

From ^O_R Point ^O_F View

the Ladies of Mission Vanuatu

Wednesday 1-31-07 – Coming home was so nice! It is great to be back in Vanuatu! We arrived (finally) at about 3pm today after traveling/waiting in airports for about the last 30 hours. I was GOOD to be back after all of that in itself. I had that interesting feeling coming back – the kind you get after you have been away for a while and you come back home and suddenly it's like your senses are heightened because everything seems new again. Does that make sense or am I just doing a jet lag ramble? The good thing about us being on furlough during part of Vanuatu's hot and humid season is that we missed some seriously hot weather and now we're on the downhill slope to cool! The bad thing is that while we were gone our house took on a life of it's own. Shawnda came over occasionally to open up the house and let the air flow through. However, with closets being closed for so long we had some visitors come to our house. There seemed to be pretty well a thin layer of dust on all of our bedding so I had to put all of that in the wash. And for some reason 2 of our pillows molded so I am going to try and get those cleaned and disinfected. Several of our good friends, Daddy Long-Legs spiders, moved into corners where available, so I'm going to have to get busy cleaning those out. About the time I was ready for bed I realized that the three nightgowns I had hanging on the inside of my closet door had gotten moldy while we were gone. That was NOT the thing I was excited about seeing when I came home! I'm sure my jet lag and throbbing headache made it worse but I totally started freaking out because I thought all my clothes had gone moldy and I was going to have to wash everything we owned. That was a bit of an overwhelming moment for me. Aaron, being the sensible one, told me not to worry about it and just go to bed and deal with it in the morning. Which I did. And the next morning I had a better outlook on things and it all turned out okay because as it turned out our clothes in the closet were fine and it was only the 3 things hanging on the door that got moldy. I'm not sure why, but what can you do? Here in the tropics mold is just something you have to deal with because it's humid and it can grow very easily, so I really have to keep on top of those things.

Okay-enough about mold. It's not a very delightful subject anyway. Let's talk about what is REALLY exciting!!!! Titus Taylor Brandell! I was absolutely ecstatic to see him! He is SOOOOO adorable! I've only seen him for a matter of a few hours but I already love him! Kaela was just beside herself at seeing Titus. We have been talking about him for months now and I'm not sure if she believes he is really Shawnda and Eric's or not. But, nonetheless she thinks he is, "So cute and

so sweet!” We told her that Titus is her new “cousin brother”. Because he isn’t really her brother but close to it seeing as how we live next door to the Brandell’s and they will see a lot of each other. “Cousin brother or cousin sister” is a term that locals use to describe their cousins on either side of the family...and just about anybody else they choose to call by that name.”

Thursday 2-1-07 – How is it possible that it is February of 2007 already? I guess being in the States has made the last three months just FLY by. Today was our first full day back in Vanuatu. Aaron spent the day re-organizing his office and getting things set up for his computer. I spent the whole day unpacking and trying to get our things organized. However, it seems like every time I got to put up something new I have to clean out a cabinet or a drawer or whatever just to get it ready to put things in it. My house is pit. There is no other word to describe it and I can’t seem to stay focused on one task. I start unpacking a few things from one suitcase, finally get them put away and then spot something else I need to get put away from another suitcase. Or I think of something I want to show Shawnda and I go rifling through a bag to find it. Shawnda and Titus came over today just to catch up on our chatting. We like to do a lot of talking when we are together and now we have 3 months to make up for! She also helped me just get things put in their proper room. So, now I have a pile of stuff to put away in Kaela’s room, a pile in the extra room and a pile in our room. Organized clutter! Ha! Tonight was fellowship night at Eric and Shawnda’s house. They invited everyone from Etas over and also the congregation that meets in Port Vila. As it turned out there were about 20 people from Etas that came to see us and only 2 of the Christians from Port Vila plus 3 visitors that came with them. I know I had gained about 10lbs. while in the States --- all that GOOD food! But after tonight I felt like it was more like 50! Everyone was like, “Cindy, you are fatfat!” Wonderful. Thank you. And you have to understand the culture to not be truly offended by their honesty. Telling someone that they are “fatfat” is like telling them that you noticed they got a new haircut. It’s just something to say. Being fatfat isn’t really a bad thing – it means you have been eating good. So, I really try not to let it bother me because I know they don’t mean to be rude. But...then there is the chanting that starts when I reach for that second cookie....”Fatfat...fatfat...fatfat...fatfat.”

