

From ^O_R Point ^O_F View

the Ladies of Mission Vanuatu

Shawnda's Journal (October 15th - November 14th)

Saturday, October 15th - John and Kerrie (our friends from Australia) dropped by this morning to see us and bring Cindy and I a small gift from Australia. Kerrie just went back for a couple of weeks for graduation and to help her daughter with wedding plans. While she was there she got us a few things. That was really sweet of her. They are going back to Australia in November (I can't believe they have been here for a year already!) so we are really going to miss having them around. We asked them to come over one more time for a fajita night since John liked the Mexican food so much. They will come eat with us on Friday. It was hot again today, so we headed down to the lagoon this afternoon and had a relaxing swim.

Sunday, October 16th - It was a good day again today. There weren't any adults there for Bible class except Gomon and Ure. Since they weren't there for the Revelation video last Sunday we just went over that information so they would be caught up for today's video. Stephen and RoseHannah and Rebecca came in at about 10 till 10. Rose and Shem weren't there though and we don't know if someone was sick or what. Rose called Gomon after worship and told him they were sorry they weren't there. So, Gomon and Ure were headed out there this afternoon to visit them and make sure everything was alright. We had several visitors today so that was encouraging. Mark (from Ambae) was there along with Moses (our friend from Uganda). He had another friend with him, Daniel. He's here from Kenya to work with the Ministry of Health too. Also Kalkot, Joanna and Evanna (who Eric has been studying with) came today and we were so glad to have them. Kalkot and Joanna have a 5 month old and he is adorable. Alsen and Donald were there, but Flexon and Daniel were not. We were disappointed that they weren't there, but glad the others came. After worship (which was interrupted several times because the group next door had their speakers up way too loud) we had cookies, fruit, bread and juice and a good time of fellowship. Then we watched the second part of the Revelation video we started last week. This afternoon the teens came and played volleyball. I played several games until the others got there and then just let them play. They all enjoy it so much and I am no match for them, so I just bow out gracefully when they all arrive. Mark (from Ambae), Moses (from Uganda) and Daniel (from Kenya) all came too and played. Everyone had a good time today. I really like some of those kids. They are really starting to open up a little more and get more comfortable around us. Some of them are even joking with us (that's a big step). When they were leaving I told Helena that she should come with Akisa to church some Sunday. She said, "Me? Okay, I'll come next week." Little by little.

Monday, October 17th - Cindy and I made our big trip to the post office to mail the Christmas packages to our families. That was an adventure. It probably took us close to an hour because one girl helped us and had to do everything by hand (they don't have computers who type out pretty little labels or anything). But, it was such a relief to get those into the mail and on their way to our families.

Then we made our weekly trip to all of the grocery places and the market.

I spent some of the afternoon working on the Bible study for Friday (with Yoland) and thought about what I wanted to study with Jennifer on Wednesday. I also talked to my mom and dad for a while. I love getting to hear their voice and talk with them. It makes it seem like we aren't so far away from each other.

Tuesday, October 18th - Got up and did some laundry and tried to email for a while. Then I got some other things done around the house...cleaning and cooking.

Ladies Bible class was good. Asneth still isn't back from helping her mother on Tanna. Don't know when she will be back. We miss her though. Also since Rahab has now gone back to work, she can't come on Tuesdays, so we missed her too. Of course Ure, RoseHannah and Rebecca were there. We had a good time singing and each of us shared a verse. Then we ate, laughed and talked.

This evening Daniel and Flexon came for dinner and Bible study. I finished preparing the Bible study for Jennifer while they were studying and then read a little.

Wednesday, October 19th - Studied with Jennifer this afternoon. Well, really we talked more than studied. I had to have a talk with her about commitment. We studied it last week but it still isn't sinking in. When we talked about James 1:22-25 (Be doers of the word and not hearers only...) she realized her mistakes. I told her we could continue studying until the end of time, but if she never made a change in her life that resulted from that study, we were wasting our time. She understood that and knows what she needs to do - now I hope she does it.

