

Teaching and Serving in Vanuatu

Thank you so much!

January 28th, 2014

Dear family and friends,

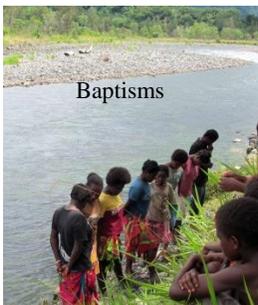
First off, words cannot express my gratitude to you for being a part of my journey to Vanuatu! I appreciate your support through prayer! I am so blessed you are in my life! *I will sing unto the LORD, because he hath dealt bountifully with me* (Ps. 13:6). God is so good and faithful.

It was a joy to serve alongside my friends and also new-found friends. The ten weeks flew by! The people, culture, and everything about Vanuatu captured my heart. I fully immersed myself in the culture and loved every minute of my time there.

My student teaching placement at Ban Ban Primary School was an amazing experience. I enjoyed working with my cooperating teacher, Leiwia, and rest of the staff of Ban Ban. I felt very welcomed and included, like I was part of the family! I



loved all fifty of my third graders and would not have traded them for the world. Teaching fifty students was definitely a challenge but rewarding. What made a difference was praying for my students each morning. I wanted to start the day off right. I wanted to be a light for Christ in and outside my classroom. I shared Christ's love through my actions and words such as praising them, remembering all their names, and simply giving them a warm smile. The students shared their aspirations and dreams and I encouraged them to work hard and pursue these. Some of them came from broken homes and some received absolutely no support to succeed. I definitely miss their sweet smiles and energy. I am beyond grateful and blessed for the opportunity to student teach at Ban Ban.



Baptisms

I had the opportunity to experience the jungle for a couple of days in November. We traveled by truck to Big Bay which is about a 3 hour drive north on a bumpy dirt road crossing two large rivers. We stayed at the Bible college camp in Big Bay. Dinner was cooked over an open fire. Next morning, we hiked to a village for a new church opening. It was about a 20 minute hike of constant steep hills. I definitely enjoyed it! I loved the scenery while walking through the jungle. The church opening ceremony was wonderful with at least 80 people there. The people from the village cooked a delicious lunch for us! After lunch, we hiked to the Jordan River (not the one in Israel) for 9 baptisms! It was a joy to see fellow brothers and sisters in Christ following God.

Ministries I was involved in:

- Youth group activities; shared my testimony
- Christmas program at church
- Church women's meeting & Sunday school class
- Friday Bible Club – 10 accepted Christ!
- Wednesday Night Prayer Meeting at Pepsi

One of my highlights every week was going to Wednesday night prayer meeting at a village called Pepsi. Each Wednesday, about 30 Ni-Vans (children and adults) filled a small room with one dim light. They became like family to me and I loved worshipping and praying with them. On my last day, they gave me a farewell traditional dinner and hand-crafted gifts. Their love, hospitality, sweet and gentle spirit and heart for the Lord made it hard to say good-bye to them.

It is true, when we delight ourselves in the Lord, He will give us the desires of our heart (Ps. 37:4). It has been a desire of mine to serve in Vanuatu for years and I am thankful God made it happen! Thank YOU for making it possible as well!

All for His glory,

Jenn Yu

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