All in all it was GREAT to see my friends again. Leimawa hugged me about 20 times and Fiona and I just fell into our regular habit of teasing each other and laughing all the time. It was especially nice to spend time with both of them! The Etas group were the first to arrive and with them one of the girls from my class in school. The first thing she asked me when she saw me was when school is going to start again. I guess I had better get busy with those plans. I’ll just add that to my list of things to get a move on! Right now I am thinking about starting it either in late March or the beginning of April. I would like to get most of the hot season out of the way before I start and that will take me to April. We’ll see!

Friday 2-2-07 – Still unpacking. Not much of a change there. Today I cleaned out a cabinet in the back bedroom that had about 200 spiders in it. I'm not kidding. That is no joke. Really. From what I could tell, there were about two sets of spider offspring in there. These are Daddy Long Legs so they weren't really scary and don't really bother me – I just didn't want them in my closet. One set were medium sized and the other set were little tiny sized – barely bigger than the head of a pin. I sucked them all up with the shop vac. That is without a doubt the easiest way to kill a large number of spiders. I wouldn't really have known that tidbit of valuable information before today. But, now I am a seasoned veteran and will be ready with my trusty vacuum the next time a spider has babies in my house!

It is SOOO hot and humid here! Fortunately, it is sort of bareable as long as I am in a room with a fan. I'm going to have to figure something out about getting a fan in my kitchen because our floor fan recently broke so I can't drag it in while I'm cooking anymore. I was expecting the heat and humidity though. That really wasn't surprising. However, I have been unpleasantly surprised with how bad my feet hurt! I guess I got used to walking in shoes with support and my feet forgot about walking barefoot all the time on these tile floors and wearing flipflops all the time. Now my feet are KILLING me and I guess they will be till they get used to life here again.

Sunday 2-4-07 – We had what seemed to be an unusually good turnout at worship this morning. Lately, because of the “problem” some of the Christians seem to be kind of lackadaisical about coming to worship. Today, many of the new Christians happened to come. It was nice to see some familiar faces – especially those that we haven't seen since coming back home.

After worship Aaron and I dropped several people back off at their houses and then he dropped myself, Kaela and the Brandell's off at the house. Then he headed to Olympic burger to pick us up some fish and chips for lunch. Paul Vuhu, one of the long-time Christians from Ambae island, was in town and Aaron wanted to have him over for lunch. However, I didn't have enough food on hand to make lunch for all of us. (We were just going to have our leftovers from last night). After lunch, Paul and Aaron had a nice long chat, catching up on many things, while I re-organized Kaela's toys and closet to give away some old things and make room for the new Christmas toys.

After Kaela's nap we are planning on doing some visiting. Mainly, we just want to touch base with Gomon and Ure, Steven and Rose-Hannah and Shem and Rose. Not only to encourage them but in hopes to try and smooth some rough roads that have been traveled as of late between the men and the team. I am looking forward to seeing Ure and their daughter, Akisa, especially. They were always two of my better friends here and I have missed seeing them as frequently.

Monday 2-5-07 – We ended up not going to do visits yesterday afternoon – at least not all that we had originally planned. After Kaela's nap, Eric came over and told us that he wanted our team to meet at 7pm for a devotional and singing. So, in light of

that, Aaron, Kaela and I headed over to Steven and Rose-Hannah's before dinner. They only live 2 blocks away so we just walked over there. Unfortunately they weren't home so we turned around and came back. We had dinner when we got home and then rushed around and headed over to Eric and Shawnda's for the devotional. It was a really nice time of singing together and I think we were all spiritually uplifted by our time together.

As for today, it was grocery day. Shawnda and I didn't get ourselves and our children around to start shopping until about 10:15am. We went to Nambatu supermarket before lunch and then took a small lunch break. I decided I wanted to wait until Kaela went down for her afternoon nap to go to the butcher, so we did that then. I had wanted to do laundry today, but it has been raining off and on all day so I decided to forego that and let my dirty clothes pile up a little higher!

