



Mission Vanuatu

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

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Special points of interest:

- 16 students complete 6th term of TBS classes-Vila
- TBS classes held in Epau teach students how to study the Bible
- First ever ladies fellowship held in Epau village
- Titus, Lexi, Kaela and Lia growing up fast

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Truth Bible School—Term 6

By Aaron Baker

*P*ersonal Evangelism and the Holy Spirit were two topics that Eric Brandell and myself taught in this sixth term of Truth Bible School (TBS) classes held in Port Vila, Vanuatu.

From April 21st through May 28th TBS classes were offered every Tuesday and Thursday to enable Christians to grow in their knowledge of God’s Word. Through these six weeks, there were a total of 26 different people who attended these classes, but average attendance was around 16 students. At the end of these classes students took a comprehensive exam over the six weeks of classes. We are glad to say that all the students did very well and learned a lot.

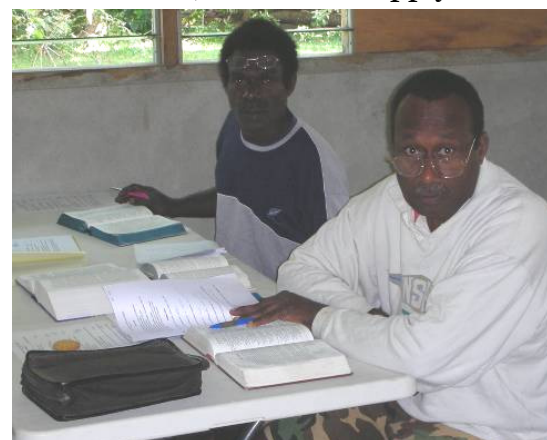
One of the course requirements for the Personal Evangelism class was for the students to partner up and to practice teaching evangelistic studies to their partner. In class, each student had 20 minutes to teach their partner and then they would switch and the other person would do the teaching. The goal of this exercise was two fold: 1) to encourage the student to be confident in teaching and 2) to encourage the student to learn the evangelistic lessons enough to be able to teach a lost soul to bring them to Christ. **Pictured top right**, Kal teaches Flexon a lesson on how to become a Christian.



About the Personal Evangelism class and other TBS courses, Salome from Etas says, “Thank you for these courses. They have taught me how to share the Gospel with friends and family and how to prepare organized outlines which I can teach.”

Claude from Vila writes, “I am no longer afraid, and have learned to put my fear of sharing with others behind me.”

In addition to classes in Port Vila, classes on How to Study the Bible, were also taught each Saturday for six weeks in Epau village. Students learned practical steps for studying God’s Word, and how to apply it.



Above: Bob and Bill learn how to use a Topical Bible and Concordance by attending these TBS classes in Epau village. Great job guys!

First Ever “Ladies Day” in Epau Village By Cindy Baker

Below: Shawnda and Emma (Etas) enjoy time fellowship-ping together in Epau village.



On May 8, the women of Efate Island gathered together for the first ever “Ladies Day” in Epau Village. The women from Epau invited women (and assorted children) from the Port Vila, Etas Village and Eton Village congregations to join them in an afternoon of fellowship. It was a great time for all!

A bus arrived at our house at 12 noon to pick up the Vila ladies and Shawnda also took her car to ensure there would be enough room for everyone! We didn’t get very far, however, as the bus arrived with a flat tire and we had to detour to get the tire changed at a nearby workshop. Finally, we were on the road. Shawnda went on ahead in order to pick up women further around the island. While the rest of the Vila ladies and I drove on to Etas to pick up the women there. It was a good thing we planned for Shawnda to drive also, because by the time we picked up the group at Etas we were literally packed like sardines in that bus! When it looked as though there might not be enough room, one of the ladies volunteered to stay behind. I tried to say that this was a fellowship specifically for the “mamas” and if anyone should stay behind it needed to be some of the older kids who were tagging along. Although, the women agreed, no one wanted to volunteer any kids to stay, so we squirmed and squished and finally got everybody in. In the end,

the 16 passenger bus held 14 adults and 12 children! “Sardines” was NOT an understatement! In fact one of the women from Etas ended up standing up most of the way because there wasn’t enough seats to accommodate her entire self - I don’t believe 5 people were intended to sit on the 3 seats in our row! And I actually had to hang my shoulder and arm out the window for most of the ride because I was getting a crick in my neck trying to sit my upper body sideways! What an adventure!

