



Mission Vanuatu

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

June 2008
Volume 5,
Issue 6

Special points of interest:

- Teaching the Gospel on Tanna Island
- Update on terms 2 and 3 of TBS
- Pictures from Aaron's trip to Tanna
- Mike and Nancy Gray visit Vanuatu
- Update on the kids of the Vanuatu team

Inside this issue:

A Trip to the Island of Tanna	1
Truth Bible School: Terms 2 and 3	2
Tanna Pictures	2
Grandparents Visit Family, Mission Field	3
Kids Korner	3

A Trip to the Island of Tanna

By Aaron Baker

Tanna island is one of the 83 islands that make up the archipelago in Vanuatu. This island boasts the world's best access to the live volcano, Yasur. This month, I went to Tanna in an effort to plant the church where it does not exist.

I organized the trip to Tanna with the help of the brethren from Etas village. Most of the Christians in Etas are originally from Tanna, which they still fondly refer to as, "home." Their love for their home island spurred them to plan and help carry out the preaching of the Gospel on their home island.

On June 3rd, Pbles, Timothy and Jimmy (all from Etas) departed by ship for Tanna. These men would prepare the way for me to come one week later to run studies daily for one week in their village. Custom on Tanna is strong and dictates that any community event, such as ours, requires permission from the chief of the village. These men went to help secure permission as well as to inform several villages of the nightly studies to be held. Chase Williams, from the Gariott Road church of Christ in Enid, OK also travelled to Vanuatu to assist this church planting effort.

From June 11th through the 18th, we ran Bible studies each night on the topic of, "The church of the Bible." This topic was well received and well attended by the Ni-Vanuatu nationals.



Above: Nightly studies on Tanna island

On average, we had 35 in attendance each night and on Sunday, June 15th, we had 107 in attendance for worship! Though the message was well received and thoughtfully considered, the people were not quite ready to commit to Christ, thus we did not plant the church on this trip. We Americans must remember that this is the first time many have heard the true message of Christ and it will take time for the Truth of His Word to penetrate their hearts. Please pray for these people who are truly seeking God's Word that they will open their hearts to the Gospel of Christ.

Below: Aaron and Chase depart Port Vila to live for a week in the dense jungle of Tanna island. Working together for the Lord is both challenging and fun!





Above: Pbles, Jimmy and Timothy endured the 16 hour boat ride from Vila to Tanna to help Aaron preach to the lost.

Truth Bible School: Terms 2 and 3

By Mike Olson

Term number two of the Truth Bible School, or "Trutok Baebol Skul" saw the whole range of highs and lows. The term started with a few lows as a huge rainstorm basically washed out the first two class days.

On Tuesday the 6th of May we had four students and the Thursday class had to be cancelled due to the continued rains. A big rainstorm here is the equivalent to a big snowstorm in the States, everything is stopped, or put off until a later time.

However, at the end of the rain we had a little sunshine as the student levels were back up to 10+ students. Mike's classes on the Old and New Covenants took a hit with some missed classes but finished with a flurry of teaching and were well received.

Eric taught our course on The Church. We have been teaching on the church from every conceivable angle since arriving, and the design of the course is to cement these teachings in the minds of the brethren. Eric enjoyed good class numbers and did a great job with the students. Comments from the students have been positive and we are using this term as a springboard into the third term which started on the 12th of June.

Overall the school continues to be a real positive for the work here in Vanuatu. We, the missionaries, love teaching these classes, and the future leaders and evangelists of the church here in Vanuatu are receiving a complete education unlike anything which is found here. Please continue to pray for the school and its students.

Various pictures from Aaron's trip to Tanna

Our bathroom (below, left), shower (below, middle) and fresh water cistern are just a few of the 'adjustments to comfort' you could expect when visiting the village. After living in the village for 10 days, you sure are glad to get back to Port Vila where you can enjoy electricity and running water... not to mention flushing toilets. Despite all this, we look forward to our next trip to Tanna, scheduled for June 2009.



Above: After all studies in Tanna were completed, Aaron and Chase visited the famous Yasur volcano. Eruptions shook the earth, and our resolve to stay too long at the volcano.



Grandparents Visit Family, Mission Field

By Eric Brandell

One of the hardest parts about being foreign missionaries is living away from family. It's even harder when there are grandkids/grandparents involved! So, Titus and Lexi are very fortunate to have had their Mema and Papa with them this month. They've had lots and lots of fun reading, going to the beach, going to the park, and hanging around the house. We sure will miss them when they are gone! But we are glad to have gotten to spend so much time with them while they were here.



Above: Nancy and Mike Gray love spending every minute possible with their grandkids. The Grays came to Vanuatu for a visit during the month of May and June.

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 reached some milestones this month: using the potty for the first time, and sliding down the slide by himself. He's having the time of his life with Mema, Papa, and Kaela to play with all the time. New words this month include: up, Mike, Kaela, Lea (Melia), balloon (lalloo), tattoo (he got one at Kaela's school carnival), and morning (which always includes a handshake). His favorite activity is playing in the sand.



Kaela Sue Baker

Now that the Brandells have been back in Vanuatu for a month, Kaela has really enjoyed playing with Titus and getting to know Lexi. Kaela is currently on her break from pre-school and loves playing at the park, riding her pink bike (w/training wheels), and playing in the sandbox in the front yard. Time off from school is fun, but she still can't wait to get back and see her friends.



Alexis Lynae Brandell

Not to be outdone by her big brother, Lexi also crossed a couple of milestones this month...she turned over from her stomach to her back for the first time, and Dad got her to laugh by making funny faces and noises. She and Titus were both a bit under the weather this month, as the temperatures turned cooler and there was lots of rain. After a trip to the doctor and a round of medicine, everything is back to normal.



Melia Madelyn Baker

Melia is growing so fast! She is 8 months now and is starting to eat "real food." She loves buttered bread, but is slow in liking new foods. Melia can now sit up on her own, but cannot crawl just yet. She loves to smile and laugh at big sister and loves "talking" with her new best friend, Lexi. Before long, Melia will be on the move as soon as she gets the hang of working those legs. Once she starts crawling, lookout!



**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)