Tuesday 2-6-07 – Judging from the past journal entries I have made since we got home, it is obvious I am having trouble remembering that it is 2007! I keep typing 2006 and I just realized it so I had to go back and correct all my mistakes!

Shawnda and I decided to work on our visiting today. We needed to pass the message about our women's fellowship on Thursday to a few of the Christian ladies. So, we loaded up Kaela and Titus and headed out pretty early this morning (for us). It was 9am! That isn't too bad when you consider all that I to get done before we left! Breakfast, breakfast dishes, throw in a load of clothes, make the beds, do some quick sweeping, bathe Kaela, take a shower, etc. 9:00 was doing good! We went first to the farm to visit Winnie and Rema but they weren't there. Then, we went to see Rose, but she wasn't there either. Then, we headed to Fiona's. I had some things I wanted to give to her and she was there, so we were glad to see that! We stayed and talked with her for about 15 minutes or so. Then it was off to Ure's to see her. Visiting Ure was a bit awkward for us all, I think. With the current "situation" it was a very strained visit. I hated that it was that way. Ure used to be one of our closest friends and to have my relationship with her not as fun and lighthearted as it normally is was a really hard thing for me. I just hope and pray that one day we can have a good relationship with her again – it may never be the way it was before all these problems arose – but maybe we can be at ease with each other again in the future. I guess only time will tell about that one.

During Kaela's nap Shawnda and I walked down to town. Eric was watching Titus so we took the opportunity for some good exercise that wouldn't require us to carry one or both of the kids! We walked down and visited with Rose-Hannah for a bit and then we went to this new store called Uncle Bill's Variety Store. I LOVED it! It was like Wal-mart for Vanuatu! I mean, if you consider that the store was small and the selection wasn't really anything like what Walmart has it really isn't THAT exciting. But, when you think about Port Vila and how hard it is to find decently priced things here – it was a GREAT place! For instance, I have been needing a new pair of finger nail clippers and at Nambatu supermarket they are about \$4.50 for one pair. At Uncle Bill's they were only \$1.00 for a pair. Now that is what I call a

GOOD DEAL! The other great deal I found was on a hanging mosquito net (the kind you hang from your ceiling over your bed. At the Drug Store they are about \$80 and at Uncle Bill's they were only \$10! You can see why I keep talking in capital letters about this place! It's nice to finally be able to get some things we need for an affordable price that isn't so ridiculous that it makes us laugh!

Wednesday 2-7-07 – I woke up this morning and as I was doing my morning Bible study on our front porch I realized how INCREDIBLY hot it was! At 6am! The sun was shining and there wasn't a lick of a breeze. And I knew it would be true – it was going to be a hot one. And I was right. It is SOOOOO hot and humid today. It is a don't-go-anywhere-there-isn't-a-fan day. My skin is so sticky you plaster me to a wall and I'd hang there for a week. Augh! I guess I'll live though. Only two more months of this kind of weather and then, Lord willing, it will start to cool down.

This morning I did my usual morning chores – made beds, washed breakfast dishes, swept the house a little, etc. I also washed clothes and then hung them out to dry. Plus, I had to put away all the clothes that I washed yesterday because at the end of the day yesterday they were still damp (from the rainy, humid day). I had to hang them around my living room to let them air dry overnight. About 9:30am Ruth (from Etas) and one of her grandkids?? /grandnieces?? came by the house. Pbles (Ruth's husband) spent the night at the hospital with a "sore stomach" (I'm not sure what that means and she says the Doctor doesn't either). They just stayed and hung out for a while. Ruth took a short nap and Kaela and Floria played together. It's 10:15 right now and I'm not sure when they are leaving so I guess I'd better be thinking about what I need to cook if they stay for lunch.