Thursday, October 20th - We watched Kaela tonight so Aaron and Cindy could go out to Etos (it's on the way to Eton) to study with some people who they met a couple of weeks ago in town. We went over to Mike's for the weekly fellowship. We all told stories from when we were children and watched a video of Mike's pictures as he was growing up. It was a fun time. Not too many came this time, but the ones who were there had a good time. Morris, Rebecca, Alfonia, Tamata, Ure, Noel, and Donald were all there. When we got home we put Kaela to bed and then Aaron and Cindy got home minutes later. They had a really good turnout and enjoyed their time with those people. They will try to go back every week to study with them.

Friday, October 21st - Worked on getting tracts folded and stapled for preaching in the park. I don't mind it so much - I just moved the papers to the living room and put in a movie and got to work. I worked on that until lunch time and then got ready to meet Yoland for our Bible study. Eric and I walked to town and met her at the park and then he went and ran some errands. Yoland and I are now pretty close to finished with the New Testament books. Today we studied Philemon and Hebrews. It was a good study. I don't know if we will continue studying after we finish the New Testament books or not, but I will continue if she

wants to. She said she would be thinking about it and let me know whether or not she wanted to continue studying.

This evening John and Kerrie came over for fajitas. We had a nice time visiting and then played a game of Monopoly. We had to set a time limit or we would have played all night! It was fun.

Eric and I got a package from my parents today and boy were we excited about that! They sent me a few t-shirts (always fun) and of course sent Eric some candy. They also sent some DVDs of the Broncos game that we surprised Mike with. He was pretty excited about that. In fact, one of our friends, Kevin Fennelly had just asked Mike if he wanted him to record the Broncos games for him and Mike replied with "I would swim across the ocean right now to watch a Broncos game." Little did he know that we had a surprise for him - we turned on the TV and said "Start swimming..." He sat down and watched the entire game (against the Chargers). I think that pretty much made his day!

Saturday, October 22nd - We left for Epau at about 1:00. On our way out of town we saw Bill (Eton) sitting under a tree waiting on a transport and we stopped and told him he could ride with us. He ran home, got his stuff, jumped in the truck and we were off. We dropped him off at Eton and visited for a few minutes and then went on our way to Epau. Ata and Rosie were down at the river, but saw us drive by, so Ata was back at the house with us within a few minutes. Colin had filled up several bags of sand at the beach earlier today and Ata asked Eric to drive down there to pick them up. (This is the way they will build the floor of the building...sand, then coral on top, then concrete will just go around the posts - not on the floor.) Anyway, we were glad to help. I rode with them to the river and they dropped me off to visit with Rosie and the other ladies. I enjoyed getting to spend some time with the ladies who live down by the river (Madeline, Leiwas, Leisale, etc.) because I don't usually get to spend much time with them when we come since they live at the other end of the village. We visited for a while and then went back to the house. I had to take a 30 minute nap this afternoon - I was so tired it was ridiculous. I think sometimes heat does this to me. Anyway, after that I was better. Winnie came home from the market. Rosie made us some breadfruit. It was prepared somewhat like laplap. It was actually really good. I ate a couple of pieces of it and enjoyed it. After we ate dinner everyone started showing up for the study. We studied the responsibilities of men in the Lord's church. There were 7 Christians and 3 visitors along with a number of children too. The three visitors were Kaltanak (who we visited when he was in the hospital for about a month in June), Bob (Leinsong's husband who has been doing the Bible correspondence course) and Toufou (Yoland's mother). It was a really good study.

Sunday, October 23rd - Got up this morning and took a "bush" shower. Their water is having some "issues" so there wasn't running water, but a bucket of water with a cup for a dipper was just fine for me. I got clean enough and then put my island dress on and was ready for the day of worship and fellowship. There were 16 Christians, 3 visitors, and many children there this morning. It was the same three visitors, but more Christians. We were really proud of Ata - he had lined up two visits for he and Eric to make that morning to two people who were Christians but hadn't been in a long time. Willie (Yoland's Willie) and Leisale (who lives at the river with Madeline and Kalsef and those families). Both had probably just missed a few Sundays and then were embarrassed to come back, but once they went and visited them, they knew they were welcome again and came this morning. We

were especially glad to get to visit with Willie again. We haven't seen him in Epau in several months. Worship was nice. Eric preached on the responsibilities of women in the church. It was good for the women to hear what God expects of us instead of just hearing what God doesn't want us to do in the church. So many times people focus on what we can't do instead of getting busy doing what we can do! What a waste of time. God tells us what He expects of us - we don't chose the rules, but we are expected to follow them!

