if he doesn't approve of it, she is not going to answer to him on the last day, she is going to have to stand before God, by herself, and account for her decision. So, I think she understands. She said she would ask him to come to church with her on Sunday. That would be great!

Friday, September 30th – Cindy and I went and did some Christmas shopping (I know, I know, it's September!) BUT...packages take forever if you send them surface mail and we intend to do just that since it is a lot cheaper than air mail! Anyway, it was fun, but weird, going Christmas shopping in September (it was a hot day too!)

I walked to the park to meet with Yoland...she didn't come. I waited 30 minutes, but she never showed up. I was really disappointed. It's so weird – she finally came last Sunday after at least two months of missing worship and then she doesn't show up for Bible study. I will just keep trying to encourage her.

Eric and I have started a daily ritual. We have found that our favorite part of the day is the early evening when the sun is starting to go down and there is usually a cool breeze. We sit on our front porch and read or listen to music. We don't even talk too much, we just enjoy the time together. It has been a wonderful addition to our day. We love taking an hour out of the day to breathe, relax, and unwind. It is really nice.

Saturday, October 1st – Nellie, from Epau, came today (Winnie and Leimal we supposed to come too, but only Nellie ended up coming). We had a nice evening of eating, playing some games, etc. She helped us skin (peel) the yams, manioc and taro we were going to make the next day for potluck.

Sunday, October 2nd – It was a wonderful day today. Worship was great – everyone seemed to be focused. Singing was great, the sermon was good, and there were lots of

people there – including 7 visitors. We were all really encouraged by the worship time this morning.

After worship, we all walked to our house and had a potluck. Everyone seemed to enjoy themselves and the food. We sat around the back yard and talked for a while after lunch was finished and then moved to the front so that those who wanted to play volleyball could. The others gathered on the porch for more talking, card games, and watching the volleyball game. There were a couple of times that those that were playing cards on the front porch were laughing so loud we had to stop our volleyball game because we were cracking up because they were laughing so loud. It was such a wonderful time of sharing, fellowship, and growing closer.

Tuesday, October 4th – No Ladies Bible class today because Preaching in the Park was today. It went well. Shem, Morris, Mike and Eric preached and all did a good job communicating God's word. Rose, Ure, Cindy and I all sat together and handed out tracts to those who were listening. The tracts were on "What is Christ's Church?" People were really interested. Most people here are anxious to get something to read so passing out tracts is always beneficial. Also we were able to talk to several people who were interested in God's word and the church.

This evening I had a klutzy moment - although in order to get a feel for my klutziness, let's go back to Sunday, when it all began...

Sunday I went to get another piece of bread from the potluck table and there weren't any sliced pieces, so I decided to slice some more...first mistake...I went and got my "TV Knife" (which is really sharp, but I use for bread)...second mistake...then I proceeded to cut the bread while holding it in my hand...third mistake...and as you can probably guess, I cut my finger. So, that was Sunday. Then on **Monday** I was making some magnets out of shells that I had found in Epau and some other places (using a hot glue gun). Needless to say, I accidentally touched some hot glue and it burned my finger. So, genius me, what do I do? I get out the super glue (so I won't burn myself anymore). Well, I should have taken my hint from the hot glue gun incident because not two seconds after I had that super glue out I stuck my finger to what I was gluing...and then, if that wasn't bad enough, while I was trying to get unstuck, I got another finger stuck to it too! I finally got them free, but decided to put the project away for another day (due to my track record of accidents in such a short time). Okay, so then on to **Tuesday**...there's no way I could get any more klutzy, right? Wrong! I had planned to make spaghetti for dinner, so Eric left to get Daniel and Flexon and I got started cooking. Well, wouldn't you know it...the spaghetti sauce jar was stuck and I couldn't get it open. Being the resourceful person that I am (and stubborn) I didn't want to go ask Aaron to open it for me so I grabbed a gripper thing and got to turning. Well, the lid came off alright...I had a good hold of it, it was the jar that was the problem. It went flying in the air and crashed to the floor. I just stood there not really believing it was happening. Thankfully it didn't break, but the sauce went everywhere – we're talking kitchen cabinets, stovetop, sink, floor, me...Eric stopped by and got another jar of sauce (I called him after it happened, and you know what he did? He laughed! It was kind of funny actually...) Anyway, when the guys arrived, I had the kitchen cleaned up, dinner almost finished and was just waiting on the sauce. So, even though it was a really frustrating time, it was pretty funny too. Never a dull moment.