Thursday 2-8-07 – I wanted to do laundry today but there was all kinds of rain on the way. It rained so hard it rained cats and dogs and other assorted animals! Leimawa came by this morning about 9am. She and her 3 kids had gone to the hospital to get some shots for the kids before starting back to school again. Being in the southern hemisphere – we are now in our summer and for the school kids – summer vacation is ending and now it's time to start back to a new year of school. Sometimes that is hard to get used to and remember that it's that way here. I invited them to stay and come with Shawnda and I to the park today. It's our women's fellowship day at Seafront park. However, with all the rain we weren't really expecting many people and we weren't disappointed. No one came other than the three of us women. But, Shawnda read a scripture and we had a prayer and ate together anyway. Leimawa's three kids and Kaela played at the playground nearby almost the whole time and boy did they have a great time! Kaela played and played and I knew that by the time we got home she would be ready for her nap. And she was!

After Kaela's nap, Aaron and I headed to the airport to meet Eric and Shawnda and Mike. Mike is heading home for his furlough in the States today. He

will be gone a month and we sure are going to miss having him around. Hopefully, it will be a good time for rest and Walmart shopping for him!

Friday 2-9-07 – Today, I didn't have any visitors drop by and that was a major help to my schedule! I finally was able to get some things done that I needed to get done. I got my next issue of On a Personal Note all typed up and my first draft printed. I got the house picked up, email checked, cleaned out my bookcase to make room for my new books, made dinner and assorted other things. It was nice to finally get some things done that I've been meaning to work on for a while! Shawnda, Kaela, Titus and I ran to Nambatu supermarket to pick up some things we needed for tomorrow's dinner. In the afternoon one of the newer Christians that lives here in Vila (she is actually from Emao island) came by Shawnda's house and stayed to chat for a couple of hours. So, after Kaela's nap, I headed over there to spend some time with them. Not long after lunch Aaron left and took Eric in the truck to the other side of the island so he could catch the boat to Emao island. The church there is fairly new and the Christians there are in need of a lot of strengthening and teaching so Eric and Mike take turns going to Emao each month for the weekend. Aaron finally made it back about 7pm, just in time for our late dinner! Shawnda is spending tonight and Saturday night at our house while Eric is gone.

Saturday 2-10-07 – Today was something of a family day. In that we didn't have any visitors and we pretty much stayed home and spent time together. Not long after breakfast, we headed to Wilco to pick up some parts that Aaron needed to fix our toilet seat. After we came home Aaron and Kaela set to work on several different household projects until lunchtime. After lunch, we all settled in to watch *Cars* together. Aaron had seen it in New Zealand, but I hadn't seen it before so it was a fun family activity for us to do until Kaela's naptime.

It rained ALL day today. It would rain really hard for a while and then sprinkle for a while. And at one point this morning Aaron and I had close all the windows and doors in the front of our house because the gusts of wind were so strong that it carried the rain past our front porch and into our house! The good news is – because of all this rain the weather has been cool and breezy today. A WONDERFUL break from the heat and humidity of this week!

Sunday 2-11-07 – I decided to throw in a load of clothes this morning before worship since the weather was looking so nice and sunny. I might as well get a load out of the way in case it is rainy again tomorrow! I'm glad I decided to do that because it was SOOOO windy today! With all the rain yesterday and this crazy, wild wind today – it makes me think there is a cyclone somewhere in our South Pacific region and we are just getting the wind and rains from it.

Eric comes home from Emao today. Right after lunch at 12:30pm, Aaron and Paul Vuhu jumped in the truck and headed to the other side of the island to pick

Eric up. They FINALLY got back at 6:30pm! It only takes 2 hours to reach the other side of the island so Shawnda and I were definitely wondering what took them so long. So, what took them so long? Vanuatu is what took them so long. They stopped in Paonangisu village and visited with Harry for about an hour and drank tea with him. Then, they stopped in Epau village for a while and then they stopped in Eton village for what they thought would be a short visit but, then Eddie asked Eric to preach at a family worship service and so Eric did that. Needless to say it was a long day and they were both glad to get back home, even though they did enjoy visiting with some of the Christians that they don't see as often.