Many stayed around and visited after worship and Madeline promised to come back later this afternoon to talk about the Bible class stuff. Madeline, Winnie, Leisong and Rosie came and listened. I basically did the same instructions that I did on Ambae (in Duviara). They were really appreciative of it and were excited to get started back to teaching the kids. They really just needed some ideas - they had taught in the kids in the past, but when they ran out of coloring sheets, they stopped having class. I gave them several ideas so they wouldn't have to rely on coloring sheets (they have no way to reproduce them, so they really aren't practical anyway). They later told Ata that they would be starting children's Sunday school again next month. So, that was successful.

Since it rained, we decided to have class in the afternoon instead of at night. We all got the message out, but unfortunately the three visitors that had been coming weren't there this afternoon. Kaltanak had gone somewhere this afternoon, Bob was sleeping (Leisong tried to wake him up, but couldn't) and Toufou just didn't come. There was a smaller number than this morning, but most of the Christians were there.

After the study we all sat around and drank tea and ate bread and peanut butter (seems to be the "norm" in the village - eat one large meal a day and then just bread and tea the other one - fine with me, I actually prefer it that way). Later, as we were sitting around talking, someone came in and said that Rosie's brother wanted to come shake hands with her and present a gift as a reconciliation. Rosie's family had an argument of some sort - apparently the brother was in the wrong. He just wanted to say he was sorry, shake hands, present the mat and end the problem. I really like this custom. I told Leisong that and she said it was a good custom because once you had reconciled, everyone involved knew that the conflict was over and the next time you saw that person you could laugh and talk just like nothing had happened between you. It's actually a great custom (considering so many of us harbor resentment and hold grudges!) Anyway, that was an interesting thing to witness. After that we sat around and talked and laughed and told stories. We went to bed fairly early because everyone was really tired.

Monday, October 24th - We woke up fairly early, ate breakfast and left Epau at about 7:15 or so. Eddie came this morning at about 7:00 to go meet with someone, but apparently Ata and Kaloruk had already met with him and straightened everything out. So, Eddie said "hello" to everyone and then we headed to Eton to take him back and then home.

We tried to rest a little this afternoon (going to the village always wears us out for some reason). Eric got some things done in the office and I worked on tracts for preaching in the park.

This evening, since Paul Vuhu is in town, he finished at the Cultural center and asked Aaron to pick him up and go with him to see Mark. Mark wasn't there, so Paul came back with Aaron to see us at the house and email Robert Martin. It was so good to see Paul again. He is such a blessing to our team - a real encouragement and help to us in many areas. We

appreciate his wisdom in dealing with the culture and his efforts to help us learn. We really enjoyed visiting with him.

Tuesday, October 25th - Got some laundry and housework done this morning and then was about to begin preparations for Ladies Bible class when RoseHannah called and asked if we could meet tomorrow instead of today. Since I am not meeting Jennifer tomorrow, that was fine with me. Instead, I got some more things done around the house, stitched a little (embroidery) and caught up on my journaling and email. I also had time to finish the tracts I started yesterday.

This evening Daniel and Flexon came. It was Flexon's turn to teach and Eric said he did a pretty good job - he taught about baptism.

Aaron and Mike studied with some men who are in town from their various islands (they are cultural representatives for their islands like Paul is). Paul set up a study with all of these guys and asked Aaron, Mike and Eric to teach them. Of course Eric studied with Daniel and Flexon tonight, so he didn't go, but is planning to go the rest of the week.

Wednesday, October 26th - I didn't study with Jennifer today. She had Alsen tell Cindy on Sunday that she couldn't study every week anymore and that she would come see me when she wanted to study. That was disappointing. So, I am planning to go see her at her house sometime later this week or the first of next week. Hopefully I can keep the door of communication open with her. She is a sweet young lady and I love her - I just wish she would commit to Christ instead of being "wishy-washy." I'll just be patient and keep encouraging her.

