

TOK TOK

September
2008

HOT OFF THE PRESS

"News from Tanna"

Pastor Jeffed has recently announced that they've had four baptisms in four weeks in Tanna.

Also, in recent months, the Revival Fellowship has financially assisted the fellowship in Tanna to set up a shop. The shop is going well and is successfully providing extra funds for Tanna.

Is Baptism Vital for Salvation?

For years, the world has debated if baptism is needed, and if so, then how to baptize. Recently there were baptisms in Santo and Port Vila. But what for?

I used to think baptism was a symbol of dying to our sins by being symbolically buried with Jesus. But I was wrong. It is not a symbolic death at all.

ACTS 2:38 "Repent, be baptized in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of and release from your sins; and you shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

When we repent, is it a literal or symbolic repentance? Literal.

When we receive the Holy Ghost, is it literal or symbolic? Literal.

When we speak in tongues, is it literal or symbolic? Literal.

ROMANS 6 "(5) we have become one with Him by sharing a death like His... (7) For when a man dies he is freed – loosed, delivered - from the power of sin...(11) consider yourselves dead to sin and your relation to it broken..." (see also HEBREWS 9 and 10)

Therefore, it's only logical to conclude that baptism is not symbolic. When you get baptized

you are literally saying, "I am ending my old life – it's literally dead and buried - and I'm literally dedicated to living a new life that follows the Will of God."

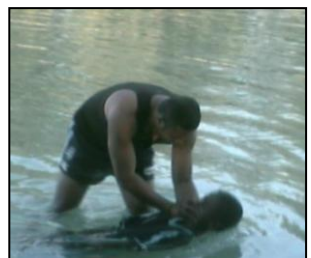
This also explains why it is so important to receive the gift of the Holy Ghost: to be Born Again. It's useless to get baptized (to die) and then do nothing.

As described in MATTHEW 9:17 "New wine is not put in old bottles, or else the bottles will break and the wine will run out; but new wine is put in new bottles." You are the bottle. Being baptized is like being a new bottle. But if you never then add new wine (the Holy Ghost), you are just a new but empty bottle.

Life with the Lord is so blessed, why would anyone want to go back to their old life by digging up their stinky, rotting corpse? Let the dead stay dead - walk on in the newness of life (ROMANS 6:4). Peter encourages Christians not to get tangled up again in the world. He describes it as a dog returning to its vomit. He also says that when a Christian returns to his/her old life, it is worse for the person than before s/he became a Christian (II PETER 2:20-22)

Instead, each person must finish the race that s/he has started.

Photos by: Beck & Benson



*How to baptize? That's obvious once you understand the reason why you need to get baptised.
Full immersion baptism is the only way because you are BURYING your old life (and not just covering it with a bit of water).*

Vanuatu Revival Fellowship

Close-up Green Light Nakamal
Seaside, Port Vila
Every Sunday 09:00am

Contact Ps Errol on +678 7744898



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Bonding Day

In June, the young people organized a Bonding Day. Andy and Flora explain more.



Photo by: Beck

Why did you plan a Bonding Day?

Andy: So our youth can bond more and become stronger in the Lord.

Flora: To let young people know that the Lord really loves them and has a calling for them; so they have an opportunity to show their talent and who they are in this life.

What activities were there?

F&A: We had sports, swimming, we prayed and studied the word of God to encourage each other and sang choruses.

We had a BBQ and the youth cooked lunch for everyone.

Everyone was invited but it was mainly for the youth. The older people enjoyed themselves too.

Why is it important for the church to work closely together?

A: So we can have a strong foundation.

F: To bear each other's burdens.

A: So we can help each other to build ourselves up. If we have problems and need help, we can go to someone in the Lord.

F: So we can come together to help each other and see what Christian lives have in common.

Do you have any plans for more activities in the future?

A&F: Yes!

A: But not all the same kinds...but different types of activities, such as singing, praying together, and sometimes just doing something social together.

F: We also plan to go for a trip to the islands to share God's life with the young people.

Ron's Testimony

"I tried to stop the pain through alcohol, smoking and drugs"



I grew up in a Christian home from the time that I was born, so I knew about Jesus and His life from an early age.

While I was growing up my dad was a pastor in one of the Vanuatu churches. He travelled a lot and visited all of the islands. During the time that he was travelling, I didn't go to school. Consequently, my education level wasn't good and I had trouble reading and writing.

I started to feel anger in my heart towards my dad. Every other child went to school except I stayed at home. I started worrying so much that I tried to stop the pain through alcohol, smoking and drugs.

My parents talked to me about Jesus and told me that I had to repent and change my lifestyle. I told them that I already had Jesus in my life.

But I still kept smoking and doing all of the other things that Jesus didn't like, that He didn't want me to do.

I was 18 at that time and I was also worried about my future. I thought that if I didn't have an education, then I wouldn't get a job and wouldn't get married or have children one day.

