



Mission Vanuatu

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

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Special points of interest:

- 24 kids converge on Vila in Kids program
- 18 in attendance for TBS classes
- Jill and Todd Blackwell visit from the USA
- Kids are always up to something...check it out!

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Pikinini Baebol Klab (Children's Bible Club) By Aaron Baker

An island version of VBS is hosted by the Port Vila congregation each month in an effort to teach and train boys and girls about God's Word as well as a way to reach out to the Port Vila community.

Ladies from Port Vila and Etas village work together each month to coordinate the PBK program. Cindy and Shawnda are usually in charge of the teaching portion of the day, but Ni-Vanuatu ladies work hard to get crafts, games, puppets and snacks ready for the kids to enjoy.

Fiona and Salome (pictured top right) registered the kids as they showed up. Each child got a name tag to help them get to know each other (and for teachers to keep track of them). Then, Alice lead the kids in several songs to get rid of some energy and help get minds focused. Cindy and Shawnda did a puppet show for the kids centered around the main topic for the day: being thankful.

Salome and Leimawa cleared out the cobwebs and got minds working with memory work for the kids to learn. All this learning made the kids hungry, which is why Ruth was ready and waiting with the snacks.

The main lesson was presented by Shawnda centered around the 10 lepers and why we need to be thankful. Marina got the blood pumping again with a round of games for the kids, having a relay race and musical chairs reinforcing the need to be thankful. Kids were



able to color pictures (pics below) of things for which they were thankful.



In all, 24 kids were present for the monthly PBK program which lasted from 8 to noon on Saturday, August 29th. What a great way to reach out to the future of Vanuatu—its children. It was a great day! Until next month...





Above: Josephine and Shawnda at the women's fellowship in Vila. Josephine



Above: Ladies gather 'round to learn the secret marinade 'cooked up' by Cindy and



Above: The PBK kids enjoy the relay race as a great activity outside, enjoying the beautiful weather, while learning to be thankful. Thank you God for this great day!



Above: Nothing like singing some active songs to get the kids excited! Great job, Alice, with leading the songs. All the kids had fun learning to be thankful. They can't wait until next month!

Efate Island Women's Fellowship

Anyone hungry for chicken wings? I am! This month the women of Efate island (the island on which we live) organized a cookout. This was a planned event designed to 1) allow the women to gather together and encourage one another 2) allow a relaxed setting for women from different villages to get to know each other better, and 3) to teach the ladies a new style of cooking.

On Friday, August 21st, ladies from Emau, Epau, Eton, Etas and Vila gathered together to learn how to make "black hand chicken wings" - named for the color of your hands after you eat the wings. Cindy and Shawnda also taught the women how to make a chocolate cake. These simple recipes can be made by women from these remote villages because of the few ingredients involved.

Regardless of the recipe, all of the ladies were willing to eat whatever was in front of them as they enjoyed each other's company most of all. But, the wings weren't bad either. Loads of laughs, fun and teasing filled the air as the women had a blast.

The next women's day is scheduled to be a day at Eton beach in December. I'm sure few will want to miss the fun!



Truth Bible School (TBS)

By Aaron Baker

The seventh (out of eight) term of TBS classes began on August 18th. In this term of TBS classes, Mike Olson is teaching *Leadership*, while Aaron Baker is teaching *The Life of Christ*.

Lasting six weeks, these classes are geared to educate, strengthen and encourage local men and women to more faithful dedication and service to God.

Both topics have been well received thus far with average attendance hovering at 18 per class. Students have reading assignments, a mix of memory verses and quizzes, and they must maintain a clean and well-organized notebook.

Christians from Port Vila and Etas village come together every Tuesday and Thursday for classes from 6-8 pm. Some students barely finish work in time to get to classes and many don't eat dinner until after classes

are over. However, we are grateful for their dedication and we know that the Lord will bless them for their efforts.

While we will have to wait and see the long-term benefits from programs such as TBS classes, we know that students have worked hard and spent many hours away from their families in order to attend these classes. In addition to Christians, we also have many visitors who are coming to classes who are very interested in learning God's Word. We pray for Christians and visitors alike to grow in their knowledge, wisdom and application of God's Word. Please join us in praying for these TBS classes—for both teachers and students alike.

A Visit from Family

Todd and Jill Blackwell, from Kansas City, MO., had been wanting for years to come and visit us here in Vanuatu. That chance finally arrived on August 30th, when the Blackwells arrived in Vanuatu for a one week visit.

Jill is Cindy's sister, and they share a close bond, as only sisters can. In fact, it seems as though when they are together, the song, "Sisters...Sisters...there were never such devoted sisters" from the movie *White Christmas*, is playing somewhere in the background.

Being here for a week was a short amount of time, but we were busy with many activities. They were able to see Vila town, make laplap in Etas village, visit the Christians in several villages, and also have some time to go snorkeling in the ocean.

In all, the week was a blast—a tremendous encouragement to the whole team, especially the Baker family. Most importantly, it was a week where Cindy and Jill were able to reconnect and spend time with each other, enjoying their "sisterhood" and each other's company. What a great week of family, food and fun. Thanks for the visit Jill and Todd! Come again soon.



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

Climbing trees is one of the activities Titus most enjoys during our trips to the village. Marou Village is always exciting because he gets to "ride the boat to church," and Epau means he gets to run and play with his friend, Thomas. Both also provide the promise of laplap for lunch - Titus' favorite. He also enjoyed lots of "play dates" this month with several different friends (though the one that was supposed to take place *without* Mommy didn't fly).



Alexis Lynae Brandell

Lexi loves practicing her new trick of getting into boxes and baskets, as evidenced here. Her vocabulary is really beginning to grow, introducing "please eat" and "please drink" this month. She loves babies, and got to hold two different newborns this month - she was beaming! Lexi seems to be trying to condense down to one nap per day, but Mom and Dad are trying their best to convince her that two are better!



Kaela Sue Baker

The big event for Kaela was having her aunt Jill and uncle Todd visit. Kaela was pleased as pie to have her aunt and uncle come visit just so they could read her lots of books, build sand castles together, watch her ride her bike, and best of all...bring her gifts! One of Kaela's favorite things she received was a harmonica. She loves making music while dancing around the house. Who doesn't?



Melia Madelyn Baker

Melia also enjoyed having her aunt and uncle visit. Like Kaela, she loved having stories read to her. However, Melia's favorite activity was trying on all those shoes that Jill and Todd brought. Melia loves wearing any shoes that are lying around the house, and there were plenty to choose from. Oh Boy! Melia was so pleased that Jill and Todd brought her these shoes to try on, she took a yellow crayon and decorated their suitcases to show her appreciation. Thank you so much, Melia!



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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



New Team Picture

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

(Left side of picture)

Mike Olson

(Middle of picture)

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

(Right side of picture)