



# Mission Vanuatu

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

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## Special points of interest:

- 192 Bible Correspondence Course students signed up
- 50 Bislama students enrolled in 2008
- Truth Bible School is over for 2008
- Vila and Etas women's fellowship takes them into the jungle.
- Titus turns 2 this month!

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## Bible Correspondence Courses Upgraded

By Aaron Baker

**B**ible Correspondence Course work is a way in which our team is able to go and preach the Word of God to people in Vanuatu...without personally going! This preaching is done through the written word. Since our team arrived in Vanuatu in 2005 we have been offering Bible Correspondence Courses free of charge to anyone of interest. Initially, we were only able to offer English courses to students wishing to study the Bible. Using the World Bible School Bible courses we have sent out, to date, 142 English courses. As our team learned the trade language, Bislama, we were able to write our own series of courses and offer them to the public as well. This year our team completed the Bislama courses entitled, *Trutok Baebol Kos* (Truth Bible Course). To date we have mailed out over 50 Bislama courses. To spread the news about these courses, we personally pass out the introduction courses, stuff them in mailboxes and even advertise them in the newspaper.

A good example of these correspondence course students can be found in Douglas and Dorine Regenvanu who live on a small island called, Uripiv. Located just off of the larger island of Malekula, Douglas and Dorine had seen our notice in the newspaper offering Bislama Bible correspondence courses. Douglas called and signed up for the courses and we promptly got them in the mail to him. Working on the 8-lessons in Bislama, Douglas and

Dorine have officially completed the correspondence courses and attained their certificate of completion. While Douglas and Dorine are not yet Christians, they are growing in that direction. We have had conversations by phone and through the mail discussing their situation and we pray that these Bible correspondence courses will help open up islands like Uripiv to the Gospel of Christ. Please pray for this couple and so many others like them who are honestly seeking the Truth.

**Below:** An example of one of our Bible correspondence courses offered by mail in the Bislama language.

## TRUTOK BAEBOL KOS

"Tok blong yu I tru olgeta..."  
Jon 17:17

**KOS 6**  
Jos blong Kraes





**Above:** A peek at the array of colors, and lessons awaiting Bible Correspondence Course Students who can now study in Bislama. Since offering BCCs in Bislama, 61% of all requests have been for Bislama courses!



**Below:** Even walking one hour through the bush could not put a damper on the women's spirits. The women are heading to a jungle oasis: a fresh water swimming hole.



## November Marks End of TBS for the 2008

A major goal for our team this year has been to conduct *Trutok Baebol Skul*, (Truth Bible School) classes in an attempt to ground, train and build up the Christians in Vanuatu.

Throughout 2008 we have taught 4 terms with 2 classes per term, with each class lasting one hour each. Thus in this year, a student who attended all classes would have gained 96 hours of Bible instruction over 8 different topics such as: How to Study the Bible, Scheme of Redemption, Old and New Covenant, The Church, New Testament Survey, Old Testament Survey, Lesson Preparation and Presentation, and Denominational Doctrines.



Through 2008 it has been our pleasure to see, on average, over 15 students come to these classes in Port Vila, representing congregations from at least 4 different villages. Our fourth and final term for this year ended on November 13<sup>th</sup>. Following their final exams, students were excited to have completed their first year of *Trutok Baebol Skul*, relieved that classes were over, and looking forward to the classes to be begin again in 2009.

## Growing in Fellowship

By Cindy Baker

On Saturday, Nov. 22, the Christian women in Port Vila and Etas village joined together for our first ever "social" fellowship at the waterfalls located outside of Etas. The bus picked a group of 11 of us up at 10am, we drove 15 minutes to Etas village and met 5 more Christian women from the church in Etas. We then hiked for one *strenuous* hour deep into the bush before we finally reached the falls. By then, we were hot, sweaty, tired and our legs were shaking from the excursion! But, it was worth it! The falls were beautiful! The water was clear

and cool with pools deep enough to dive into. We then took turns jumping off the rocks, over the falls, and into the pools below. We all had a great time laughing and just enjoying our time together away from the routine of everyday life. We then shared a potluck picnic lunch, gathered up our belongings, and hiked back out of the bush, taking a less strenuous route back out. Although, our less strenuous route was a much more stinky route, as it involved walking the road that runs through the local dump! Shawnda and I were really wishing we



*(Continued from page 2)*

had taken a picture of the long line of women walking through the dump! It was an unusual experience to say the least!

All in all it was a wonderful time together and probably one of the most relaxing times of fellowship we have had in a long time! It turned out to be a great opportunity for us all to work together climbing hills and laugh together as we watched our friends take the leap off the side of the rocks! When the day ended at about 2pm, everyone was exhausted, but in high spirits. The local women grew closer together and everyone has the hope that we can all join together in fellowship on a monthly basis.



**Above:** Ladies from Etas village and Port Vila met at a secret waterfall in the jungle. Women were scooting down the falls to the edge, then jumping into the pool below. Look out below, here we 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

Happy Birthday to Titus! We all had a great time celebrating Titus' **2nd birthday** with sand, trampoline, swimming, cake and presents. Another highlight for the month was a great time in New Zealand! We enjoyed cool temperatures, great scenery, meeting new Christians, and spending time with the Raine family. Titus' vocabulary continues to grow by leaps and bounds, and he has started putting 2-3 word sentences together.



## Alexis Lynae Brandell

Lexi is mobile! Near the end of the month, she "officially" began crawling. She traveled well throughout New Zealand, and enjoyed getting to see lots of animals. Titus is still her favorite toy...she nearly jumps out of our arms when he comes into the room. Lexi has enjoyed trying lots of new foods this month, including ice cream, french fries, oatmeal, and birthday cake (certainly not the healthiest diet - ha!).



## Kaela Sue Baker

"Going to kindergarten three days a week (M-W-F) sure is fun," says Kaela. With this mischievous look on her face, we just know she is going to have a blast at school. Kaela loves to paint, play dress-up and play with her friends.

When asked if she knew who Barack Obama was, Kaela replied "No." When she found out he was the new president of the United States and was asked what she thought the president does, she said, "He works. You know, like printing a lot of papers."



## Melia Madelyn Baker

In a few short days, Melia will be sharing her room with Kaela. The two sisters will soon become roommates. Melia has adjusted well to the rearrangement of furniture and we parents pray all goes just as well when Kaela actually moves in.

Melia's new favorite activity is climbing. Pictured below, Melia conquered Mt. Laundrybasket and set up camp at the top. Pleased as punch, she then moved on to her newly learned words, "No, no," which sounds like, "mo, mo" but is so cute as she waves her finger back and forth. Feeling the independence of a big one year old, Melia is already trying to test Mom and Dad.



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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)