But one day, when I was 23, I found a true life inside one of the ministries in Port Vila – the Revival Fellowship. The Revival Fellowship church told me to trust

Jesus and to trust His Holy Spirit. My parents had also joined the Revival Fellowship and I could see that they were happier.

I was baptized before in the other church and they explained to me about the Holy Spirit and I even thought I spoke in tongues. But at this church it was different. I can really feel that Jesus is in my life. I got baptized again and really knew that I spoke in tongues (in a foreign language).

Now the Holy Spirit helps me. Now I know how to read and write. I have a good job, and am the best man there. I also have a beautiful girlfriend. God is good.

Children's Day

Our fellowship celebrated Children's Day on the 29th of July, and what a fantastic day it turned out to be!

The kids performed 5 very entertaining items that they practiced for 2 months prior. They wore island dresses and shirts made from the same material and all looked very smart.

The fellowship raised 25,000vt for the big day by selling Sunday lunches for 2 months and selling linen and towels donated by the brethren in Canberra.

This money paid for the children's Gift Bags which were packed with all kinds of goodies like notebooks, pens, games, treats, a toothbrush and toothpaste. It also covered prizes for games and contributed to the bunia which was devoured at lunch time.

A special thanks needs to go out to all the sisters that stayed up until midnight the night before to prepare the bunia that was enjoyed by everyone.

The whole fellowship stayed on after lunch and participated in the games. One of the highlights was the children and adults taking turns to be blindfolded. They were then given a pair of scissors, turned around a few times and had to find their own way to a long rope with strings of lollies hanging from them. A very funny time for us all.

I really love that Vanuatu has a special public holiday for children. It is a real chance for us to show them how we feel about them. Unlike Christmas and birthdays, it's their own unique day where they are celebrated just for being kids.

We all enjoyed Children's day tremendously and more importantly, our children felt very special and very loved, which of course was the whole point. Praise the Lord for our precious children.

- Written by Beck (Port Vila)



ABOVE: Big pikinini trying to pick up fruit from a bowl of water with his teeth. **BELOW:** Small pikinini showing the Pastor how it's really done.



11 Day Challenge

It has recently been discussed at church that the Israelites took 40 years to make an 11-day journey.

None of the males that came from Egypt from 20 years upward made it into the Promised Land (except Joshua and Caleb) (NUMBERS 32).

This is because their attitudes weren't right. Check your own attitude through this 11 Day Challenge.

Achieve the following goals every day for the next 11 days:

GOAL 1: Live by MATTHEW 6:33, 34 "Seek (*aim at and strive after*) ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness (*way of doing and being right*)..."

GOAL 2: Implement ECCLESIASTES 12:13 "Fear God, and keep His commandments for this our whole duty (*full original purpose of His creation, the root of all happiness, the reason for all disharmonies under the sun, the object of God's providence*)."

GOAL 3: Do the work required of you. JOHN 6:29 "This is the work (*service*) that God asks of you, that you believe (*cleave to, trust, rely on and have faith in*) in the One Whom He has sent (*Jesus*)."

GOAL 4: Jesus is life (JOHN 11:25). Eat from the bread of life daily (JOHN 6:33).

GOAL 5: Get your priorities straight. "Love the Lord your God with all of your heart, soul and mind. Secondly, love your neighbor as you also love yourself" (MATTHEW 22:36-40).

Then...continue repeating the 11 day challenge until God calls you home.

(Note: Words in italics are from the Amplified bible)

Death of a Friend

The recent death of a friend always gets a person thinking.

This friend was a wonderful woman who will be sadly missed. She helped many people, had a kind heart, and always thought of others.

But the saddest thing is that she never chose to follow God's way.

There is only one way into the kingdom of God. Don't be deceived into thinking that all paths lead to God. They don't.

Jesus says that you must be Born Again (refer to May newsletter). The bible is full of scriptures that explain this.

Some say, *"I will get into Heaven because I do a lot of good things and never hurt anyone."* Wrong!! You cannot earn your salvation.

Others say, *"I don't have time to follow God properly but I do pray, and for God that's good enough."* Wrong!!

If it's truly our goal to follow God then we must do it with our whole heart, mind and soul, and to love our neighbor as we love ourselves (MATTHEW 22).

At church there has been much discussion on walking right with God. One day God will say to you, "Thy soul shall be required of thee." (LUKE 12:20).

After you have been born

again, that's not the end – it's just the start. We need to be led by the Spirit every single day. It's not enough just to speak in tongues (1 CORINTHIANS 13:1). If we walk in the Spirit we will show the fruit of the Spirit (GALATIANS 5).

We must stay humble and acknowledge God as our Master. We must live with fire in our hearts, mind and soul. Anything less is dangerous (REVELATION 3: 15, 16).

JOKE: Points?

On judgment day, a man is met at the gates of heaven. A heavenly being says to him, "To enter into heaven you need 100 points. Tell me about your life."

"I was married to the same woman for 50 years and never thought about another woman," the man said.

"3 points."

"I was actively involved in church all my life."

"3 more points."

