



Mission Vanuatu

A newsletter published by Aaron and Cindy Baker * Eric and Shawnda Brandell * Mike Olson

October 2007
Volume 4,
Issue 10

Special points of interest:

- Four baptisms in Etas village!
- Mike and Patrick fish for souls

Inside this issue:

Growth in Etas Village	1
A Fish Story	2
Progress in Vila	3
Melia Madelyn Baker	3

Growth in Etas Village

By Eric Brandell

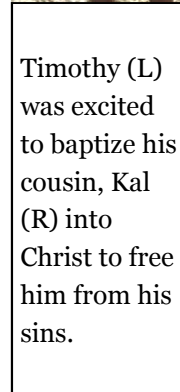
We are grateful for the opportunity to introduce you to some of your new brothers and sisters in Christ: Jimmy, Kal, Ellen and Rebecca. They worship with the congregation in Etas, a village located just outside of Port Vila.

All four of these new Christians have completed evangelistic studies with Aaron and Cindy over the past few months, but for one reason or another had decided that were not ready to make the commitment at that time. Following a congregational study of Mark 16:14-20 this month, for which each of them were present, they decided that they were ready to be baptized in order to be saved by God, just as Jesus commanded in those verses.

We all headed to the ocean, where I reminded them of the true meaning of conversion and commitment. Tom and Timothy then baptized them for the forgiveness of their sins. Several other Christians from Etas were present to witness this glorious event, and were visibly excited about the increase God had given. The Etas congregation continues to progress spiritually and numerically day by day, and it is an honor for us to have the opportunity to work with them. Please be praying for this group of young Christians, that their light would continue to shine brightly for our Lord.



Jimmy (L) from Etas village pictured here after being baptized into Christ by Tom (R).



Timothy (L) was excited to baptize his cousin, Kal (R) into Christ to free him from his sins.



Ellen (R) was raised to walk in newness of life after being baptized by Timothy (L).



Rebecca (L) was excited about her decision to become a Christian. Tom (R) baptized her into Christ.



A Fish Story

By Mike Olson

Everyone who has been fishing has a story about the one that got away. Despite being equipped and giving your best effort, sometimes they get away. Jesus uses fishing as an acronym for teaching the gospel in order to make disciples, “And He said to them, ‘Follow Me, and I will make you fishers of men.’” (Matt 4:18-22). Unfortunately, whether it is a hook and line or a Bible and a message, some get away.

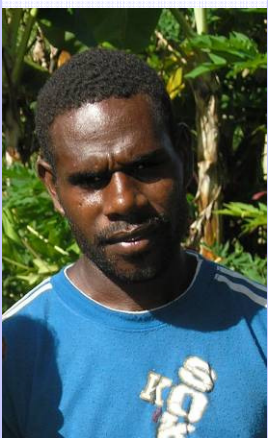
I had been studying with a man from Paama Island twice a week for over a month. He said that he was not agreeing with the practices of his denomination and welcomed the message of Jesus’ one true church and all that we studied about the church and other biblical topics. However, when we studied baptism and salvation, his demeanor and thoughts changed in a hurry. Suddenly the teaching of one church was too limiting and he boasted of the goodness in all denominations. He said he was “safe” before God despite an unscriptural baptism and practice of worship. A man who appeared at one time to be “on the hook” had now gotten away. Teaching him, pointing out his contradictions, and pleading for his soul were not enough *catch* this one for the Lord. Some get away because that is simply the way it goes whether in the business of fishing or the work of evangelizing the lost.

I write this because it is an all too common experience. Hindrances to believing and obeying are cultural aspects such as familial pressure and fear of leaving a comfortable denomination. So many that we teach here in Vanuatu cannot find the courage to leave that which man started for that which God established. This provides us with some of the most difficult times in this work. However, we can take solace in the fact that we have done the work which God has asked us to do, that is to teach His word. Like the apostol Paul, Christ did not send us to baptize but to preach the gospel (1 Cor 1:17), baptism is the believers response to the message. We will continue to “cast the net” and claim the souls which the Lord Jesus gives us.

One positive aspect of this story is that this study was set up by one of the local Christians, Patrick Kasso, who has been instrumental in many of the studies I have conducted. Many in Vanuatu have heard the good news because of this young man. Patrick has also had a hand in setting up two of the studies I am currently conducting. We as missionaries cannot “cast the net” by ourselves. The help of locals such as Patrick is not only wanted but necessary. Please continue to pray for our efforts and for those who got away!



Mike (above) works together with Patrick (below) to set up a study with a man from the island of Paama, where the church does not exist.



Progress in Port Vila

By Eric Brandell

Each month finds the Port Vila congregation closer to completing her building project. This month, missionaries and local Christians worked together to paint the exterior walls, install the hardwood doors, and do some finishing work on the toilets. The continued progress meant that the congregation was able to celebrate her first ever fellowship meal at the building! We had a good crowd present for worship and the fellowship lunch.

Claude and Flexon were back in Vila for the month of October, and picked up where they left off regarding their leadership roles. These two men and their families are so very important to the current and future success of the Vila congregation. The church is blessed to have them as leaders, and our team looks forward to edifying and equipping them for service.



Left: The building in Vila now has paint and doors! A huge step towards completion.



Right: Due to building progress, Christians are now able to gather and enjoy a place where they can fellowship together.

Melia Madelyn Baker

By Aaron Baker

Aaron and Cindy Baker are pleased to introduce you to Melia Madelyn Baker. Born October 24th at 11:30am in Ft. Smith, AR, Melia was a welcomed sight as she was born one week past her due date!

Weighing in at 6lbs and 10oz Melia was looked upon immediately with love by her big sister, Kaela. Melia, in turn, felt Kaela was crowding her and spit up on her big sister. And so...the sibling rivalry begins.

We thank you all for your prayers for both Melia's and Cindy's health. Both are doing well and Melia is growing quickly, as proven by her voracious appetite.



**A newsletter published by
Aaron and Cindy Baker *
Eric and Shawnda Brandell
* Mike Olson**

Mission Vanuatu Minutes
A ministry of the
Columbine church of Christ
7453 S. Zephyr Ct
Littleton, CO 80128

Please send address changes and
inquiries to:
Shane Moore
samlpam@msn.com

**Spreading the Gospel in
the South Pacific**

Columbine church of Christ
7453 S. Zephyr Ct.
Littleton, CO 80128

Address Correction Requested

Check us out on the web!

www.missionvanuatu.com

Mission Vanuatu Team



**Aaron, Cindy and Kaela
Baker**

(Right side of picture)

**Eric, Shawnda and Titus
Brandell**

(Left side of picture)

Mike Olson

(Back row, middle)