Wednesday, October 5th – Studied with Jennifer today – "Blessings in Christ." She is still having a bad toothache and isn't feeling well at all so that's not good. She said she went to

have the tooth pulled, but the dentist told her that he wouldn't pull it until it stopped hurting. So, she just has to wait it out. I feel bad for her.

Thursday, October 6th – I went to study with Asneth but she couldn't study today –so we'll just pick it back up next week.

Aaron and Cindy hosted the first of the new weekly fellowships. Lots came and it was a great time. Ure, Goman, and Akisa were there, along with Shem, Rose and Jonah, Morris, Rebecca, and Alfonia, and Kal and Lissie. We sang a few songs, Aaron shared a thought from 2 Timothy and then we played "Win, Lose or Draw." Everyone laughed and laughed and laughed. We all had a great time of fellowship and enjoyed getting to spend some time together.

Friday, October 7th – Met Yoland at the park and we studied 1 & 2 Thessalonians. We discussed the need for her to be more committed in order for her to grow in her relationship with God. We had a good talk and a good study. Sanin is in town this week (her daughter) and I told her she should bring Sanin to church on Sunday (and Bible class). She said she would, so I hope she comes.

This afternoon I went Christmas shopping again and got a few more things. Hopefully I'll finish soon so I can get them mailed.

This evening we ate as a team and then visited for a while. Kal wanted the guys to come out to Eton with him to catch some lobster for us. So, they all left at about 6:30 and Cindy and I hung out together and watched a movie. We waited and waited – they finally came home at about 2:30am with a bucket full of saltwater treasures (lobster, blue fish (parrot fish), another huge fish and a bunch of little black and white fish). The smell was not the greatest (especially at 2:30 in the morning) but we divided them up and put them in the refrigerators. So, finally we got to bed at about 3:30 am. But, the guys had a good time with Kal, Mau, Stanley and their friends.

Saturday, October 8th – Eric and I walked to the market and to check the mail. When we got home we were both extremely hot so we decided to ask the Bakers if they wanted to go swimming. We all did – it was really hot! So, we loaded up and drove down to a little lagoon and went swimming for about an hour. It was really relaxing and cooled us all off. When we got home we all rested and enjoyed a lazy Saturday.

For dinner we cooked the stuff the guys brought home from the ocean. Eric and I ate steak and lobster and the others ate lobster and fish. It was a nice treat.

Sunday, October 9th – I was a wonderful Lord's day again today. Most of the Christians were there in time for Bible class this morning. Eric taught a good class (the second of five "Keys to studying the Bible"). We were so glad to have Yoland and Lissie join us today too. Sanin has been in town with Yoland for about a week and she came with her to Bible class. She really liked the children's Bible class. Aaron preached a sermon from 1 John that was good and encouraging. The singing was great and everyone seems to be really focused on worshipping God. After worship we all stood around and talked for a while and then had cookies, fruit, bread and juice. We just talked for about an hour (and I held Aleina – I love that baby). After that we watched about 30 minutes of the Revelation video (Stafford North) and then Eric explained it in Bislama for about 15 minutes. Everyone seemed to enjoy it. It was a really nice time.

We are looking forward to being together like this every Sunday but know that it is going to make for some tiring days. We were all tired when we got home. But, that's okay. We recovered in the afternoon.

Since we really didn't eat lunch, we went to a hotel where they have a BBQ buffet every Sunday night. It was really good.

Monday, October 10th – It was hot today –and I mean HOT! The sun is starting to get stronger and it's almost unbearable. But I know we are just getting a taste of what's to come. It is crazy how hot it can get during the middle of the day. I think that's the reason there is a two hour break in the heat of the day (for lunch) because if there wasn't, I don't think people would be able to stand it all day. The heat just wears you out!

