



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:

- 6 come from US to work with team in Vanuatu
- Church is planted on Tanna Island with 8 baptisms

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Working Together

By Aaron Baker

A group of 6 members of the Lord's church from the United States came to Vanuatu from April 6th to 17th to help sew the seed of God's Word and help strengthen existing Christians.

From the congregation that oversees our mission work here in Vanuatu were Ron Patton, John Haney, Kevin and Ginny Fennelly, and Wayne Burger. Mike Green, evangelist from DuPont, WA, congregation also joined the crew to round out the number of campaigners to six.

With such a healthy number to boost our efforts here in Vanuatu, we split up the group and worked both on Tanna island and on Efate island (on which we live). Here are some details of our work:

Tanna: Apr. 8-13th



Ron, John, Mike and Wayne (pictured above) went with Mike Olson, Cindy, Kaela, Melia and I to Tanna. We were joined by Ni-Vanuatu Christians, Andrew, Leimawa and Patrick. This was my fifth trip to Tanna, but this US group's first. Our goal was to assist the Lorakau (pronounced Lor-a-cow) community with both physical and spiritual teachings.

During the days Ron and John taught at the village's Rural Training Center (similar to a Vo-Tech). Ron did a great job teaching the students about how so-

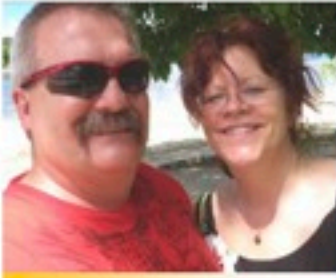
lar panels, electricity, and computers work. John focused on teaching many aspects of construction, everything from building houses, to reading blueprints and bidding jobs. The students at Lorakau loved having Ron and John enrich their regular program to include these topics. Classes during the day ran from 8 to 3:30pm with a two hour break for lunch.

In the evenings, Wayne and Mike led studies on the church. Wayne focused on pictures of the church, teaching that the church is the bride of Christ, called out of darkness and into daylight. Mike gave very practical lessons on how the people in Lorakau could start the church in their community. Following lessons by Wayne and Mike, we would have question and answer sessions led by myself, Mike Olson, Andrew and Patrick.

Working together to address physical and spiritual needs resulted in 8 people giving their lives to Christ in baptism! After many prayers, visiting trips, preaching and teaching, 8 souls dedicated their lives to Christ and committed themselves to worshipping as the church in Lorakau village. The church was planted in Lorakau (pic below)!



Below: Kevin and Ginny Fennelly were critical in helping to launch newly printed Bislama song books. Thanks guys!



Below: Kevin leads the Christians in Etas in a devotional before practicing singing out of the new Bislama song books.



Below: Eric leads singing in Etas village where the congregation is excited to test-drive the new songbooks.



Food, Fun and Fellowship

By Eric Brandell

While the other group was working in Tanna, we were glad that Kevin and Ginny Fennelly stayed on Efate to work with us (April 6-17th). We were able to accomplish a lot, and thoroughly enjoyed spending the week with this good couple. Kevin is the deacon in charge of missions at Columbine, and is a very active supporter of our work.

Kevin has been working with me to get the recently-published Bislama songbooks to Vanuatu. He shipped several before their trip and brought more in their luggage. With the books in hand, we were able to visit Epau, Eton and Etas villages to introduce them to the new songbooks.

We "made a day out of it" in Epau, allowing Kevin and Ginny to learn more about Vanuatu's culture. The local Christians taught them how to make laplap and weave a mat. After lunch, we sang from the new books and Kevin shared a devotional message. We enjoyed fellowship, food, fun and games with the brethren in Vila, Etas and Eton as well.

Another major project was painting the perimeter wall around the church ground in Vila. Kevin had overseen the provision of funds for this paint several months ago, and his willingness to help apply the paint as well was much appreciated. Kevin also accompanied me on a Bible study at the prison. Ginny got a good taste of mission life as she spent time with Shawnda, which twice included a walk through ankle-deep mud into the bush for a Bible study. We all four worked on various office projects, including seminar invitations and Bible

correspondence courses.

Both Kevin and Ginny did a great job adjusting to the climate and the culture. They mixed and mingled well with the locals, and never batted an eye when given an opportunity to experience something new. They were an encouragement to our family as we were once again reminded of their generosity and friendliness.