"3!!! I also started a program to feed the poor!" said the man.

"Another 3 points."

"3 POINTS!!" the man cries. "At this rate the only way I'll get into heaven is by the grace of God!"

"Now you're on the right track" said the heavenly being.

Q&A – Real Answers to Real Questions

Question: Why does God allow bad things to happen on the earth?

Let's go to God's Word and find the answer.

GENESIS 1:26 "God said, Let us make man in our image, after our likeness." God gave man dominion over all the earth, and over every creeping thing.

2:7 "And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul."

v15 "And the LORD God took the man, and put him into the garden of Eden to dress it and to keep it."

v16, 17 God commanded

them that they could eat freely of every tree but not from the Tree of the Knowledge of Good and Evil or else they'll die.

But man allowed the serpent to trick them, and they did eat of the tree. As a result, the Lord God sent them out from the Garden of Eden and away from the Tree of Life. And the consequence was death as God warned them.

We know that God loves us. God gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life (JOHN 3:16).

God created us to have a purpose, to rule and have

dominion over everything. But as a living soul, we have three things: knowledge, feelings and will. We know and feel what is good and what is bad. And we have a choice to live in whatever we choose.

God never allows us to have a problem that will lead us away from Him. Man chooses to disobey God's commandment.

When you are a baby everything is good around you, but when you grow up you start to understand things. You have access and the right to enjoy all good things that the Lord has freely given. But if mankind turns away from the Lord, they will face the consequences. Then who can you blame? Can you blame God? Absolutely not.

-Written by J. Benson (Port Vila)

Welcome to the World

On 27/6/08 Sandriana (Janita) came into the world. May your life be filled with blessings and joy.

Sandriana is Sarah's first child and the new family member of Leipakoa, Annie, Janet, Shanika, John (Jack), Peter, Sandy Albert, Bonny and Mal.



News from Santo

Ambassador

Ps. Rouvonne Willie, in Santo, recently delivered a talk about being an Ambassador for the Lord.

Following is a copy of some of the main points of the talk.

INTRODUCTION:

Ambassador hemi wan Officer we i work long behaf blo contry blong hem long wan forein country.

We are Ambassadors of Christ: 2 COR 5:20

(1) Who i appointem wan ambassador ?

Ambassador hemi no appointem hem one, Ambassador hemi mas appointed by his/her Government. 2 COR 5:18-20 Heaven (Jesus Christ) hemi appointem yu and me.

(2) Ambassador, government blong country blo hem, I supplyem every samthing we hemi needim.

EPH 1:3, PHIL 4:19. God will supply our needs.

(3) Ambassador, Hemi citizen blo country blo hem, not lo foreign Country we hemi wok lo hem.

PHIL 3:20 our citizenship is of God's Kingdom.

(4) Ambassador, Hemi mas go out wetem wan written form, we Government I signem blo work follem.

2 Timothy 3:16 We have a written form (bible) to follow.

(5) Ambassador, Taime hemi karem insult, against hem, hemi

save se hemia oli no mekem lo hem, be oli mekem long Government mo country blong hem.

JOHN 15:19-21 No mas tekem i personally taim yumi harem no good. World ia oli mas hatem yumi.

(6) Ambassador, Hemi no enter lo wan Country from personal intress blo hem

2 COR 5:15 we are on the earth to serve the Lord and him alone.

(7) AMBASSADOR hemi Representem wan brother of sister blo hem, taime oli kam lo foreign country ia hemi mas helpem olgeta.

JOHN 13:35, 17:23 Love

one other as I love you.

(8) Ambassador, Hemi work mo expectem wan reward long end blo day. MATT 5:12, 2 John, Rev: 22:12

We are commissioned for service and after we will be rewarded.

CONCLUSION :

This post hemi wan high post, sapos you dissarem you save contactem mi lo no **7774807** or kam look mi long adress ia:

Vanuatu Revival Fellowship, Mango Station, Luganville, Santo

or you we you risivim finis but you care less long hem, kam receivim wan pray, blo anointing ia I kambak lo you bakeken.

Recent Blessings in Santo

(1) Denise: From Nabauk (santo Bush Village)

Woman ia hemi over manis blo bornem baby.

Doctor hemi ready blong operatem hem.

Before operation igo hemi, askem lo Doctor few hours blo kam look Revival Church.

After Pastor pray blo hem, God Hemi helim hem. Hemi easily bornem bay blo hem, without operation.

(2) Alberting: From Vao (Malekula)

Woman ia hemi always experiencem baby i death lo belt taim blong birth.

Tekem ship lo Vao from healing long Revival Church, God i healim hem after pray blong hem. Birth blo babi blo hemi totally differant than before.

God, Hemi God of possibility.



The Santo Fellowship give glory and honour to God Almighty always.

They would also like to thank Pr Bob and all the brothers and sisters from Australia for their physical and spiritual assistance. Thanks too to Pr Errol and Br Benson and every member of Port Vila Revival Fellowship for their prayers and support to the Santo Fellowship.