



Mission Vanuatu Minutes

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

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Special points of interest:

- Over 30 students attend PIBC classes in Eton and Vila
- TBS students in Epau enjoy Mike's Scheme of Redemption class
- Alsen, from Malekula Island, is the first person converted in his village

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Pacific Islands Bible College

By Mike Olson

Each year at some point we host teacher(s) who travel to Vanuatu to teach for the Pacific Islands Bible College (PIBC). This year was no exception as we had opportunity to hold classes in both Port Vila and in Eton village. Tom Bailey from Altus, OK came to teach the book of Romans and due to a cancellation, the school asked Mike Olson to teach the class on the Major Prophets. Tom was here back in 2006 teaching "Joshua to Esther" for PIBC, so he was familiar with the work to be done.

Tom and Mike started the day with a 45 minute trip to Eton village to run the courses for the locals. We were very pleased to have Christians not only from Eton, but also from Epau, Puanangisu, and Marou villages. Folks came from these villages and stayed the two weeks at Eddie Karris' house. Eddie is known for his "open door" policy for visitors and we thank him for his graciousness. Attendance in the village was very good as we averaged fifteen students. Most of them were long term PIBC students but there were also a few first timers. Tom started off each morning with the wonderful book of Romans and he was followed by Mike and the Major Prophets. Since Mike lives here in Vanuatu he was able to teach in the local Bislama language, giving the students an extra edge as most folks are good but not great with English. Each hour and a half class proved beneficial for the students. The locals are also very happy when teachers come from the States to help them in their Christian lives.

The Port Vila classes consisted of members from the Port Vila and Etas village congregations, as well as invited guests from the public. Our list of Bible correspondence students served as a vehicle for inviting interested students.

Classes ran as high as 17 down to about ten. We lost some students due to work and family problems but that is to be expected. The twelve who completed the classes and tests were treated to a terrific Romans class which opened their spiritual eyes in regard to salvation by faith as opposed to earning it by law keeping.

Tom is to be commended for his sacrifice and his hard work to come to Vanuatu and teach the students. Mike again taught in the local Bislama language giving the students a look into the historical and chronological setting, and the national circumstances with which the prophets dealt. Again the students profited greatly from the two weeks of classes and the Port Vila congregation has evangelistic contacts to follow up on.

The Pacific Island Bible College continues to be an integral part of Christian growth throughout the Pacific region. Our mission team will continue to work with them in the future to bring new souls into the Lord's kingdom and to strengthen those who have already entered in.



Above: Tom Bailey, from Altus, OK, made the book of Romans real for PIBC students.



Above: Mike Olson bringing the books of the Minor Prophets to life. Good Job!

Below: Kids, kids everywhere! Kids Bible Club in Vila saw 59 in attendance. Below the kids are awestruck by the puppet show.



Below: Salome (from Etas) works with the kids at PBK to practice and learn their memory verses. Women from Vila and Etas work together to corral, correct, teach, train, love and laugh with the kids to impart important Bible lessons. Adults and kids alike have a great time.



Below: Alsen, 24, is the first Christian in Tulwei village on the island of Malekula. His challenge is paramount now that he must worship each week, even if by himself. Please pray with us for Alsen's faithfulness and courage.



Truth Bible School (TBS)

By Mike Olson

As part of our ongoing efforts to teach and strengthen the brethren here in Vanuatu, we have been taking the Truth Bible School (TBS) show on the road to Epau village on Saturday mornings. Since it is too difficult for the village brethren to consistently come to Port Vila for the classes, we have been going to Epau, first stopping in Eton village to pick up folks who want to take the classes. My turn came starting in September for six Saturdays, finishing on the 17th of October.

Eton provided between four and seven students a week and Epau added another seven for a good turnout. I taught *The Scheme of Redemption*, however in Bislama it comes out as "God's plan to save man." This has fast become the class I emphasize the most. Folks in Vanuatu often times study and know some individual topics but are not familiar with the overall message of the Bible. I firmly believe that seeing the big picture brings the smaller pictures (individual topics) into better focus. This class also gives people a closer look at the Old Testament and its key figures like Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, and David.