Monday 2-12-06 – Today is Shawnda's 29th birthday! She is first in the line-up to be turning 29 this year. First, it's Shawnda, then Aaron and lastly, me. Eric trails us all by about a year. Fiona came over at 9am this morning to help around the house. Aaron and I decided that since Flexon is out of steady work right now that we want to try and contribute some to their income. So, Fiona is coming every Monday to watch Kaela (and sometimes Titus) and sweep both mine and Shawnda's houses while we do our grocery shopping. That way – we don't have to try and keep up with two kids and do all our grocery running around. AND my house is swept to IMMACULATE condition when I come home. AND Fiona and Flexon get a little needed money. When I start school at Etas again – I'll ask Fiona to come watch Kaela again during the time that I am at school. Tonight we will celebrate Shawnda's b-day with a steak and corn casserole dinner and presents afterwards! Yea!

Tuesday 2-13-06 – Today I am so beat for some reason! I can't seem to get motivated to do anything and yet I have so much to do! I guess I got the laundry done and all our meals on the table and that counts for something. I guess I am still a little jet lagged. I haven't slept really well at night since we got back. I'm not sure why. It may be because I get kind of hot during the night. And that I am getting used to having Rex (our dog) barking during the night. She is SO loud! I forgot how LOUD all the neighborhood dogs can be sometimes if they get the urge to start a bark-fest! Anyway, I just seem to be dragging today but, I guess it was nothing that a little afternoon nap wouldn't fix and I feel much better since waking up! After dinner tonight, Aaron, Kaela and I went for a walk. I've been needing to exercise (to take care of this fatfat – Ha!) but doing it during the day isn't very appealing. Once the sun starts going down – it's bearable to go for a walk, so that was our prime time to do it! We took Kaela to play at the playground at Independence Park and then to Seaview for an ice cream cone. It was a GREAT family outing!

Wednesday 2-14-07 – Today is Valentine's Day, I guess. Although, I'm not a real big lover of Valentine's Day and they don't celebrate it here – so to us, it's just another day in the week. I've got quite a line-up of things to work on today and so far, have done pretty well for my accomplishments! I got a good night's sleep last

night, so I'm feeling MUCH better! It's 9:15am and so far I've started my laundry, cleaned the shower, cleaned the toilet, washed the breakfast dishes, made the beds, worked on On a Personal Note (my marathon November-February issue) and now I'm updating my journal! Not bad so far! I still need to finish up On a Personal Note, work on some stuff for my Etas school and make the food to take to our Bible Study at Etas village tonight. I'm taking fajita meat and onions and also some cucumbers in Ranch dressing. I took the cucumbers last week and they were a HIT! So, I'm doing it again this week since I still have Ranch dressing left over that I need to use up!

Thursday 2-15-07- Last night we went to Etas for our Bible study. Kaela has started going with us now so that Shawnda doesn't have to worry about watching both her and Titus during that time. For the most part she does okay. Although, I, however, am having some trouble. I never really expected it, but it is taking longer than I anticipated to adjust back to "Vanuatu life". Being in the village is the part I am having the hardest time with – getting used to feeling dirty and things like that. Before we went home on furlough I was used to life in the village. I didn't think about whether or not my hands were really clean or what kind of germs Kaela was getting into by playing with the other children. Germs were just a part of our life – nothing to get in a tizzy about because it just isn't worth it in a 3rd world country. And while I still know that to be true. It is hard making that change again. Coming from the States where EVERYTHING is about being sanitary, anti-bacterial this and that. (So much so that it drives me a little crazy sometimes!) And I got used to it. I got used to things being clean again. Caring if my hands felt clean, caring if Kaela's hands were clean. And now I'm here and it is hard to go back to the way I was. But, I don't have a choice about it! I HAVE to go back to the way I was. For my sanity. So, pray for me, to adjust again. Cultural adjustment. Silly me. I thought I just had to adjust the first time I came over but now I am finding out that the second time coming into the country, it is a lot harder!

Today we had women's fellowship at Seafront park. For the first time since living here, it was just Shawnda and I that came. I don't know where the other women were. The only thing we can figure out is that since we have had a 2 month break from fellowships that they are having trouble remembering that we do this every week. Not sure what the deal is. At about 12:45pm just as Shawnda and I were packing up to leave, Leimawa came with Barbara. So, we sat down and talked for a while longer and sang for a bit. Kaela and Barbara had a great time playing together too! Then, we all hopped in the truck and called it a day.