Finally, we made it and met up with Shawnda at Epau. After two stops on her route she ended up with 9 adults and 2 kids her in SUV that normally seats 5 comfortably.

As the “Ladies Day” got underway, one of the Christian women from Epau, Leisong, welcomed us all and told us that she hoped this would be the first of many gatherings in the future for the women of Efate Island.

After Leisong’s talk, we sang

Below: Cindy and Mabel (Vila) pose for a picture amidst the fun in Epau village FIRST EVER fellowship.



Below: Ladies flocked to see what goodies they could find from the clothing donated by Christians from the USA.



(Continued from page 2)

together, ate, and had an overall great time of fellowship! Shawnda and I brought two boxes packed full of bras that were donated by the *Greenwood church of Christ* in Greenwood, Ark. We dumped them out on the mats and it was like flies to the honey! Those women were so excited over those bras! And though, they didn't say it we knew that it was an answer of prayer for many of them who struggle to afford to replace their undergarments more than every few years or so. Thank you, Greenwood, for your generosity!

Before we departed for the day, the women made plans for our next Efate Island fel-

lowship. After much debate and discussion it is planned for August 28 in Port Vila. The women asked Shawnda and I to teach them how to make "American Kakae (Food)" at the next fellowship. This first "Ladies Day" was a great success and it was wonderful to see the women talking and laughing and getting to know each other better! We are all looking forward to being together again in August!

Pictured Below: Ladies from 4 congregations meet together to encourage each other, share food, fun and laughter.

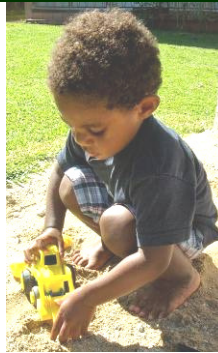


Kids Korner

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' fascination with diggers and other construction equipment continues to grow stronger, and he now enjoys going to the airport parking lot to watch the airplanes. He has become quite the trickster on his bicycle too - his favorite trick is to go full speed towards Lexi and swerve to miss her at the very last second. Titus amazes us everyday with his ever-increasing vocabulary - a real chatter-box (and copy-cat). On May 23 we fondly remembered two years prior when the Vanuatu court system finalized his adoption ... yahoo!!



best Elmo voice, and she looks right away. Her favorite game this month is playing ball (with a ball that's twice her size!).

Kaela Sue Baker

This month Kaela attended her friend, Juliette's, birthday party and had a great time. Although, when we picked her up she said she only ate one bite of cake because "the icing was too sweet!" That left us thinking "Whose child is this?" Kaela still loves school and displays a great interest in reading. And she is so thrilled with herself whenever she finds a word she can sound out and read by herself!



Alexis Lynae Brandell

Lexi is fully-mobile! All of a sudden, she just started walking everywhere she goes. Of course, standing up the majority of the time means she's a new "target" for big brother. Thus, Lexi has become a tough little lady. She is constantly being steam-rolled, pushed down or run over. It seems that she has actually begun to think of it as a fun game. Lexi loves watching Elmo - if ever we want her attention, we just sing "la, la, la, la - la, la, la, la" in our



Melia Madelyn Baker

Melia is our little climber! She will climb onto anything she can, especially if it has something she's not supposed to play with sitting on it! She is now talking frequently, mostly repeating words that we say, although she knows how to ask for the important things like, "kakae (food), a drink, and a cookie!" As you can see from the picture, Melia is also a little clown, she will do anything for a laugh!



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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)