



# Mission Vanuatu

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

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## Special points of interest:

- TBS classes begin in October
- English songs being translated into Bislama
- Team evangelizes Tagabe area of Port Vila
- Melia turns 1 year old!

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## Truth Bible School in Full Swing

By Aaron Baker

One of our team goals is to develop leadership in Vanuatu. Leadership is crucial to the sustainability of the church here in Vanuatu. If there are strong leaders in Vanuatu the church will be strong.

### Classes

In order to accomplish this, our team has already held three sessions of "Truth Bible School," or, "Trutok Baebol Skul" as we call it in the local language of Bislama.

October 7th marked the beginning of the fourth and final term of classes for 2008. I teach "Denominational Doctrines" class, followed by Mike teaching, "Old Testament Survey."

In all, our program to develop leadership covers two full years of instruction. Each term lasts 6 weeks, with classes held on Tuesday and Thursday nights. This means that for one term a student would gain 12 hours of instruction; 48 hours in one year!

The challenge to our program is in getting consistency in attendance with our students. For example, if one student that is currently not working and suddenly begins a job, this may weaken his/her attendance of classes.

### Students

This fourth term, we have had a total of 29 people total attend our classes.

Patrick Kasso, TBS student, Christian from Tanna island.



Of these 29 people, around 16 of them are taking the classes for "credit" and are dedicated in their attendance. Even with 16 people dedicated to learning the Bible, this is a step in the right direction for the future leadership of the

church in Vanuatu.

# TRUTOK BAEBOL SKUL

- Port Vila, Vanuatu -

Students like Patrick (pictured lower left) make TBS a source of encouragement for students and teachers alike. On a typical day when classes are held, Patrick will get up and go to work, beginning his day at 7am. At 3:30 pm his boss has agreed to let him off work so he can grab a quick shower and walk to the pick up point. After 30 minutes of walking, I pick up Patrick at 4:30, at his work site...in the middle of the bush. From 4:30 to 5:30 we ride in the truck and pick up other students for TBS classes. By roughly 5:30 we arrive at the church building in Port Vila and get chairs and tables arranged for the students. Classes begin promptly at 6pm (first class is 1 hour) and end at 8pm.

When classes are over, Patrick settles in for the one hour ride around town to drop off students and then back to the plantation in the bush where he works. Arriving back home around 9:30 or 10pm, Patrick then has a chance to rest, eat and catch some sleep before work again the next day. If ever you need some encouragement, please let Patrick's dedication to attending these classes give you a 'pick-me-up.'

When asked how these classes help him, Patrick replies, "Before, I did not know how to study the Bible or preach. Now I am learning how to do both. Before, I thought all churches were the same. Now I understand that the church that is in the Bible is far different from many of the denominations around." Patrick truly is a source of encouragement to other students and even to us teachers.



By Eric Brandell



# OL SINGSING LONG BISLAMA

## JOS BLONG KRAES long VANUATU

*I*n an effort to assist the local brethren to "sing with the spirit and sing with the mind also," I set out to produce a songbook that contained Bislama lyrics to traditional English hymns. A similar songbook already existed here in Vanuatu, but there were only a few copies and we had no way to reproduce them. Over the past several months, I have been keying in the notes and lyrics to 99 songs. I should be able to complete the formatting and editing procedures within the next few weeks, and hope to have the final version to the printer by the middle of next month. A special thanks to the Forest Park congregation in Atlanta, GA for volunteering to help us out tremendously with printing and binding. We'll be sure to update you once this special project is complete.

## **Evangelizing Port Vila**

-Aaron Baker-

Last weekend, our team made a push to evangelize the area of Port Vila directly around the church building. What better way to tell the community "Here we are!" than to meet them face to face and invite them to come worship and study the Bible.

Originally scheduled for October 18th but rescheduled for the 25th, our team was working to make the church well-known in it's community by walking house-to-house and passing out fliers inviting people to worship. Working together, we have covered many houses in the area of Port Vila around the church building, known as Tagabe (pronounced "Ta-ga-bay").

Eric Brandell developed a tri-fold pamphlet which was professionally printed. The result was an attractive way of getting information into the hands of the community. Our team had 5,000 pamphlets printed and we plan to pass out every one in the coming months. For now, covering some of the houses in the Tagabe area is a good start.