During the time that Pacific Islands Bible College (PIBC) was running, the brethren and I were doing double duty. Five days a week for PIBC we had classes in Eton, then on Saturday, we all headed to Epau for TBS class. I asked the brethren originally if they wanted to do this or take a break during PIBC. How happy I was to hear that they wanted to continue with the classes on Saturdays.

I'm happy to say that everyone passed the class and learned much about God's plan to save man. I look forward to my next class.

Below: For 6 Saturdays in a row, this group of Christians from Eton and Epau gathered to study the *Scheme of Redemption*. They all studied hard to pass Mike's exam. Way to go!



The Church is Planted in Tulwei Village

By Eric Brandell

Flexon and I made our first trip to Malekula Island back in July. Many in Flexon's home village of Tulwei were interested in the lessons we presented then, and asked us to come back for more study as soon possible. We were able to return this month for a week of nightly public studies and one-on-one studies during the day.

We averaged about 15 adults each evening, and had over 30 on the final night. I was able to study with 4-5 indi-

viduals during the day while we were in Tulwei Village, and several of them show great potential for obedience to the gospel. Flexon and I enjoyed having over 20 visitors with us during our worship service on Sunday morning. We emphasized the simplicity of New Testament worship, and Flexon preached on "Following the Pattern." He did a great job on his sermon and throughout the entire week. I am amazed as I sit back and think about all the progress Flexon

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and Fiona have made since obeying the gospel only a few years ago. It was encouraging to once again work alongside this good brother.

It was evident that several gained a good understanding of sin and salvation during the studies, and we were grateful that one decided to obey the gospel. Alsen (Flexon's brother) was baptized into Christ for the forgiveness of his sins on Sunday afternoon after much study and counting the cost. Alsen is 24 years old, and he and his wife have a young daughter. Alsen was the Youth Leader for the Presbyterian Church, and knew that he would receive much grief if he were to leave that man-made church for the church of the Lord. This was a tough decision, and one that I respect him very much for making. Can

you imagine being the only Christian in your town? Worshiping by yourself every Lord's day in order to be obedient to the New Testament's teaching? Please be praying for Alsen, and the many others who are contemplating making the decision to follow Christ. I will be heading back to Tulwei Village in early December to strengthen Alsen and teach more lessons to those who are interested. Thank you all so much for your thoughts and prayers! And to God be the glory!



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 was so glad that "Mema and Papa came on the airplane" this month. They brought lots of goodies, including pirate toys! These went great with the "pirate driver" (playhouse with a ship steering wheel) Papa and Daddy built for Titus and Lexi in the yard. Everyone had fun reading, swinging, going to the beach and eating ice cream. Titus had another go at using the big-boy potty this month, and was successful a time or two. We're oft repeating the new mantra: no more diapers once you're three years old. Wish us luck!



Alexis Lynae Brandell

Lexi loved all the attention Mema and Papa were able to give her this month. It seems impossible, but she is even more vocal. She lets all her wants and wishes known ... loud and clear. We chuckle at the two local expressions she's picked up: [1] tsssst ... come! (motioning with her hand) and [2] mmm-mmm (while lifting her eye-brows), which means "yes" (though in America the sound means "no"). We joke that some day a boy will ask her to marry him and she'll say mmm-mmm meaning yes, but he'll interpret it as no.



Kaela Sue Baker

Even princesses need a break sometime. Kaela took a nap in the afternoon one day and Melia was thrilled to get to wake her sister up from her nap. "Wakey wakey little Bakey" we say whenever we wake up one of the girls at nap time.

Kaela has now started her last quarter of school for the year. She will officially graduate kindergarten in mid-December. First grade, here she comes!



Melia Madelyn Baker

Melia turned 2 years old on October 24th! Cindy made a wonderful cake that looked just like two ice cream cones. Even better than looking at the cake was eating it, YUM!

Melia is starting to string together words into sentences now and can finally jump, getting both feet off the ground. That's one small step for man, and one giant leap for Melia!



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Mission Vanuatu Minutes
A ministry of the
Columbine church of Christ
7453 S. Zephyr Ct
Littleton, CO 80128

Please send address changes and
inquiries to:
Kevin Fennelly
kfenn10987@msn.com

**Spreading the Gospel in
the South Pacific**

Columbine church of Christ
7453 S. Zephyr Ct.
Littleton, CO 80128

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)