Today was a kind of busy day. Cindy and I did our normal grocery running around (grocery store, butcher, chicken shop, etc.) and didn't get home until 11:00 or so. I worked on my lesson with Jennifer for Wednesday and started typing it out. Then I fixed lunch and headed to town to try to finish my Christmas shopping. I also needed to go back to the chicken shop since they didn't have chicken breasts this morning. So, I walked around town and bought a few things and then took a bus to the chicken shop and headed home from there.

This evening we decided to grill burgers and the Bakers wanted to grill steaks, so the guys made a fire (which took about 30 minutes). We don't have a grill, but the guys constructed a little thing we use for grilling. The burgers turned out pretty good, and I think the guys had a good time grilling.

Tuesday, October 11th – I got up and got busy right away. It's been so hot lately that I decided to try and get things done around the house before I got a shower. Otherwise the shower proves to be pointless! :o) We had Ladies Bible class this morning. Rahab went with us and we had a nice time. This will be her last time to come to Ladies Bible class because she starts back to work on Saturday. We invited her to start coming to worship on Sunday mornings and she asked what time we start and all of that. She said when she works in the afternoons she will be able to come and said that this Sunday she couldn't but she would the next Sunday. So, that is really good. We really hope she will come.

When we got to RoseHannah's, we found out that Asneth had to fly home to Tanna because her mom is really sick. She is going to be there for a few weeks taking care of her. So, that means our studies will be put on hold for a while. My prayer is that being home with her mother and her mother being sick will help her realize the frailty of life and her need to obey the gospel.

Wednesday, October 12th – Cindy and I went back to town to try to finish Christmas shopping for our families so we can send them no later than Monday. That's our goal anyway. We found out that surface mail is about a third of the price of air mail and that it goes faster from here to the US than it does from the US to here. Anyway, we are glad that they say it can get there by Christmas. We'll see.

This afternoon I studied with Jennifer and it went really well. I was very straightforward with the word and basically told her that when we became a Christian, we told God we would let him be the Master of our life. If we aren't putting Him first in everything, we aren't keeping that promise to God. I also told her that we shouldn't make excuses for not coming to worship on Sunday. God expects us to worship Him, and if we choose to do something else when we should be worshipping, we are showing God that whatever we are choosing

to do instead of worshipping is more important to us than He is. So, she realized her need to be with other Christians and worship and said that she would talk to her boss today and ask him for two hours off every Sunday morning so she could come worship. That was very exciting. She said she would be there this Sunday.

This evening we walked to the park and met some of the Christians for the midweek fellowship. Shem's family was the "host" this week. We had a short lesson, sang and prayed. Then we ate some goodies that they brought (and Rose made a banana cake that was yummy). Then we just talked for about an hour and all went home. It was a nice time of fellowship for us all.

Thursday, October 13th – This morning I spent some time working on a Bible study. I then headed into town for what I hope is my last trip for Christmas presents before we send them on Monday. I sat down and wrote out everything I had left to get and went strictly by the list (as well as I could) when I went shopping. I came home loaded down, but happy as could be b/c I was finished!!!

I spent the afternoon typing up the Bible study for Friday and went back to town one more time with Cindy to get the last things on her Christmas list. This evening Eric and I had our dinner on the porch – picnic style. It was a beautiful evening and we wanted to take advantage of that (especially since it's been so hot lately, it was nice to have a cooler evening).

I spent most of the evening after dinner until way too late wrapping and packaging presents for shipping. That was tiring, but kind of fun too.

Friday, October 14th – This morning I got a few things done around the house and then finished wrapping presents for shipment. I love Christmas stuff and it's kind of fun getting it done early.

I met Yoland at the park and we studied 1 & 2 Timothy and Titus. It was a good study. She won't be coming to church Sunday b/c this is her week to work mornings, but hopefully she will come over and play volleyball. I am trying to encourage her to be as active in everything that she can. Her work schedule doesn't allow her to be involved in everything, but I am trying to help her realize her need to be with and be encouraged by the other Christians in Vila. Hopefully it will help her.