

HOW DID ~~YOUR~~ **OUR** TRIP TO VANUATU GO?



I'm glad you asked! I can't wait to tell you about **OUR** adventure! It started out before I even boarded the first of two airplanes that took me to the island of Espiritu Santo. And well before my travelling companion – Don Mansfield – and I crammed our 101 kilograms (223 pounds) of luggage and materials and our American sized bodies into a tiny taxi (think VW bug) that transported us for an hour over the bumpy, pot hole-filled dirt road to Talua Ministry Training Centre, where all the pastors and mission workers for the country are trained.

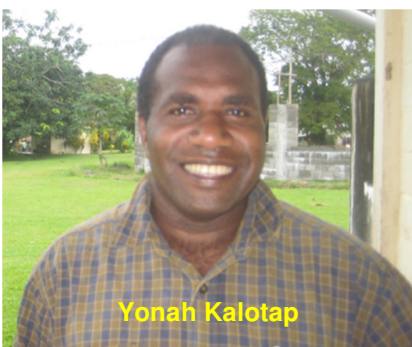
It started a couple weeks earlier when a Korean speaker had addressed the staff and students about the serious 10% decline per year in church membership that has been happening in the country over the past three years. They were shaken up and looking for a way to turn the situation around. That's why the director of Talua cancelled all other classes and activities during the week and made it mandatory that every student, faculty member, and administrative staff member, attend **OUR** training on how to lead people to faith in Christ and follow them up. **I wonder if God orchestrated this because of a prayer that you prayed.**



Teaching 80 Students



The daily schedule was brutal. Each morning began at 5:00 when a student banged 32 times on a large bell to wake up everyone to have a devotional time with the Lord. Talua is so far into the bush that there is no electricity, except for 3 hours each evening when a large generator is run. After shaving by the glow of a flashlight, taking a cold shower, and eating a quick breakfast, I joined everyone on campus at 7:00 to hear a devotional message in the Bislama language. This was followed by Don and me teaching three, hour-long sessions on how to effectively communicate the Gospel to people and follow up new believers. After lunch, we would pile into the back of an open pick-up truck to be transported (often in the rain) to a village, high school, market, or the branch campus of the University of the South Pacific (USP), to meet people and tell them about Jesus. After a couple hours of witnessing, the trucks returned us to Talua at dusk to eat dinner. At 7:00 everyone assembled for another 1.5 hour session to share and rejoice about what God had accomplished in the lives of people during the day. At 9:00 the generator would go silent and the campus would be plunged into darkness. It was time to fall into bed, weary, yet excited over the dramatic stories of the power of God to transform lives.



Yonah Kalotap

On the first day of outreach, I went witnessing with Yonah as my partner. While I explained the Gospel to a university student named Wilford, Yonah shared with another student. Both of these young men invited Christ into their lives. We walked across the street from the university to a Youth Center. I approached two boys and asked if they wanted me to explain the Gospel to them. As I began, eight others joined in. When I read a prayer of invitation to receive Christ, at least seven of the boys prayed out loud to commit their lives to Christ. **Your prayers and financial support made that possible!**

Yonah and I returned to the university and the Youth Center the next day to do follow-up. The previous day, Jack, the director of the center, told me they were constructing a new hut to serve as a video room where young people could come in to watch films. I gave Jack a DVD of the JESUS film in multiple languages. Within minutes Jack was watching JESUS in the Bislama language and others filtered in to see this quality film in their native language. I expect that hundreds of young people will hear the Gospel as JESUS becomes a valuable part of their video library. **You are having an impact on the youth in Luganville, Vanuatu!**



Sheila George received permission to miss a witnessing day in order to plan out an upcoming Palm Sunday service. When the person she was to plan with didn't show up on time, Sheila decided to go witnessing anyway. She walked up the road to the Tata Secondary School and found three mothers. She shared the Gospel and led all three to faith in Christ. Then she walked into a classroom of 20 girls. Sheila shared the Gospel with them and all twenty invited Christ into their lives. Sheila's first time witnessing resulted in 23 people coming to faith in Christ. Sheila wants to join Campus Crusade staff when she graduates from Talua to do evangelistic ministry full time. **You had a part in what God did in the life of Sheila!**

Don Mansfield led a university student named Harrison to faith in Christ. As Don was sharing about the experience back at Talua, a faculty member sitting next to me said, "This is amazing. Harrison's father is an elder of a church. I just met with him yesterday and we prayed together for Harrison that somehow he would hear the Gospel and come to Christ." Isn't it exciting how God put that together?! **You also had a part!**



On one outreach day I went witnessing in the Narano village on the top of a mountain, with a young student named Merven as my partner. We went from hut to hut sharing the Gospel with anyone we could find. Most villagers only speak Bislama, so Merven had to do most of the talking. In a short time we presented the Gospel to ten people. Nine of them, including two 3-member families, came to faith in



Christ. Merven is very excited about evangelism and wants to join our staff. **You had a part in Merven's life.**

A Talua student named Jonah shared about one of his witnessing experiences. He presented the Gospel to some people in a village who came to Christ. He noticed that one man - Vanua - stood watching him, but not participating. Jonah learned that Vanua was deaf. Jonah decided not to let this disability hinder Vanua from hearing the Gospel. He took Vanua aside and slowly translated the English text of the Four Spiritual Laws booklet into Bislama and mouthed each word carefully so that Vanua could read his lips. He had Vanua repeat back to him in Bislama what he thought was being said to him. After painstakingly working his way all the way through the Gospel message, Vanua prayed to invite Christ into his life - one word at a time. **Isn't it exciting how God used you to play a part in a deaf man hearing the Gospel in Vanuatu?**



I had the opportunity to meet a maintenance man at USP named Nicholas on my last afternoon of witnessing. Nicholas understood the Gospel as I presented it and placed his faith in Jesus. Like many others we met, Nicholas told me that no one had ever taken the time to explain the Gospel to him before. **You helped take the Gospel to Nicholas!**



During the first four days of outreach, we were only able to spend about 10 actual hours of witnessing. Yet God enabled us to present the Gospel to 487 people, with 310 of them indicating that they were trusting Christ to come into their lives for the first time. The harvest fields in Vanuatu are white unto harvest. **Thank you for letting me represent you in the fields.** Please pray for the students of Talua as they continue to bring in the crop. It has been a good season!

In Christ,

Don

Don & Melanie Roths
 91 Pemberton Ave * Bayview, North Shore City 0629 * New Zealand
 don.roths@ccci.org * melanie.roths@ccci.org * (64)(9) 444-1361