

# Vanuatu 2008

Libb and I arrived in Vanuatu on September 13 to continue work on the chapel. Progress on the chapel at the Port Vila Hospital has been slow during the last 2 years as Tom Whipp has been totally focussed on completing Shekinah House and completing his manager's cottage next door so he and Heather have somewhere to live. Since we left in 2006, the roof of the chapel has been completed along with some landscaping work.

Eight others were able to come with us this time and we are all staying at Tradewinds Resort which is located just at the back of the hospital and virtually just over the road from the chapel. The eight people are:

- Libb's brother Anton ;
- Bruce, Nerradine and Brett Harper from Bannockburn ;
- Dale Bradford and his nephew Stephen Menzel from Geelong;
- Jack and Jan Janetzki from Horsham

After a quiet day on Sunday where we called in to see the Whipps and show the chapel to everyone we were up at ready to go by 8 on Monday morning. Work got under way almost immediately with Tom and three NiVan helpers, Johnny, Abednego and Amos. It was quite a culture shock to manufacture our own window frames, door frames, quad and architraves! By the end of week 1 Jack and Johnny had all the windows frames and door frames built and all but one fitted. Bruce and Amos installed windows etc and built the ceiling and stud walls for the store room and toilets. Tom prepared and began some of the plumbing and did lots of running around to make sure there was plenty of material for everyone to go on with. Libb and Brett mainly worked on the painting after the frames went in. After Dale and Stephen arrived on Wednesday night they put in the louvres in the side windows and actually on Friday Dale, Stephen and Tom put in the big round window in the front of the chapel ... an emotional moment for Libb and I! Jan and Nerradine have worked flat out getting lunches and tea-breaks for everyone – quite long treks into Vila each day and back again with piles of goodies to eat! Abednego and I are fitted trimming to the ceiling inside and around the chapel.



Libb, Jack & Jan with our pile of boxes!



The chapel when we arrived.



Libb and Jack machining timber for the windows.



Dale putting in the 'Butterfly' window!



Nailing our fabricated quad onto the window frames.



Bruce sharpening a spade bit.



Nerradine and Jan taking a well-earned rest.



Morning tea at the back of the chapel.

On Saturday Jack, Dale and Bruce finished trimming off the windows, Brett and Libb got another coat of paint on the front windows and then undercoated the toilet windows so glazing can occur next week. Jan Stephen and I also swept up, tidied up and moved timber to prepare the chapel for a film night for the local kids. Tom was showing them "Home Alone 2" which they absolutely loved.

Next week will see doors being fitted, the ceilings above the store rooms and toilets completed, plumbing, glazing finished, painting ... lots of painting and construction of bench seating for the chapel.

The Chapel will look beautiful, and we have chosen a soft blue and yellow for the interior, with off-white ceiling and aubergine exposed beams. The blue and yellow are the same as Mel's bedroom, and the aubergine picks up on a colour in the mosaic. The mosaic still looks beautiful. The seats will also be in these colours. The exterior colours will be the cream/blue like the hospital and Tom's house and Shekinah House. If you would like to support the work of the chapel you can post a cheque made out to "Melanie Jewson Memorial Chapel Vanuatu" to Marian Wilson c/o St John's Lutheran School, 33 Aberdeen Street Geelong. Vic. 3220.

Love to all,

The Jewsons.