Please keep this outreach in your prayers as we look forward to the fruit that this effort will bear for the Christians in Vila.

**Below:** Truth Bible School students listen intently in class. On average we have had 16 students in attendance and all are very interested in God's Word!



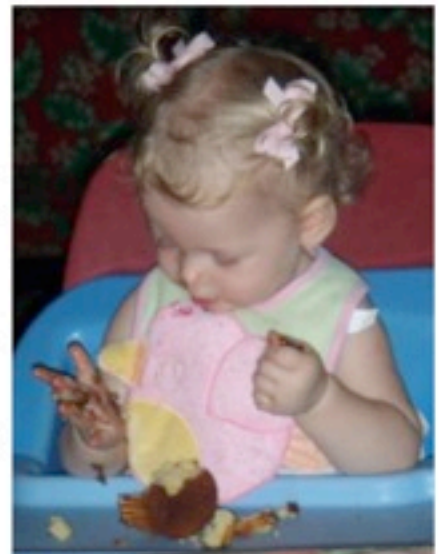
**Above:** Our team makes trips weekly to Emau Island in an effort to strengthen the Christians. These frequent trips provide excellent opportunity for us to help train some of the indigenous men in preaching and teaching. This particular Sunday, Eric took Flexon with him to Marrou village. Flexon lives in Port Vila, but made the 4 hour round trip excursion to Emau to help strengthen his own countrymen. We pray we can continue to develop the leadership here in Vanuatu to the point where they are able to stand on their own. Thank you, Flexon, for your fine sermon this particular Sunday morning!



## The Big ONE

October 24th marked Melia's one year birthday! Our family, and really the whole team, was excited to be able to celebrate such a milestone in Melia's life. Unfortunately, Melia was sick on her birthday, but that didn't seem to slow her down too much. She enjoyed her favorite meal—pizza— and then gobbled up her birthday cupcake Cindy made. Loving the yummy, sweet chocolate, she devoured her cupcake, savoring every bite. It was a bit hard, though, getting past the stickiness of the chocolate icing (pictured right). There were many presents from family and friends, but Melia's favorite thing to play with was the wrapping paper! Kids seem to never change.

We are so blessed to have Melia in our lives. We treat each day as a blessing from God and we pray she has many more birthdays to come!



# 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

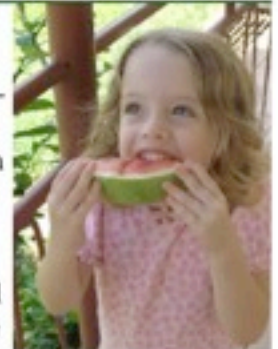
Titus is rapidly maturing with each passing month. He is learning how to obey mommy and daddy, to identify fruit trees (mangos, coconuts and bananas are his favorites) during our afternoon walks, and to play with other kids at church and play-group. A highlight this month was having a front row seat to watch the digger clear some ground near the church building one Saturday morning.



### Kaela Sue Baker

A favorite activity for Kaela is eating watermelon. In October, the watermelons were just getting ripe enough to eat. We were given a small watermelon and Kaela is seen here digging in!

Other exciting news Kaela wants to share is that her best friends from the USA, who live in Vanuatu, Shiloah and Moriah have returned to Vanuatu. She loves getting together with these two girls around her same age and playing for hours. At school, Kaela loves painting, swinging on the tire swing, playing with friends and dress-up.



### Alexis Lynae Brandell

Lexi started sitting up all by herself this month, and is also beginning to get up on her knees to rock back and forth. It won't be long till she's able to move around with the rest of the kids. In the meantime, she enjoys watching them play. At the very end of the month, Lexi enjoyed her first taste of "puffs" and very quickly learned how to get them into her mouth by herself.



### Melia Madelyn Baker

Aside from turning one year old, Melia continues to bless our lives. Her favorite breakfast foods are French toast with banana on the side. She loves to be a ham and get all the attention. In addition, she loves playing with Lexi. While Lexi is a few months younger, Lia still looks at and plays with Lexi affectionately. Still only two teeth on the bottom, but the others won't be far behind. Lia says "Hi!"



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### Mission Vanuatu Minutes

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Address Correction Requested

Check us out on the web!

[www.missionvanuatu.com](http://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)