Since we didn't have Ladies Bible class yesterday, we had it today. It went well. I shared the same thought out of James 1:22-25 that I shared with Jennifer last week. It's about being doers of the word and not merely hearers. I think it was encouraging and challenging. As with every week, we enjoyed a time of fellowship and eating.

Eric went to Mike's with Aaron to study with those guys. Cindy and I stayed home for the evening and worked on Bible Correspondence courses and other projects.

Thursday, October 27th - Today was preaching in the park. We knew several wouldn't be there who are usually there (Gomon and Ure had another obligation and Morris had a meeting). We called Shem and Rose and he said he had too many patients so he couldn't come preach. That was frustrating. Eddie didn't preach this time and since Morris had a meeting, he didn't either. So, basically it was Eric, Aaron, Mike and Paul Vuhu who preached. But, they all did a great job, people were really interested and it turned out well. Aaron set up a Bible study with a man Cindy met while handing out tracts and Eric set up a study with a young man that asked him a lot of questions. So, that was well worth the day at the park.

It's amazing how the sun can just drain the energy right out of you - that's what happened to me today. I was sunburned and ready to rest by the time we got home for the evening.

Eric went to Mike's for the study with the guys. Aaron went out to Etos (Morris went with him this time, so Cindy stayed here with me and Kaela).

Friday, October 28th - I cleaned the house this morning in preparation for the girls coming tomorrow.

On the way to town to study with Yoland, I met Eddie. He told me that he wanted me to come with him to the market to meet some Christian sisters from Emau who were at the market. I was happy to do so since we haven't met any of the Christians from Emau yet. Their provincial council put a ban on us (members of Christ's church) that we can't come to Emau right now. The Christians there are having some major problems with the Presbyterian church - they are really giving the Christians in Emau a bad time. But, we are hoping that Willie can get something worked out since he is from the village on Emau where these people live and his uncle is the high chief of that village. I don't know. But, in the meantime, I was glad to meet Susan and Naomi (two Christian women from Emau). They were sweet and looking forward to the time when we would be able to come see them in Emau. I stopped and talked to Nellie on the way to see Yoland and made sure she was still planning to come stay with us.

Then I met Yoland and we went to the park to study. We studied James, 1 Peter and 2 Peter. Those are great books. It has been so good for me to go back over these books in preparing for these studies. I loved my "New Testament Survey" class at Bear Valley, but it's been a while since I looked at the information - until I started preparing for these studies a few months ago. I have really enjoyed it. Yoland seems to be doing well. She is supposed to come over after work tomorrow with the three girls from Epau, eat, and then go to Steven's with us for the weekly fellowship. Hopefully she will.

This evening we planned for Paul and a friend of his to come, but they never showed up. We had to finally just go ahead and eat without them. Then we played a game of Monopoly and had a good time with that.

Saturday, October 29th - I got a few things done around the house this morning, worked on my journal and then typed a letter for Paul (he doesn't have much typing experience and needed a letter typed, so I said I'd be happy to do it for him). Then Eric and I walked into town for a little date and ate at Jill's (American café). We both had BBQ burgers and fries with a jumbo lemonade (can't beat the fresh lemonade here). Then we went to the market where he bought me some flowers and we picked up a few things we needed.

This afternoon Winnie and Nellie came to spend the night, worship with us tomorrow and play volleyball with the other young people. They didn't get here until dinner time, but that was alright. We ate and then headed over to Stephen's for the weekly fellowship. Gomon was in charge of it this week but decided to have it at Stephen's house. It was a good time of fellowship.

When we got home, the girls were ready to go to sleep. So, we called it an early night and went to bed.

Sunday, October 30th - It was a fantastic day. During worship we had so many people there - lots of visitors too. It was a great time of worship. Paul (from Ambae) preached about discipleship. It was a good lesson. Everything about worship today was good - I was able to really focus. I haven't really talked about Tamata sitting with me before. He sits with me every Sunday. When we first got here, he wouldn't sit still at all, but now he is doing much better. He stays still and is fairly quiet. Usually it just takes a gentle reminder and he straightens up. He just needs someone to sit with him and encourage him to act correctly.