Friday 2-16-07 – There is this girl named Anna that used to work at Nambatu supermarket. She is really, really nice and always like Kaela so much. Well, Shawnda and I just found out that she recently had her baby, so we went to see her today. We had to do a little research on where she lived (i.e. find her father and then ask him and try to figure it out once we got there). But, we finally found her. It

was great to see her again. She is just so nice! We got to meet her husband and also meet her new little baby boy, Johnson.

Tonight is team night – our last one for a while because Mike is out of town, Eric leaves on Sunday and Aaron leaves next Friday. We are having stir fry and probably will spend a good deal of time just sitting around talking.

Monday 2-19-07 – Today was a fairly busy day. Fiona came over at about 8:30 to sweep both mine and Shawnda's house and to also watch Kaela while we went to grocery shopping. We were able to get all our shopping done by lunch time (surprisingly – since we had so many places to go!) While we were at Centerpointe a guy came up to me and asked if we had any work that he could do at our house. I told him that he needed to talk to Aaron and he agreed to come to our house today at 3pm to talk to Aaron. However, he is afraid of dogs so he said he would just wait at the gate for Aaron. The problem is – that I forgot to communicate to Aaron that he needed to go to our gate at 3pm and I forgot all about it until Aaron said, "wasn't there a guy supposed to come by about work?" Woops! I feel so bad! I hope he didn't wait for too long. Oh well. I don't know him or if I'll ever see him again so I guess I'll just have to not worry about because it isn't like I know where to find him to apologize. Woopsy. When we got home, Shawnda made Fiona her lunch and we all ate together. Aaron had taken Kaela to Etas with him to dump some grass clippings and so I made their lunch as soon as they came home.

We had yummy yummy steak, chili peppers stuffed with cream cheese and wrapped in bacon then grilled (YUM!!!!) and grilled potatoes for dinner. Shawnda and Titus came over and ate with us since yesterday Eric left for Africa for a month. I know she must miss him a lot, especially with having to care for Titus by herself. Aaron and I are going to make an extra effort to help her out however we can. After dinner, Aaron took Kaela and I out for ice cream. Kaela had her little heart set on "pink" ice cream until she saw the RAINBOW colored ice cream at the store! And then it HAD to be the rainbow ice cream!

Wednesday 2-21-07 – The last two days have been kind of lazy days. It has been raining all day long for the past two days – day and night actually. There hasn't been anyone coming by and nothing is scheduled. We were supposed to go to Etas tonight but Sam talked to Aaron and cancelled our Bible study because of all the mud that makes it hard for people to get out. I did get some major planning done for the first month and a half of my school session. I think I have decided to start on Monday, March 19 with enrollment and make Tuesday the first day of school. I am really starting to look forward to getting started again.

Thursday 2-22-07 – Today was pretty much sunny all day so it was all systems go for today's plans. I was able to do laundry again so I was glad for that. (Things don't tend to get dry when it is raining all day and it is kind of like, why bother?) We went to the park because we had kind of scheduled Women's fellowship for today.

I say “kind of” because we talked about it on Sunday but the women didn’t come to any definite conclusions. Needless to say, since it wasn’t raining Shawnda and I went ahead and packed everything (kids, food, etc) up and headed to the park....and it was just the two of us women for the third week in a row (not counting Leimawa coming the last two weeks). There were no other Vila women. So, what do we do? We aren’t sure. There is a fine line to walk between motivating the women to meet and fellowship and letting them make the decision of what to do and when. Shawnda and I are going to try and leave more of the decision to meet to them next week and we’ll see where that takes us for our Women’s fellowships. All I know is that right now we seem to be the only ones making any effort to do anything.

Friday 2-23-07 – Aaron left for Ambae island this morning. We were both up early, him getting his things together to leave for Ambae. At 8:30 he and Kaela left for Etas to pick up Tom. Tom is going to Ambae with Aaron this time. Last time he went, Timothy went with him and this time he is taking Tom. They got back about 9:30 and then we headed to the airport and Kaela and I dropped them off. Kaela sure was sad to see her Daddy go. It is always hard on her when he leaves and this time our good-bye was kind of hurried because there was a taxi waiting behind us in line and I needed to hurry and get the truck out of the way. But, we got Aaron and Tom delivered to the airport just fine and they are headed to Ambae.

