



Mission Vanuatu

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

September 2008
Volume 5,
Issue 9

Special points of interest:

- 2 baptized into Christ in Etas
- Church members in Marou Village, Emau doing well
- Truth Bible School to begin soon

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Two Souls Added to the Body

By Aaron Baker

Our team is pleased to introduce two new members of Christ's body in Etas village, Vanuatu. Andrew and Mary were baptized on September 28th following several weeks of studying the Bible.

Andrew is the brother one of the Christians in Etas village, Sam Tabawa. Uniquely, about three years ago I was running weekly studies in Etas village. Andrew had been told to relay a message to me that I was to be forbidden from coming to Etas village and running any more Bible studies. Interestingly, Andrew took an approach similar to that of Gamaliel



Andrew and Mary— baptized into Christ...ready to serve!

(Acts 5:33-40) and concluded that if I were teaching the truth, then even he could not stop the studies. If, however, I was teaching false doctrines, my teachings would become evident and would lose momentum. Needless to say, Andrew never delivered the message to me, so I continued running my weekly Bible studies even though Andrew was not attending those studies.

Fastforward three years and Andrew's brother, had gone with a group of Christians to Tanna I was working with to help start the church on that island. During our time spent on Tanna evangelizing and studying each night, Andrew began to realize what the Bible said was indeed true! Following our return to Etas, Andrew,

and his wife, Mary, were now interested in studying the Bible.

For several weeks I studied with Andrew and Mary slowly moving deeper and deeper into Biblical subjects. They were eager to study and somewhat surprised at how little they knew about the Bible. Several times Mary wept as she saw how her life was different from that found in the Word of God. Previously, Andrew and Mary were members of the AOG church in Etas (Assemblies of God). They both recognized that many of their practices and beliefs they held were apart from the Word of God. With soft hearts and rediness to please God, Andrew and Mary were baptized into Christ.

Maybe the best part of the whole experience was my baptizing Andrew, and then watching him in turn baptize his wife.



Aaron ready to baptize Andrew in the Teouma river.



Andrew baptizing his wife. What a special event for both.

It truly was a special time for them both as they started their spiritual walk in Christ together. May God bless their new beginning in Christ! Please pray for this couple and their new journey in Christ.

Emao Island Update

By Eric Brandell



Above: The church in Marou village currently meets at Allen's house.

You may recall that last month I reported on our trip to Marou Village with Robert Martin and Steve Lusk, Christians from the States who were in Vanuatu for a couple of weeks teaching Pacific Islands Bible College courses. During a wrap-up meeting with our team, these two men suggested that we consider traveling to Marou every Sunday for 2-3 months, in an effort to encourage and strengthen these brethren who are still young in the faith. Our team's fire for the work was stoked by this wise suggestion, and so during our followup trip in mid-September we talked to the brethren in Marou about how we could most effectively help them do what the Lord would have them to do.

Marou is one of five villages on Emao Island, which is located just off the northeast coast of the main island. We drive about 2 hours from Port Vila to Takara Landing, where we board a small boat that carries us 30 minutes over to the (now-dormant) volcanic island. Though it is a short distance to travel, the seas can be very rough if it is windy or there is a storm in the region. Unfortunately, Mike and I are both quite susceptible to motion sickness, and we have both "fed the fish" a number of times. It certainly makes me appreciate all that Paul endured during NT times (not that what we do would even compare)! The trip costs about US\$100; so expensive primarily due to high fuel prices...a gallon of unleaded is nearing the \$7 mark here.

The brethren were very excited to hear that we were willing and able to begin meeting with them every Sunday, instead of only once a month as we had done in the past. And so, at the local brethren's invitation, we began traveling to the village every Sunday morning. We plan to continue this schedule through the end of the year, and at that time we will reassess the work and how we can be of the greatest assistance.

The congregation in Marou has struggled for several years. The three men who were baptized back in 2003 had the best of intentions when they returned home after being con-



Pictured above: The eight Christians that make up the Marou church of Christ on Emao island, a 2 hour drive followed by a 45 minute boat ride away from Port Vila.

verted while visiting Eton Village. In fact, some local brethren were able to visit these new Christians several times to help them mature. But, several months later, the Chief became disgruntled with the fact that there was religious division in his village, and thus blocked entrance to any outsider seeking to conduct religious business. You can imagine a young child being

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Below: Visitors and members alike are pictured here after worship in Marou village. From not meeting each week to working on dedicating themselves to Christ, Christians in Marou are making strides in the right direction.



cut off from his food supply, and the same thing happens when a young Christian does not receive the nutrition he needs.

Once the ban was lifted a year or two later, our team began making trips to Marou. While our going for a long weekend every month certainly seemed to provide some benefit, it was simply not enough for the Christians, and our program eventually fizzled out. However, things are going very well thus far in our renewed effort. Mike and I each traveled to Marou during the last two weeks of the month. The Christians have a sense of urgency and determination that we have not seen in them before. They have all acknowledged their past shortcomings, and have committed themselves to being faithful to God and His word, regardless of what hindrances may stand in

their way.

Please be praying for the congregation of 8 faithful Christians in Marou Village. Pray that their faith will be strengthened, that they will hold fast to the truth, and that they might serve as a light of the gospel in their small community. Please also remember our travels to and from Emao Island.

TRUTOK *Update* BAEBOL SKUL - Port Vila, Vanuatu -

The fourth and final term of Trutok Baebol Skul (Truth Bible School) will begin on October 7th. These classes are taught in Bislama to build up and strengthen Christians throughout Vanuatu. Mike will be teaching Old Testament Survey, while Aaron will teach, Denominational Doctrines. Please pray for the school's success!

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 has officially reached the "copy-cat stage." He will try his best to say anything you ask him to, which of course is lots of fun (and a little dangerous). Mom and Dad are so glad that he adores Lexi. He is quick to come to her side if she is upset, and loves to laugh and play with her. Titus' new favorite activity is wrestling with Daddy, and he even sometimes wins!



Kaela Sue Baker

For a few weeks this month, Kaela has been sick. A persistent cough kept her out of her last week of school, which was a huge disappointment to this school-lover. At home, Kaela enjoys coloring in her Disney Princess coloring books, especially if Mommy and Daddy help her.



Favorite activities include playing with Titus, her toy horses and watching Backyardigans. Also, Kaela has become good at 'procrastinating'. Though she is not sure what that word means yet, she enjoys using it.

Alexis Lynae Brandell

Lexi grows more adorable everyday. She's enjoying "real food" two or three times a day, which Mom either buys from the grocery store or makes from fresh fruit. She continues to sleep 10 hours per night, which is SUCH a blessing! Lexi loves watching her big brother play, and can't wait until she's mobile so that she can play with all the big kids.



Melia Madelyn Baker

New activities for Melia include all-out crawling, standing up holding on to furniture, and eating all kinds of new foods. Now Melia enjoys corn-on-the-cob, cheese, homemade pizza and bones to chew on. All this new food is so much easier to eat now that she has 2 teeth!

We have just discovered that Melia has super-baby powers. She has the ability to melt your heart with just one look!



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Mission Vanuatu Minutes
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Address Correction Requested

Check us out on the web!

www.missionvanuatu.com

Mission Vanuatu Team



Mike Olson

(Left side of picture)

**Aaron, Cindy, Kaela and
Melia Baker**

(Middle of picture)

**Eric, Shawnda, Titus and Lexi
Brandell**

(Right side of picture)

New Team Picture!