He's never really had that before. It's encouraging to see his progress. I really love that kid – all of the kids here actually, but Tamata has a special place in my heart. He is a precious little boy.

The Revelation video was good today – the information is so good on that video! They are wonderful tools. (It is Stafford North.)

This afternoon we had the kids over for volleyball and it was an especially good group. Aaron wasn't here today (he's in Paunangisu) so Eric did a devo. He talked about knowing the truth and the truth setting you free. He told them that we were glad that they came over and played, but that we cared most of all for the well being of their soul and that we were here to study the truth with the people of Vanuatu. He emphasized the fact that we will continue playing volleyball and enjoying it, but that's not all we came here for. So, if any of them were interested in studying the Bible, we were ready and willing to study with them. He also asked them to join us for worship each Sunday. I was glad that he told them that – hopefully it will open some doors in the future.

This evening we introduced the girls (Winnie and Nellie) to old time video games (Mrs. Pacman and a racing game). They really liked that and again called it a night pretty early. We go to bed at about 8:00 or 8:30 when they stay with us.

Monday, October 31st – We spent much of the day with Winnie and Nellie. After breakfast Cindy, Winnie, Nellie and I just sat around and sang for a long time (they wanted to learn a few new songs). We also painted toenails. That was fun – we have so much fun with those girls when they come into town and stay with us. They are such fun friends. Then we watched “Oklahoma” and ate lunch. Pretty soon after that the girls packed up and headed into town to catch a bus that was going their way.

The rest of the day I cleaned, did grocery shopping and worked a little on putting some tracts together.

Tuesday, November 1st – Before we went to Ladies Bible class this morning, Nellie came by and asked if I could make some copies for her mother for Bible class. I was happy to do it, but I did tell her that I couldn't do it all the time – that I would be happy to do it every once in a while, but it was too expensive to do all the time. I did teach them several ideas to use so that they wouldn't have to use coloring sheets all the time, so hopefully they will put some of those into practice soon.

While Nellie and I were sitting on the porch waiting for her dad to come pick her up, Kathleen (Eton) and Annie (Her daughter) came by on their way back from a checkup at the hospital. We visited for a while on the front porch. I invited them to join us at Ladies Bible class, but they were unable to come.

When we got there, Ure wasn't there yet, and didn't end up coming. RoseHannah was late coming from work, so we didn't have long. We ended up just singing a few songs, I read a verse and then we prayed and ate. There wasn't much time for anything else. It was a good time though. I always enjoy getting to spend time with my friends on Tuesdays.

This evening I worked on tracts, the Bible study for Friday with Yoland and emailing.

Wednesday, November 2nd – Eric met Flexon today for lunch. He told Eric last night that he needed to talk about some things with him. One of those things was that Fiona (his “fiancé”) was interested in studying and he asked if I would study with her. Of course I am more than

happy to. He and Eric have both tried to teach her some things, but sometimes it is better for a woman to teach another woman (we know how to communicate with each other). So, I am going to start going over there at least once a week to study with her (and maybe Flexon's cousins who live there too). This is just what I have been praying for.

This afternoon Cindy and I went and visited Rose. She is such a precious lady. We have missed her a lot lately and wanted to encourage her. We also told her to call us if she wanted to come to ladies things and the only thing keeping her from going was bus fare. She said she would. Then we went and visited Jennifer (who I had been studying with every week). She was at home and resting. She graciously invited us into her home. She lives in a small apartment (actually just a room – about the size of the room I had growing up) with a shared bush kitchen and toilet/showers. Anyway, we talked for a while and I was straightforward with her. I asked her why she didn't want to study anymore and she said that she wasn't doing what we were studying, so she thought we were wasting our time. I appreciate the honesty – she just isn't ready to make the commitment. But, I did encourage her to come on Sundays, keep studying back over what she and I had been studying and that we would come see her again to encourage her. She said that she doesn't work at all on Sundays anymore – so she is free to come. We really encouraged her to come on Sunday – it's the monthly potluck and fellowship at our house. Hopefully she will come and some of the others will be able to encourage her too.

This evening I finished the tracts I had been working on and finished up the Bislama devotional songs for tomorrow night.

