

WHAT'S UP WITH THE WIDUPS? JULY 2018

"FURLOUGH" DEFINED

We realize that many of our Home Team may not understand when we say we're leaving Vanuatu to go "on furlough" in the USA for an extended period. Well, we think it is important that you know it is NOT a relaxing break, but it is necessary! It is our time for...

...reconnecting with relatives

The hardest part about living overseas is being so far away from extended family. Getting to spend time with our parents (our kids really miss being spoiled by their grandparents!), our siblings and *their* families is a priority. Marcus' wedding provided a perfect opportunity to bring everyone together, and it feels good to be close for at least a few birthdays and holidays every few years. The photo at right shows Christina and the boys with their Colorado cousins.



Hiking at 9000ft elevation: Rainbow Lake near Frisco, Colorado

...reporting to our Home Team

It seems to get harder each time, but we do our best to schedule visits with all of our church partners and other supporters. We truly do enjoy being face-to-face with as many of you as possible, to share how things are going in Vanuatu and to catch up on all the changes that happen in churches and individual/family partners while we are on the other side of the world. The personal interaction is encouraging, but it does take a lot of effort to coordinate visits, keep up with correspondence and administrative reports, set up displays and presentations, etc.

...resourcing new partners, funds & supplies

This is the most stressful part of being on furlough—even though we fully trust in God's ability to provide, we still have the responsibility of educating and promoting the material needs of our ministry in Vanuatu, gathering the supplies we must then inventory, crate and load into a shipping container, and following up on those who are interested in becoming involved. It is easy to feel discouraged and overwhelmed, but God also uses this area to stretch our faith and the faith of those who help us!



...refueling physically, spiritually & relationally

Months before we leave Vanuatu, we start scheduling appointments with our eye doctor, dentist, and other professionals for wellness exams, cleanings and to deal with any other health problems that have arisen during the past term overseas. We are so thankful to those who generously serve our family's well-being every time we return Stateside. Some issues, such as Malachi's need for future orthodontic work, raise questions as to *how* we'll be able to get him the treatment he needs, when we're only in the USA short-term and there's no orthodontist near us in Vanuatu. As much as we love Vanuatu, cross-cultural ministry is emotionally draining—but so are the above activities—which makes it essential for us to block out a bit of R&R. Time for just the two of us to

get away (the above photo shows a special outing: a hot air balloon ride). Time for the kids to hang out with American friends. Time for worship and communion and prayer in which *we* don't lead, rather we get to participate and be nurtured.

*This furlough is already half-over. Now that you have a better idea what we're up to, **pray** that God accomplishes His good will in and through us. We desire to be filled with His joy and peace, and be fully resourced for our return to Vanuatu on October 2nd.*

A MESSAGE FROM BIBLE TRANSLATOR MICHAEL SMITH...

"I can't imagine working on our translation on Mota Lava without the Widups. The practical side of their ministry is invaluable. They send us our food, they put us up when we are in town, they ship our stuff across an ocean, and they built a roof over our heads on our little island. Over the years we have known them, they have come to be much more than a logistics team, they are friends we can rely on. I don't just turn to Bill when I need something built, I turn to him and Tony for advice about navigating the tricky waters of Vanuatu culture. **Thank you for sending them to us, and for extending fellowship to us through them. Your impact reaches farther than you know.**"

—Michael Smith (along with wife Danielle and their three young children)

PRAYER POINTS

Bible Translation

Praise God the gospel of Mark in *Rral* language is nearly ready to print; praise that Smith's teammates, the Dieringers, are learning to live among *Motlap* speakers

Pray for

- Pikes as they do village visits, Bible studies & work on the *Merei* translation
- Spiritual fruit from weekly literacy/Bible study classes in *Rral* adults & children
- More missionaries to commit to "turning God's talk" into Vanuatu languages

Team Ministry



Lemy Nacisse with his two sons

Praise for opportunities to share the gospel; praise for continuing education of local teachers through workshops and university extension courses; and praise God that the Nacisses will be finally joining the Liliords on Santo Island in August!