After the airport, Kaela and I swung by the park. Last night right before sleeping I noticed that my wedding ring (my Vanuatu one – just a plain Titanium band) was missing. I racked my brain all morning trying to figure out where I left it and finally I decided that I took it off when I was at the park. I took it off to put sunscreen on Kaela because I hate getting goo under my ring. Anyway, I was afraid that I lost it there which meant that I didn’t have a very good chance of finding it. But, I decided to go look under the tree where we were sitting anyway. When we got there, the grounds men were raking the leaves and just happened to be raking in the area where we were sitting. I spent a few minutes looking on the ground where our mat was and didn’t find anything. I just figured someone found it and took it home with them or I lost it somewhere else. Just at the last minute I decided to ask the grounds guy. And he had it! I asked if he found ring and he held up his hand and said, “this one?” Yea! I was so happy that he had it! I was also very impressed that he admitted to finding it because he could have easily just said no and got himself a free ring. And I was thankful that I went when I did because if I had been even an hour later I never would have known to ask him about my ring because they would have moved on to a different place in the park. Needless to say, I am very thankful to have my ring back!

Sunday 2-25-07 – We woke up to another rainy day again today. We had a fairly good turnout for worship, in spite of the rain. Even though several people arrived at the end of Flexon’s lesson. But, at least they were there and it was good to see

them! It was kind of a crazy day for Shawnda and I. We were in charge of bringing all the Worship “stuff” – grape juice, collection plate, communion bread, songbooks, etc. – to the church building. However, we didn’t do so well at our tasks. Usually Aaron and Eric take care of making sure we get everything. And between us and Kaela and Titus we forgot a few key items. Once we go to the building, we realized that we didn’t get the key to the storage room that has the chairs in it. Fortunately, Flexon had a key at his house so Fiona and I drove back there and got it. Then, when we got back to the building Shawnda told me that we forgot to get the grape juice out of the fridge at home. So, I had to run to the store to buy some more. Worship finally got underway at about 10:45. What a day!

On a side note – Kaela is quite the eating woman today. For dinner tonight she ate a grilled cheese sandwich, a small bag of chips, a cookie and then saw me making a peanut butter sandwich and begged me for some for her, so I made her half a sandwich! She must be growing!

Monday 2-26-07 – Today was grocery day again. Fiona came about 9am and Shawnda and I were nowhere near being ready to go. But, we finally got ourselves ready to get started on the shopping about 10:00. We didn’t have much shopping to do this week since Aaron is out of town. We are trying to work out our meals for the week to where we don’t have to cook much but still try to eat decently. After shopping, we made lunch for Fiona and then right after that Ann came over. Fiona stayed until about 1:30 and then left. Right after she left our sliding door to our office came off the track and we couldn’t get it back on. This happens occasionally but usually the guys are the only ones who can fix it. With just Shawnda and I here, we couldn’t get it fixed so we had to call the rental company and ask them to send a guy out today. Not long after that I took Kaela home to take her nap. When I got Kaela up and came back to Shawnda’s, Ann was just leaving.

Wednesday 2-28-07 – Well, after about a week straight of rainy, gray, dreary weather I am happy to report that we had our first day of sunshine here in a while! And boy am I glad!!! The rain and dreariness were really starting to take their toll on me. I just felt so lethargic and tired and kind of sad and homesick. A miserable few days. Mostly likely all my rollercoaster emotions were aggravated by the fact that I am pregnant. We’ve known for a while but, haven’t really made it “public news”. But, it may have been obvious to some of you readers since I have been complaining of tiredness for a while now. Anyway, I feel so much better today. Happier and it’s like I have more energy, even though I didn’t sleep particularly well last night. Please be praying for this pregnancy. In light of my last miscarriage, I am a little apprehensive about the future of this child. I’m trying to take good care of myself and get PLENTY of rest, making sure not to overdue it. Keep our family and the baby in your prayers, please! In the mean time I am just trying to focus on the positive things – and not let the “what ifs” bother me.