Thursday, November 3rd – Got busy first thing this morning cleaning and doing laundry. I rearranged the living room for tonight's fellowship. Then Cindy and I went to town to buy some things at the market (I needed a watermelon for tonight). Then I spent some more time cleaning and working around the house.

Everyone came at around 6:00. Ure, Akisa, Seselo, Noel, Daniel, Shem, Rose and Jonah all came. Later Paul and Mike came and joined us too. We taught them some devotional songs that I have rewritten in Bislama. We also sang several that everyone already knew. It was great! I love gathering with Christians to raise our voices together in praise. After we sang for about an hour, we ate and then talked until almost 9:00. Everyone had a good time laughing, telling stories, talking and at the end we even played cards for a while.

Tomorrow Seselo and Noel come to spend a few nights with us. They are excited about that. It'll be a fun weekend.

Friday, November 4th – Went shopping for a few things to send home with Paul for my adopted sister, Loleen. It didn't take long since I knew what I wanted to get her. I'll give it to Paul this evening when he comes for dinner.

This afternoon Cindy and I went and got Seselo and Noel. They were ready to go and anxious. Ure and Noel's mom were there to see them off. We have never met Noel's mom before and I was proud of her for letting him come with us. In fact when Ure asked her if Noel could go with Seskie, she laughed b/c it was hard for her to imagine her boy sleeping at a white man's house. But, when the time came, she let him come with us. She wasn't worried, I think she just didn't know what to expect.

When we got home, we played a few games of cards and then Cindy and I started on dinner. We had fajitas. Paul and his friend, Dickenson, came over too and we all ate fajitas. Everyone

loved them. We had quite the spread! Those boys ate until they were about to pop! It was a special treat for them – American food (kind of).

I had promised the boys that we could watch a movie, so the three of us watched “Pirates of the Caribbean” – the others came in and out during the movie, but had other things to do. Noel goes to French school, so I was having to stop it every so often to tell him in Bislama what was happening. Then Cindy came in and suggested that I put the French subtitles on and that seemed to help him more. I only had to stop it a few times after that to explain some of the story to them. They loved that movie. We went to bed full and tired.

Saturday, November 5th – The church in Epau bought some concrete yesterday but didn’t have a way to get it out there. So, Eric and the boys went out early this morning to deliver it. They were gone until about noon. When they got home we had a “picnic” lunch on the front porch and then we played with the boys outside for a while. Actually the boys pretty much played outside all day we all just took turns playing with them. I played Frisbee with them for a while and the Eric did. Later Eric and Aaron played a little American football with them. Kaela, Cindy, and I watched from the porch and Kaela cheered them on. It was such a fun day – but tiring too.

Sunday, November 6th – Today was a wonderful day. The worship time was great – Eric did a great job on his lesson and the singing was heartfelt. There were so many here today and that is always encouraging. There were several visitors (two of Akisa’s friends, one of Moses’s friends, Fiona, and two men that Eric met at preaching in the park last month). Jennifer and Yoland were also there today – so that was really good. This is the first Sunday of the month, which means a potluck at our house after services. It was a great time of fellowship. Everyone came to the house and stayed for a while – most people started leaving at about 3:00. We had a nice fellowship time. These are some of my favorite times – when we all get together and just relax and enjoy each other’s company. I was so pleased that Jennifer and Yoland both came and stayed for the fellowship. Everyone seemed to have a good time and I think that days like this will help so much in bringing us all closer together as a body. That’s just what fellowship is for.

This evening we walked down to the Wild Pig to meet John and Kerrie for dinner. They wanted to take us out before they went home. They leave next Monday and we will miss them. They have become good friends to us here. We are glad they have a house here and will visit Vanuatu often. But, we’ll miss them being around.

Monday, November 7th – Tonight we watched Kaela so Aaron and Cindy could go to Etos to study. I always enjoy spending time with her. It’s great b/c she is so used to being at our house and we are so much a part of her daily life that I don’t think she thinks anything of it when she is left with us. I think she thinks we are just some more of her family (I don’t think she knows that she only has two parents.) Of course she prefers Aaron and Cindy, but when it’s just us, she doesn’t seem to mind too much. She goes to bed without so much as a cry. Both Eric and I have fun with her and it’s great practice for when we have our own. She’s a sweetheart.

