



Mission Vanuatu Minutes

A newsletter published by Aaron, Cindy and Kaela Baker • Eric, Shawnda and Titus Brandell • Mike Olson

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Special points of interest:

- Two baptisms in Ambae!
- Aaron takes Tom with him to Ambae for "hands on" training.
- Eric in Africa
- Mike in the States

Inside this issue:

- Aaron's Ambae Trip 1
- Eric Teaches In Africa 2
- Mike Reporting In The States 3
- A State of Emergency 3

Ambae Bears Fruit For The Lord

By Aaron Baker

At first glance, one may stereotype people who live in a village, use no electricity or indoor plumbing, as being simple-minded. However, once one gets to know the people, one realizes that they are intelligent, problem solving people.

Our team has had contact with Christians on Ambae island since we arrived in Vanuatu. I have made several trips to Ambae before, but this one was special. On this trip, two people were baptized into Christ. It is my pleasure to introduce you to these two people.

Chief Harry Vuti



Our team visited the Christians in Ambae for the first time in 2005. It was during this time that Chief Harry adopted me into his family. It was indeed a special time for me, yet even more special was seeing

Chief Harry baptized into Christ.

During my trip to Ambae (Feb 23—Mar 5), I studied and discussed with Harry many aspects about the Lord's church. Of particular interest to Chief Harry was the topic of baptism. Harry had been baptized as a baby into the Catholic church and was realizing that his baptism was invented by man and not found in the Word of God.

After talking about the Bible, Chief Harry knew what he had to do. He said, "I am ready to be baptized by immersion. Can I do that today?" I answered immediately and said, "Of course, we can do it right now!"

After hiking to the swimming hole, I had the special privilege of baptizing Chief Harry into the body of Christ for the forgiveness of sins.

It was truly a unique experience to see a Chief of high status humble himself, submit to God, and be baptized for the forgiveness of his sins.



Tom (L) and Gibson became good friends on this trip to Ambae.

"On March 4th, Tom baptized Pedro into Christ..."



Located on the edge of the Serengeti National Park, Arusha is home to all kinds of wildlife.

Ambae, continued

Pedro Garae

Pedro had been attending the Duviara church of Christ for quite some time. After a series of lessons on baptism, Pedro began to question his own baptism. As he thought back, he knew his only reason for being baptized was because "it was what I thought I should do. I mean, everyone else was doing it, so I just followed them." On

March 4th, Tom (L) baptized Pedro into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins.



Eric Teaches in Africa

Eric Brandell left Vanuatu on February 18th and will return on March 22nd. He is teaching 1, 2 Timothy and Titus (one class) as well as 1, 2, 3 John (as one class). Each class has roughly 16 students in attendance. Eric reports that the classes are going well and the students are asking good questions.

Eric is staying in the dormitory at the school. Breakfast and dinner is eaten with various missionary families working with the Andrew Connally School of Preaching in Arusha, Tanzania and

lunch is eaten with the students.

In addition to teaching, Eric has also preached at various congregations in and around Arusha.

With a population of 275,000 souls, Eric's trip will go a long way to training the locals.



Mike Olson Reporting in the States

On February 8th, Mike left Vanuatu to return to the States to report to his supporting congregations. Mike will spend his time in Colorado with the Columbine and Montrose congregations.

In addition to giving reports on his mission work in Vanuatu, Mike will take some time for R&R. Kaela misses Mike greatly and looks forward to his return, as you can tell by this picture.



State of Emergency in Vanuatu

On Saturday, March 3rd, violence erupted at the marketplace in Port Vila. Men from Tanna Island and men from Ambrym island fought amid allegations that people from Ambrym were practicing black magic.

Fights broke out all over Port Vila as police were unable to squelch the violence. The Government of Vanuatu did issue a "State of Emergency" warning for the general public. Curfews were instituted for 7 pm and the public was

warned to beware of the potential for danger.

That said, our team feels safe and secure and we do not want any of our family or friends to worry about us. The violence was contained within these two groups of islanders and not directed at all people in general. While we did stay close to home during the few days that the violence was at its pinnacle, the situation is now diffusing and things are getting back to normal.

Please do pray for people such as Shem and Rose, who are Christians here in Port Vila. Shem is from Ambrym and is not involved in this problem, but is worried about his safety simply because he is from Ambrym.

The government has nearly resolved the problem, but there is still much resentment between the two groups. Please pray for this situation as a whole, that things might get back to normal and that Vanuatu might again be "the happiest place on earth."

Kaela and Titus



Kaela watering our Taro plants



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Check us out on the web!

www.missionvanuatu.com

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