

# What's Up With the Widups?



July 2019

## Excited for the Next Generation

Our children were not the ones to initially *choose* a life of missions in the Vanuatu islands, but they definitely have a special calling! Their childhood has been spent moving back and forth between two very different environments, familiar but at the same time foreign to both of these worlds. The cross-cultural experiences, the diverse relationships, having our family life shared—physically and through newsletters—all this is used by God to shape them.

As parents, we see the impact our kids have on our ministry, and their ability to affect people in ways we never could. Lineage is very significant in Vanuatu cultures, and each generation is instructed in their history, beliefs and obligations as part of family and society from a very young age. Therefore it is a powerful testimony to those who watch our children growing up, being involved in our mission, speaking and acting like locals. As the two older ones have moved back to the USA for work and college, people here miss them almost as much as we do, and are as delighted as we are whenever they return to visit! We thank God for the many relationships that have been nurtured by this bond, and we pray that God continues to use them as lights for Christ in Vanuatu even in their adult years. They are uniquely positioned to reach the next generation, because they're *part* of it.

**We are thrilled that our oldest son, Marcus, and his wife Sierra, feel led to do life on mission here in Vanuatu!** How that looks for the long-term will likely be a bit different than it's been for us, but we're okay with that. Their first step will be to spend mid-November through early January here in Santo, after Sierra's four months of student teaching in Indonesia. Read their note:

## Sierra Writes

*On June 7, 2018, we began the adventure of married life! July 7, 2019 our next adventure began as we traveled to Jakarta, Indonesia for my student teaching. Sadly, Marcus left to go back to his job in the US the following week until the end of my student teaching in November, when he will return to pick me up. We are excited to travel from Indonesia to Vanuatu for a two-month stay. Through prayer, we know God is calling us to serve the people of Vanuatu. During this trip, in addition to visiting family, our goals are to experience missions as a married couple, create a budget and explore housing options for the future. One concern is how I will adjust to living in Vanuatu (different than visiting!). For Marcus, it is going back home and to his family but for me, it will mean leaving my family and adapting to a different culture. He has promised to encourage me in building relationships, to help with language learning, and to provide support while I get involved in school ministry.*

*With all of this in mind, we could really use your prayers! **Pray for Marcus and me** in our four months apart; for my student teaching (that I am able to understand and teach to the needs of 2nd-grade students and most importantly, show and share the love of Christ with them); and finally that the Lord keeps providing for our financial needs. **If you want to know more about how to give toward funding this adventure, or want to stay in contact while we're in Indonesia and Vanuatu, email us at [wegomissions@gmail.com](mailto:wegomissions@gmail.com).** Thank you, Sierra (& Marcus)*



# Prayer Points

## Bible Translation

Praise God for the first gospel, Mark, printed in *Rral* language! It was distributed at a workshop for church leaders in N. Ambrym, instructing them on how to promote use of the booklets in literacy, preaching and teaching.

### Pray for

- Good progress in making translated NT books in *Merei*, Genesis in *Rral*, ready for printing; continued progress on John and Philemon in *Motlap*
- Increased use of heart language Scriptures in churches and homes, and that through His Word, God will bring true peace and healing

## Team Ministry

Praise God for the recent birth of son Xavier to the Liliords, on maternity/furlough in New Zealand!! Praise for the return to Nabanga Skul of teacher Losselinie, recovered from almost losing her lower leg to a foot infection. We rejoice in the way God's working in Tues. hospital visits, Sat. Bible studies, Sun. worship and more.



### Pray for

- Tony and Maxine as they remain in New Zealand through late Sept.
- Nacisses—and us—to cultivate redemptive relationships with neighbors
- Wisdom and energy to be more intentional and strategic in discipleship

## Personal

Praise God that Maxwell and Malachi completed 6th and 4th grade, for Mikaela's summer job, and for the character growth we're seeing in each of them. Thank God for Marcus' and Sierra's desire to serve with us in Vanuatu!

Sierra & Marcus in Jakarta, Indonesia



### Pray for

- Starting a new year of homeschooling
- Visitors in the next 2 months—C's mom, B's niece, parents, and others
- Marcus & Sierra as they work 9,800 miles apart for 4 months

*For His glory,  
Bill, Christina & family*



### ◆ ROSE

Part of a family whom Christina initially met in her hospital visits back in 2007, Rose has stood out as a Jesus follower in an area that largely follows "kastom" religion. She's been asking to work with us for years, and God opened the door for her to join us this January. Her love for the Lord and desire to study His Word is inspiring! She is often asked to help her family, who lives in a village about an hour's drive from town .

### ◆ MIKAELA

Our daughter misses her Vanuatu home, and continues to help us from the USA. She is looking forward to a second year at Indiana Wesleyan University. Thanks again to each of you who gave toward her matching grant for tuition costs last year, it was a huge help! Lord willing, our family and teammates want her **to return over her Christmas break**, not only to reconnect in relationships here, but to train Megan in administrative duties and assist with other ministry tasks. *If you feel led to give toward her travel costs*, see our contact and giving information below.

### ◆ YOUR PARTNERSHIP

Send us a note at [wrw@usa.com](mailto:wrw@usa.com) to receive **monthly email updates**, or to notify us of any changes in postal/email address.

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

