



Mission Vanuatu

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

January 2008
Volume 5,
Issue 1

Special points of interest:

- 3 Souls come to Christ in Etas Village!
- Building in Vila gets windows, doors and paint
- Etas church shows signs of maturity
- Titus, Kaela and Mella are growing up fast!

Inside this issue:

- Etas Village Update **1**
- Building Update in Port Vila **2**
- Steps in the Right Direction **2**
- Kids Korner **3**

Etas Village Update

By Eric Brandell

The Etas congregation asked me to come and preach on Sunday morning, January 6. Following our worship service, I learned that there were three locals who desired to join Christ's church by being baptized. I talked to some of the leaders about these three souls, as I had not met them before. Sure enough, they had sat in on several studies with Aaron in previous months, and the local Christians had also had several discussions with them regarding the church and salvation. We loaded up the truck and headed for the ocean, where Miswel, Timothy and Kal baptized Charlie, Emma and Margaret into Christ.

We were additionally excited for Miswel and Kal, as this was their first time to baptize someone. The future is indeed bright on many different fronts in Etas Village!



Charlie and Emma (pictured above left and middle) are married and have three children. They, along with Margaret (pictured on right), live in Etas

village, which is just outside of Port Vila. The fact that the locals played such a key role in the conversion of these three is very encouraging. The Etas congregation continues to grow numerically and spiritually, and rejoice with these new additions to their number. They have dedicated themselves to incorporating these new Christians into their fold, with a view towards helping them grow and mature.



Above: Timothy baptized Charlie (R) into Christ on January 6th.



Above: Emma makes a commitment to Christ that changes her life!



Left: Margaret is immersed by Kal, who himself, is a relatively new Christian. Studies from late 2007 finally bear fruit in 2008 with these three dedicating their lives to Christ. It is always amazing to see how the Lord

opens doors for people to hear His Word. The church in Etas village is doing well and, as you can see, the Lord is adding to their number. Please pray for the existing church, as well as for these new Christians.



Above: January 5th—10th Aaron went to Ambae and performed a wedding in the village of Duviana. His journal of the trip can be read online at www.missionvanuatu.com

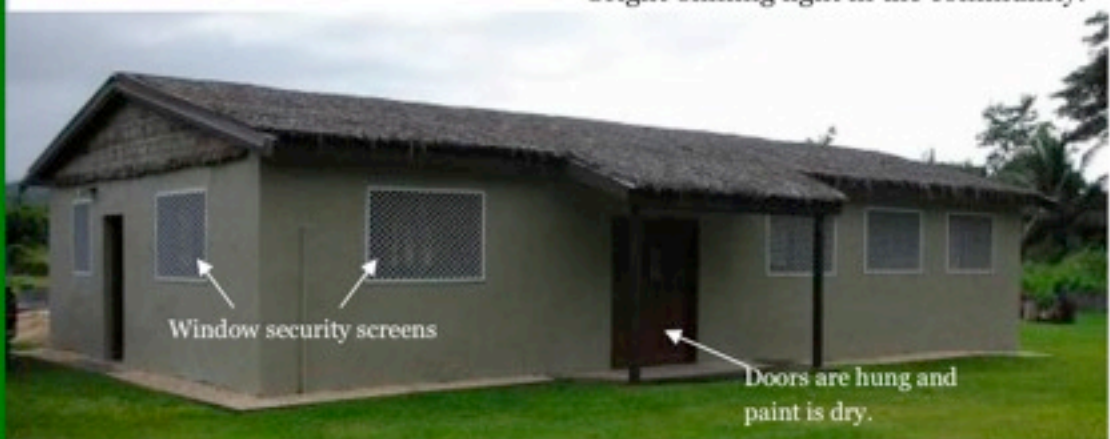
Building Update in Port Vila

By Eric Brandell

A lot has been accomplished since we last gave you an update of the building project here in Port Vila. We are glad to report that things are going quite well. We have installed the doors, window screens and fans, painted all the walls, and hung a white-board that will be used for preaching and teaching. Though they are fairly large tasks, the only two items left on the agenda are tiling the main building floors and completing the fence around the property. With

the building practically complete, we are looking forward to effectively using this tool to help spread the message of Jesus Christ to Christians and non-Christians alike here in the capital city.

We have visitors almost every month who chose to be with us because they saw the new building in the neighborhood. In addition, there are 10-15 young children who attend each week from the community. Please continue to pray for the church living and worshipping in Vila - that they will be a bright-shining light in the community.



Steps in the Right Direction

By Aaron Baker

Mission work is challenging. Not like you couldn't have guessed, right? One problem missionaries face is how to be involved in the teaching and preaching at several congregations to promote spiritual and numerical growth while, at the same time, trying to help locals be independent. When you want to help as much as you can, yet you know helping too much can actually hurt, it is a very challenging task.

On Sunday, January 13th, the Etas congregation asked me to come worship with them. I was glad to do so, expecting that when I arrived, I would be asked to preach. Thus, I had my Bible in hand and sermon ready to preach.

As we began worship, the responsibilities of the men taking part in worship were announced. I was actually surprised when it was said that I would direct the congregation's thoughts for the Lord's Supper and Tom Iaruel was going to preach. I said a silent "Woo

Below: To celebrate the excitement of the wedding, guests don't throw rice or bird seed, they douse the newlyweds with baby powder. This is a sign of happiness and good luck in Vanuatu culture.



Steps, continued...

By Aaron Baker

hoo" and tried my best not to grin too big. The Christians were finally getting the picture: THEY are the local body of Christ and THEY need to be involved and active in worshipping their Creator and Savior.

In Vanuatu culture, too often the nationals acquiesce to the missionary, letting him do all the preaching and teaching. It was a huge step for the congregation in Etas to have one of their men preach, but to allow me to participate in worship with them any way that they saw fit.

You see, I am not upset at all by their not asking me to preach. Rather, I'm ecstatic. After worship I spoke to Tom Iaruel, Jimmy Rona and other Christians and expressed my heartfelt excitement that they were beginning to "walk on their own." Tom and others stated that they needed to depend less on the "white man" and depend more on themselves. This statement is the goal of our work in Vanuatu and nearly sent me to the ground in shock.

Though this is just a small step in the shifting of responsibilities to the shoulders of local men and women, it is still a step nonetheless. Please pray for the congregation in Etas to continue to take small steps in training themselves to be responsible not "to the white man," but to the Lord. This is but the first step in a long journey.

Below: Etas congregation continues to make positive strides at being responsible for directing their own worship services.



Kids' Korner

This section of the newsletter is dedicated to the children on the Mission Vanuatu Team. We hope you enjoy these updates.

Titus Taylor Brandell

Titus is 14 months old now, and more active than ever. He is now walking 100% of the time, and just tall enough to open the door to the outside world - certainly keeps mom and dad on their toes. He has been practicing being "gentle" with Melia in preparation for a new baby brother or sister of his own, but still has a long way to go. He and Kaela play together everyday, and especially enjoy the sandbox and wading pool.

Kaela Sue Baker

Kaela is glad to say that she checked out her school (Port Vila International School) where she will be attending preschool. Even though it seems like she can't be old enough yet to start school, she was very eager to get see where her school was, to meet her teacher and to see her classroom!

Melia Madelyn Baker

Melia has also reached a new milestone in her life, she can laugh! Mommy and daddy had been testing a few tickle spots for several weeks when daddy discovered the location of one spot that did the trick. Melia is very ticklish on her sides and in her armpits (just like daddy). It is so fun to tickle Melia and hear her sweet laugh.



**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)