

Levy Legends

February 2013

Greetings again from Santo, Vanuatu. We are so grateful for our time in New Zealand and really appreciated catching up with many of you and for those who helped us while we were home. We travelled lots (from Northland to Nelson) and reconnected with many people and places.



After our hurried departure (there's always too much to do at the last moment), we enjoyed a couple of weeks lead-up to the academic year here, including time to prepare classes, fix a generator, and a chainsaw, reorganise the garden with new raised beds, fix the CD player from which the cockroaches ate a crucial part and focus on the kids' school work at home. Gracie is now reading almost fluently, and Davie is reading the gospel of Mark, one chapter and he gets 50 vatu (about 70c).



God has been gracious in that nothing is missing from our line up of tools, our housegirl and her husband were very diligent in looking after our place, and Joshie has already been out there to the island for his first weekend sojourn. They have missed him and couldn't wait to have him visit again. There is a lot of goodwill here at present among the new students and staff, despite the challenges of finance, rust and pigs in the gardens. We too have fought off an array of sores, fungus and bugs, and are losing weight as we go for daily bike rides and walks. I am praying about my knee which is recovering from a bruise when falling on concrete, riding skateboards with the kids in Auckland.

Orientation at College was well managed and staff and students gave some very heart felt testimonies to each other. We hope that momentum develops. Yesterday some new diploma students came to the door to charge a laptop, and I mentioned that Momma Paula was sick with "sore bell", so they came back later in the day with 8 nicely prepared coconuts for her to drink. I am a little bit jealous of her; she lost 3 kg in 3 days, but what a way to do it! I am losing it more slowly, partly because it is so hot I don't feel like eating so much. Nevertheless, being back in the land of tropical food, I am absolutely delighted with roast breadfruit cooked in coconut milk, fried apple banana, and French toast made with our home grown eggs. The Hens have been responding to our daily pot of boiled peelings and rice, plus their layer pellets. We sell about 10 eggs a day now, and could easily sell 30 if we had the layers. They are very tame and we let them out every morning to forage in the garden, some of them even try to venture inside the house to see what we are up to! Other people are showing interest in raising chickens also.

Actual classes for Paula are in the third week now so I need to handle the kids home schooling from Wednesday to Friday. I think I need to ask for prayer on this one as although I like teaching, sometimes I get bored or sleepy (its very hot) or I find an excuse to go off and do something else. There is always something to go and do or fix! I think I have made a good start with school but keep praying for me on this one. I do get immense satisfaction when I have fixed some otherwise broken thing. Anything from the breadmaker, CD player, lawnmower and the one I have spent the most time on the chainsaw. Finally it is working and I have way more requests for things to cut with it than I can possibly do - from clearing dead trees to cutting tree rings for firewood for the 150 people who cook on open fires and cut poles for cookhouses and raised gardens.



We are currently working on preparations for a small team to visit in April to assist with the completion of the Preschool. Chartwell church from Hamilton is sending three men along with Joshua Spenser, a young qualified plumber from Palmerston North, who will stay on to help the school in other areas as well. We are also working on plans to form a small group of Fathers with their sons from New Zealand, coming to visit Morkarr and run a small mission there. I have approached several men in Palmerston North interested in this possibility. In other plans, the mission school is underway down at Navota Farm. Pastor Tony Wan (NZ Korean pastor missionary) and Ps Alfred from Santo are running it, with 15 new students and a large group

of mission workers now up in the bush villages. I hope both to teach some bible subjects there and visit some of the new villages that are opening up to the gospel. I will need to be fit again for this, the mountain trails are steep. My special village is Morkarr (more-carr) where I attended their first church service last October with Joshie and David.

We have helped with a surprising range of medical issues in the last few weeks and are very grateful for the medical supplies we get through MAA (Medical Assistance Abroad) – we have helped with coral cuts, knife wounds, starfish stings, pulled muscles and conjunctivitis.

Josh is shy but definitely likes to have a good time, swimming, playing and chatting with his little friends here. His girl friend is Dorothy from Tanna, a year older than he and just as cheeky. He also likes Irene, our 9 year old neighbour who lost her Mum last year. He often goes over there in the morning to see how she is and take her something special like a piece of toast or to ask if she is going to school today. All the new students at Talua are fascinated by his fluent Bislama.

David and Grace have settled back in well. They are finding the local school more challenging with the amount of writing to do (copying from the board). Grace loves being back with her best friend Irene and David spends spare time reading or boogie boarding with friends at the beach. Last week we had a public holiday so took our children plus two extras to the waterfall and then swam down the river to the sea. It was a tiring 4 hour round trip but beautiful. The most fascinating thing was that it must be the time when the crabs have all laid their eggs and all the rocks were literally moving with tiny crabs – millions of them.



Thanks again for your prayers and support. We feel we have settled in well and are working hard to both serve well and take breaks when needed. The range and amount of requests for help can be overwhelming at times. We are trying to help where we can and graciously say no when we can't

Roger, Paula, David, Grace and Joshua



New Zealand Moments



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