

NEWSLETTER #7
Vanuatu, South Pacific
October 1987

Dear friends,

Greetings from Vanuatu, South Pacific! We are overjoyed to get letters, and we pray often for communications and mail to get through. And it does! The mail cheers us up and we really need cheering up because we come and go through rough waters in more ways than one!

The 'Every Home Vanuatu' office is a house where the Christian islanders live and try to organize the paperwork, scheduling and prayer meetings necessary to carry on the work of reaching every home in the 81 islands of Vanuatu with the Good News.

What we do here is hard to answer briefly, but here goes: We had to sail out of New Zealand waters within a year or pay a tax of some huge amount on our boat (40% of its estimated value). We were asked if we would consider sailing to Vanuatu and help do a video of the Lord's work there to tell how sailboats are helping with the work of the great commission.

We heard that "Haggai", a sailboat in mission work from Australia, was in Vanuatu and would appreciate another boat to help. So we started communications with them over the Ham radio. "Haggai" assists the World Literature Crusade which is a worldwide ministry. The 'teams' or 'pioneers' as they are called, needed boats to carry them to the many islands. So, we've been ferrying these islanders around. We take three of the young men, and 'Haggai' takes five or more. For instance, the last time out we had on board the video cameraman from New Zealand who is making a video of how the small boat ministry works. He's been with us the last 13 days and just flew back to New Zealand with all his camera gear and enough footage to put together a top-notch video of the Christian small-boat ministry.

We had eight young men onboard during our sail from one village back to the main town. It was a day and night passage. Just after dark a gale came up and the struggles began! We were pounding all night. Some of the guys got seasick. Loren and Mike were trying to reef the main. One of our crew was sick. Our cameraman Allister was trying to steer, and everyone else was below deck laying down flat! That night Loren slept only 40 minutes in the 24 hour sail. When we arrived safely in port, he crashed into his bunk. When he awoke, he had stomach cramps and soon was very sick! It was like another time when he got food poisoning. This time I didn't panic! Praise the Lord! After fervent prayer for his healing, the "Haggai" arrived and dropped anchor. Dr. Joan Anderson, the Captains wife, had some good medicine and he was soon well.

I do wear out on the cooking schedule at times. The islanders are usually on board for day hops and I must admit food does appear most miraculously! We were given fresh meat for our little freezer when the islanders at the last village gave us a gift of a freshly slaughtered bullock. "Haggai" had a big freezer on board and they could stock up nicely. I found also the Lords Prayer could be trusted as a request for giving us our daily bread!

Some of the anchorages in these remote islands were too rolling to be able to stand, yet alone be able to knead the bread. One day I was completely out of bread to feed the crew and ourselves. On saying,

“Help Lord!” we heard a visitor arrive in a dinghy. It was Dr. Joan Anderson from the neighboring boat with a loaf of bread in her hand! She said her freezer was kind of full and could I use this bread?!

Many of the islanders are being ‘Born Again’ and filled with the Spirit through this outreach. These islands were reached long ago by mostly Presbyterian and Anglican missionaries from England. The islands were called the New Hebrides’ then. The islands need revival just the same as in other parts of the world. The language they all speak is Bislama which is a Pidgin English. So far Bible translators only have completed the ‘New Testament’ in Bislama. The version they are presently using is the “Good News” Bible.

There is no TV or electricity in the remote villages in the mountains. We have seen two of their Bible Colleges. Their facilities are huts. No electricity or even lamps. However, we find that the cassette tape decks are here also, so we’ve passed on some Bible teaching tapes.

Dr. Joan Anderson likes to hold Bible studies for women and I go along with her as she instructs the women of these villages on how to be godly women based especially on the passage in Titus 2; 3-5. “Teach the older women to be quiet and respectful in everything they do. They must not go around speaking evil of others and must not be heavy drinkers, but they should be teachers of goodness. These older women must train the younger women to live quietly, to love their husbands and their children, and to be sensible and clean minded, spending their time in their own homes, being kind and obedient to their husbands, so that the Christian faith can’t be spoken against by those who know them.” (LB)

We try not to worry about money, but it is a challenge! We are praying if the Lord wants us to do some “tent making” again. The Apostle Paul sometimes worked at his business of tents and sometimes seemed to be a fulltime missionary. We are also praying about whether it is time for a bigger sailboat.

Please pray for encouragement for us.

God bless you all,

Loren & Georgia Murphy Yacht: “American Flyer”