Tuesday, November 8th – Woke up to a phone call from RoseHanna asking if we would mind having Ladies Bible class on Thursday instead of today. Of course that’s fine (except

meal planning changes for Cindy and I), but that's minor. So, I got caught up around the house on housework and had time to get both Bible studies for the week done. Then this evening while Daniel and Flexon were here studying with Eric I was able to do a little stitching. I haven't had time to do that in a while, so that was a nice treat.

Wednesday, November 9th - Went to study with Fiona this morning (and Joanna - Flexon's cousin). It went really well. We studied "How God talks to us today - through His word." They seemed to understand it - they have heard it before. But, I told them that this was an important basis because if we didn't agree that the Bible was the word of God, then we wouldn't have any reason to follow it. They understood. I am so glad we already have a good relationship - that helps so much - there's not an "uncomfortableness" when you already have a relationship with that person. Anyway, after the study we walked up the road to catch a bus for me. They were so sweet - I really enjoyed my time with them this morning and look forward to going back next week. Of course I will see them on Sunday (at least Fiona - she comes every week with Flexon).

This afternoon I took it easy and then we watched Kalea again tonight. She is a good girl and we always enjoy our time with her.

Friday, November 11th - Went to meet Yoland at the park for Bible study. We studied the book of Jude. There are so many good lessons for us in that book. Things that, as Christians, we "ought" to be doing (v.17 and following). Although small, it is a good book that we can still learn great lessons from today. I asked Yoland again what she wanted to do once we finish the Survey of the NT next week (when we do an overview of the book of Revelation). She said she thinks she wants to take a break for a while. I told her I would ask her again after about a month or so if she wanted to start back up or not. I want her to know that I am happy to study with her, but I don't want her to think that she has to if she doesn't want to. I am glad she seems to be back on the right track in her attitude toward worship. Hopefully this break from our weekly meetings will help her be committed on her own (without depending on me to remind her and urge her to do what she needs to be doing). Of course I will keep going to see her when I can and encouraging her with some thoughts from scripture or telling her about a fellowship, etc. Hopefully this time will be a time of personal growth for her.

This evening we had team night and watched a movie together. It's always fun to have our time together and be built up.

Saturday, November 12th - Went to the hardware store this morning with Eric to get a few things for around the house. When we got home we ate and got to work on a few projects around the house. I didn't help much, but Eric did get the final bookshelf built so we could get his book boxes off of the floor. That will be nice.

Sunday, November 13th - It was another wonderful Lord's day today. There was a great group there for worship this morning. We had several visitors again, but not as many as last week. It was a good time of voices lifted in praise to God, time of meditating on the sacrifice of Jesus and hearing His word proclaimed.

This afternoon we had a time of fellowship after worship, ate cookies and juice and then watched another part of the Revelation video. Most stayed for that.

Later this afternoon the teens came and played volleyball. We always enjoy that time. It is frustrating sometimes when we see that they just aren't spiritually minded at all. But, that is why we want to form relationships with them, so we can help teach them the gospel and help them become spiritually minded. There is so much potential in these kids - we just need to be patient with them until they are ready to hear and respond to the truth of the gospel.

After the kids left, I made tacos for Eric and me. I make the tortillas from scratch and this week I even attempted salsa from scratch - it was really good (a little hot, but yummy...)

Mike always makes salsa when we all have fajitas together, but I wanted some for our tacos, so I made it. It was an adventure, but turned out good.

Monday, November 14th - I spent the morning doing some things around the house and then Cindy and I went on our weekly grocery trip. It's nice to only have to go once a week. That's not the way most people here do it, but with our nicely planned menus and budgets, it works best for us. Plus, with Kaela it just makes it easier to go once a week instead of every day. This afternoon I worked on a Bible study and got caught up on email. This afternoon the guys headed out to Eton for the first night of an evangelistic campaign out there. They will be preaching every night this week. Cindy and I are planning to go some nights, but not every night. We chose not to go today but will go the other days when we are able.