

# WHAT'S UP WITH THE WIDUPS?

NOVEMBER 2017



## Year in Review

*The most significant events of this year—in our family our ministry and our mission field—were a mixture of ups and downs, but we trust that God will turn it ALL for His glory and our good. We pray that for you, too, 2017 was full of growth and grace!*



Nabanga construction



Nico and family

**Jan/Feb**— Exterior construction of Nabanga Skul's 1st/2nd classroom; former Ni-Van teammate, Nico, his wife and baby came to visit; a family trip to Fiji to renew our kids' expired US passports.

**March/April**— Christina had to be flown to Australia for neck surgery to replace a ruptured disc; Bill went to assist in getting her treatment and the older kids, plus Tony and the Whites, kept ministry going; storage/work area built in the Mission House yard.



Sierra, far left, leading a teacher workshop

**May/June**— Cyclone Donna; Maxwell's 10th birthday; Bill facilitated a work team to renovate village home for translation colleagues, the Pikes; Gramms visited from Australia and helped with Kindi Day; our teammates, the Whites, went back to USA for healing of past hurts.



Mikaela and Keegan

returned from NZ with newborn son, Keegan; day trip to a village on Santo where we gave Smol Kristina her first birthday cake (age 6); Sierra Swets (USA) spent 6+ weeks helping us, sharing her love for God, music and having fun.

**July/Aug**—Mikaela celebrated her h.s. graduation with a trip to Sydney; Liliords



Hagen & Grammy visit Pikes with us

**Sept/Oct/Nov**—Chris Carr and Danny S. made a quick visit to teach and encourage Grace Fellowship and local men; Christina's mom had 3-week visit; and recent h.s. graduate Hagen Wilbanks came for 8 weeks, becoming a much-loved part of our field team; we took her by small plane to experience life with friends on remote Gaua Island; helped evacuees from Ambae Island (see insert next page).



Christina with Smol Kristina's family by their kitchen



Flight to Gaua

# PRAYER POINTS

## Bible Translation

Praise God that the Pikes, Smiths and Richards/Thuleson families have been able to live in their villages and work hard on translation in their respective language groups this year; praise for Dieringers, a new family who wants to assist Smiths with literacy and Scripture use on Mota Lava Island.

### Pray for

- Renewed energy and funding for the Pikes, now on furlough in Aus, and for the Smiths, who will start furlough in USA early next year
- God to bring more, committed linguist missionaries to translate the 60+ languages still needing Scripture to be voiced *clearly!*

## Team Ministry

Praise God for an almost-complete school year at Nabanga Kindi. Praise for the visitors who came the past three months: Chris and Danny from Iowa, Pat from Indiana, and Hagen from Missouri—they've all been a help in various aspects of ministry. Praise, too for a recent trip to a remote village on another island where we've been building relationships over a decade now.

### Pray for

- Completion of the 1st/2nd grade classroom at Nabanga during the break before next school year begins in February
- A willing teacher to volunteer as a teacher-trainer for the future local 1st/2nd grade class, alongside Maxine at Nabanga Christian School (*email us for more info*)

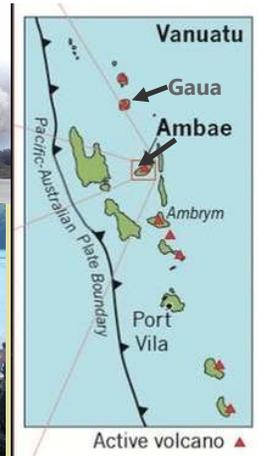


## Personal

Praise that Christina is back to full health, and for a fun visit with Grammy. The boys had a blast “going bush” on Gaua. We are excited that Marcus is coming soon to spend 3+ months with us!

### Pray for

- Our marriage to keep growing stronger and more Christ-like
- Wisdom and resources to get Mikaela into university courses next Aug.



## VOLCANO ON AMBAE

There are active volcanos on several islands in Vanuatu, as shown above. The one due east of where we live on Espiritu Santo, suddenly increased its activity in September, leading to the evacuation of that island's inhabitants. Approx. 8,000 arrived in our town seeking shelter and provisions—this basically doubled our town overnight!

God drew our community together as relief efforts were organized largely by grassroots, voluntary cooperation. After one month, the government determined that everyone should be moved back; however the acid rain and garden-harming ashes continue to make life very difficult on Ambae. Our hearts hurt for those who are struggling and we consider it a privilege to help, where God has given opportunity to show His compassion.

## ON MISSION WITH US

We are down \$700/monthly support. We invite you to become a monthly (quarterly/annual) partner, or to make a year-end donation. *Thank you!*

Click here for the link to give online. Mail checks (note “for Widups”) to: Bethel Church & Ministries, 10202 Broadway, Crown Point IN 46307 USA.



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