Pray for

- Tony & Maxine as they continue helping bush missionaries, leading the Sunday fellowship, running Nabanga Skul and preparing for Nacisse's arrival
- Nacisses' monthly support; travel starting Aug. 2
- Teacher(s) from AUS/NZ/USA to help us establish a 1st/2nd grade at Nabanga Skul (see box at right)

Personal

Praise God for many generous donors to the matching grant for Mikaela's tuition at Indiana Wesleyan University; praise for great visits with supporters and relatives this month in Indiana, Iowa and Colorado

Pray for

- Wisdom to parent our adult children (Marcus & Sierra married, Mikaela going to college this fall) & grace to find our *new normal* with only two kids at home
- Provision of funding and supply container needs (see box at right)



A Bible translator leads a village literacy/Bible class

How Can YOU Help?

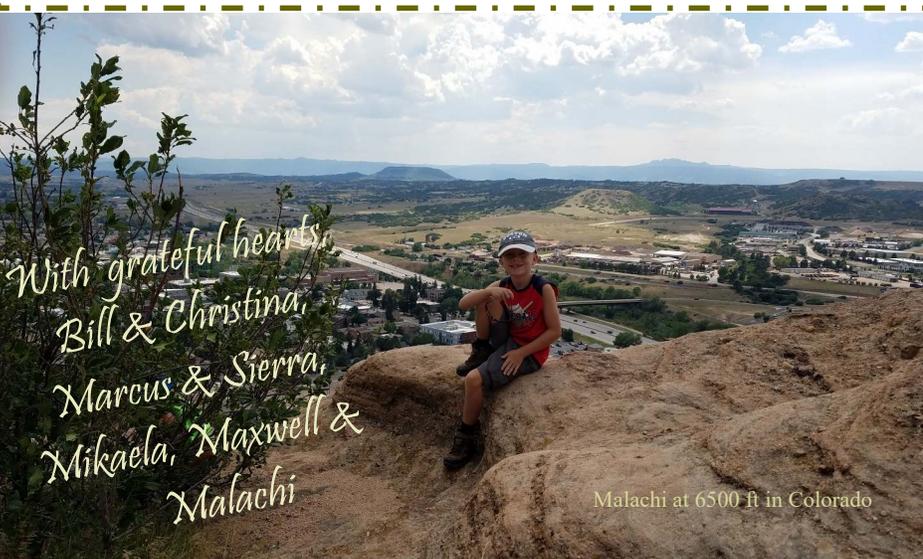
- ⇒ Become a **financial ministry partner!** Commit to give monthly, quarterly or annually (\$700/mo needed)
- ⇒ Make a **one-time donation** to offset our monthly shortfall and the cost of shipping our supply container to Vanuatu in September (\$15K)
- ⇒ Promote our need for trained **primary teachers to come** on mission with us, preferably 2+ years but we'll take as little as 3 months, to help Nabanga Christian School add a 1st/2nd grade class onto the Kindi
- ⇒ Consider coming to put **your skills** to use for 2-4 weeks if you are a dentist, physio or health professional, mechanic or builder
- ⇒ **Pray** that God meets every need!

ON MISSION WITH US

Send us a note at wrw@usa.com if you would like to **receive monthly email updates**, or to notify us of any changes in postal/email address.

For **online financial giving**, please **email us** for link. Send **checks** (note "for Widups") to Bethel Church & Ministries, 10202 Broadway, Crown Point IN 46307, USA.

Donations from the USA are tax-deductible.



WEB: www.upandupministries.org EMAIL: wrw@usa.com FB: [William-Christina Widup](https://www.facebook.com/William-Christina-Widup)
VM: (219)263-0188 USA ADDRESS: 137 S. 725 W., Hebron IN 46341