Above: Ginny and Shawnda working hard to make laplap. The ladies in Epau are eager to teach this skill to Ginny. Maybe Ginny will make some laplap for her family back in the States?

Below: Ginny and Kevin worked eagerly in any task they were given. Here they are stuffing envelopes to mail to Bible Correspondence Course students. It's hard work!



Unique Opportunities

By Aaron Baker

There are times in mission works when you are incredibly busy, and times when those opportunities are lacking. Whatever the case, when opportunities present themselves, you must seize them and do the best you can with what you have to work with.

Mike Olson took a unique opportunity in April to go to Tanna with Patrick Kasso. Mike and Patrick went to the White Sands area of Tanna to preach the Gospel where it has never been heard before. What an opportunity!

Another unique opportunity we were able to take advantage of was that while in Tanna, we publicly preached in the local market. With over 200 people sitting down selling produce and hundreds more wandering in and out of the market, this proved to be a very beneficial way to get the Gospel message to ea-

ger listeners. In fact, during the time when Mike Green and Aaron were preaching, several people came up to Andrew and were asking questions seeking to learn more.

After preaching to the public for two hours, we were humbled when at the end of the program several ladies at the market brought handfuls (right) of produce as a "thank you" to us for sharing the gospel with them. It truly was a humbling experience.



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 received a drawing from his friend, Noah. The two of them haven't met yet, but look forward to doing so in July while we're on furlough in the States. Titus is now doing especially well during worship, and loves playing with the kids before and after. He loved all the extra attention from the campaign group, and said, "dad, I don't want our friends to leave" when we took them to the airport.



Alexis Lynae Brandell

Alexis enjoyed looking for Easter eggs in the front yard this month. But having friends visit from the States was waaaay more fun. She loved having Ron and John stay at our house while they were here, because they were always happy to give her some attention. Lexi's new skill this month is jumping (she learned from Titus) - her official hang time is .002 seconds!



Kaela Sue Baker

Kaela and Melia pose for their Easter picture. Kaela had a great month. She finished her first term of school, she went to Tanna with Mom and Dad and Sis, and went horseback riding for Dad's birthday. What fun!

Kaela loved the visitors from the USA. She got lots of attention and really felt she was the star of the show. She loved spending time with "Grandpa Wayne" and got lots of lap time.

Melia Madelyn Baker

Melia was a free spirit in Tanna. She could walk, do and eat anything she wanted in Tanna. As you can see, she felt right at home bathing out (or in) of a bucket. She loved playing with the kids in Tanna and made lots of friends. Best of all, she did all of this by Mom and Dad's side.



Mission Vanuatu Campaign Group Pictures



Above: John Haney, Mike Green, Cindy, Melia, Kaela, Wayne and Ron enjoy their time in Tanna working to plant the church where it did not exist.



Above: Ron Patton shows what the inside of a computer looks like. Later, the students will show Ron what the inside of a chicken looks like. That's a fair trade, right?



Above: 8 people get ready to put on Christ in baptism in the exact location where over 100 years ago the first missionaries came ashore on Tanna island.

Below: with over 200 people selling produce at the market, Mike Green, Aaron and Andrew sow the seed in the town of Lenakel, on Tanna island.



Left: Though we speak the trade language of Bislama, in areas like Tanna many speak only the custom languages. Andrew translates our words from English and Bislama into the local language while preaching at the local market in Lenakel. Good job Andrew!



Above: How many people can you fit in the back of a truck in Vanuatu? Answer: One more. Cindy, Kaela and Melia did great on our 5 day trip to Tanna. Melia even likes laplap.



Above: Ginny Fennelly enjoys spending time with the kids while on Efate island. We were so proud of Ginny's willingness to jump right into the work whenever asked.



Above: Moses helps paint the wall for the Vila congregation. It's hard work, but worth the effort. Thanks Moses!



Above: How many Christians does it take to plug in an extension cord? Evidently, a lot! Eric prepares for singing with the new song books with church members in Eton.



Left: Cindy mingles with people from Lorakau village. One of her favorites is Lija (lee-jah). Can't you tell?

Right: Mike talks with Willie about spiritual matters on our Tanna campaign. Willie enjoys studying and wants to learn.



**A newsletter published by
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* Mike Olson**

**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



**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)