

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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"We need at least four able bodied and adventurous members who are willing to serve for a period of at least two months..."



RIM Nativa in the shipyard in Batangas, Philippines, shows ready for relaunching into the next five years of her service. It is hard to imagine that our ship has been at sea already for four years. What the coming years hold for her and for all who sail with us will be a wonderful discovery each day. Thank you for praying for us and for helping us staff the sailing ship with volunteers!

Ship's Log: More than ready...

Glen Knight

Patience is often not my best characteristic. I guess it is natural and for one such as myself, I have less of it with me than I do with others. I have often considered that when something needs doing, then it needs doing now rather than later. Furthermore, I will often make every effort to do it myself than to wait for someone else to do it. Usually, this is an okay policy and I'm not so old that I can't do just about what I want to do. But lately I've come to realize that learning to be patient when life is changing is necessary. And the changes I'm speaking of are such as affect the working years of my life that remain. I've often said that although my hearing and eyesight aren't as keen as they once were, in a sense my senior years are bringing on a better way of hearing and seeing than what I had had in earlier times. And the perspective is different. So now, with the challenge of an expanding horizon, patience is a greater necessity than what I would have admitted even last year.

For the past eight weeks we have been carrying on ministry in new areas while at the same time preparing the ship and ourselves for broad ocean crossings. We have navigated a course of nearly 800 nautical miles which is a thing in itself that has tested our resolve and abilities. But all along the journey The Lord has been with us and has strengthened and protected us. That is a great encouragement for what lies ahead. With modifications on the ship nearing completion, we hope to sail for the eastern Philippines then out to the Caroline Islands soon. It all depends on several factors not the least of which are the changes and upgrades we are making to RIM Nativa that are required for her to become a passage maker. And we need volunteer crewmen who will come from abroad to serve for a period of time with us aboard the sailing ship. This is perhaps one of the most critical needs. And here is where I have to work on the patience thing! You see, I want to just go. But we have only two crewmen, both Filipino, well adept at sea life but neither of whom even have passports at this moment. That leaves Justin, Summer, Juli and me. And we need some help. I have sought proper crew from within these islands only to find none who can be trusted. I am therefore now appealing to our friends abroad who could possibly commit time as volunteer maritime missionary team members. We need at least four able bodied and adventurous members who are willing to serve for a period of at least two months and who can raise their own travel funds and support for the duration of their service. I am working on a program of volunteer ministry now which has from the beginning, been a part of the vision for Remote Island Ministries. We will not be working in politically charged areas. Rather, we will serve first among the islands of western Micronesia. If interested, please contact me via email: glen@rimnativa.com. You will have to meet the criteria.

And I will patiently wait for you...but please hurry!

—Glen Knight



While we were in the Port of Manila, we found a company that is certified to inspect and service our Viking life raft. This unit was a year out of its service date and we were really glad to get it updated. Its rated capacity is 16 persons, however it can accommodate up to 32.

“Oddly, big protests against the United States are typically staged here.”



Evangelism and Bible distribution are key elements of our work. Even in a time such as this when we are making a transition to other fields of labor, we are not negligent to share God's Word with all we meet along the way.

Time in the northern Philippines

The Manila skyline as seen from the seaside on Manila Bay, was our view for a full month from late December to late January. While there, we were able to course out materials and marine services that can't be found elsewhere in the Philippines. We claimed our container while in Port, stripped and loaded it into the cargo holds of the ship and made ready to sail for Western Visayas. We made many friend there!



Along Roxas Avenue that skirts the Manila Bay seawall, the people line up to go into the Embassy of the United States. The footbridge I am standing on here is the Philippine-American Friendship Bridge. Oddly, big protests against the United States are typically staged here. Juli and I were able to renew her American passport during the time we were in Manila and had access to the Embassy. The ship was anchored behind the Embassy compound.

An additional generator for use in charging our batteries for the DC circuits on the ship was purchased while in Manila. The photos to the right and below show the new unit being lowered into the engine room. Making the best effort we can to reduce our dependence on Diesel fuel means that we have to spend money and dedicate labor to improving the solar and wind charging systems. An additional generator with an automatic start and stop switch that is regulated by the DC/AC inverter is an integral part of this system. At this writing, we are nearly finished with the work.



We have a large engine room as you can see here. The CAT main engine is scheduled to have the new turbocharger installed next week and while we're at it, we will also install a new, high output alternator and three new, original gauges for the engine temperature, fuel pressure and oil pressure. Looking to the other side of the engine room, you can see the new generator sitting in its place. Since the photo was shot, we have manufactured and install the exhaust riser.

“I can tell you where to go to find tools and equipment and parts and necessary services and I can just about tell you also what is and is not available among these islands and those of nearby countries. I have contacts in so many places for things necessary to getting a job done that sometimes I think there is nothing that needs doing that can't be done. But what I know as a greater need is to find people who have a heart to serve—I mean the sort of people who will give all and go anywhere to do whatever is necessary in gospel ministry. Of far greater value to humanity are their tools, equipment and services.” —Memoirs of a Missionary, G. Knight

Container project completed...



It seemed to have taken so long to receive and clear our container this time. I am convinced that it is the last time I will try to ship anything to the Philippines. The ease of handling these units as with the past 39 over my 22 year tenure here, is no more. New regulations aren't the matter at issue. It's the corruption in the Customs offices and the clearing agencies that is the problem. It's no surprise that the campaign to clean that up has made it worse.

The photo to the right shows three new rolls of high quality braided rope for RIM Nativa's sailing rigging. These come as a gift from our friends at Mission Home Baptist Church, Wewoka, Oklahoma. Rope of this quality is difficult to find in this region so you can imagine how happy I am to have this. Many thanks go to Dan Houser and all the good people of the church there as well as to the churches across Oklahoma that have helped to put together many items needed in the work. Considering how The Lord has provided, He surely has a great task ahead for this maritime missionary family! We are excited to get on with the effort and are working diligently to get underway. So far this year we have sailed more than 800 nm.



Justin is shown here working on the mainsail. We have rigged it with new rope and blocks. Its function is much smoother now!

"We are humbled by your care and concern for our safety. Please don't forget to pray for us over the weeks to come."



Laying at the pier in North Harbor, Manila, with the cargo loaded onto the ship, we were pleased to find that a large load of supplies can be accommodated aboard RIM Nativa. This is the first time we had stripped a container van directly from the pier into the ship. We still have the contents of a 40 foot container on the warehouse floor in Hamburg, AR but will not send for it until we are situated in Micronesia and can make proper arrangements.

We are so thankful to Brad Bonnette and Heritage Baptist Church, Missouri City, Texas for helping us with our electrical upgrades. Brad gave his expertise for the third time around in coming back to work on the ship. And the church gave a generous offering to help pay for the parts Brad brought over and some that we had to purchase here. Words alone seem so inadequate to express our appreciation for this assistance. We glory in The Lord for the love so many of you have shown us. We are humbled at your care and concern for our safety. Please don't forget to pray for us over the weeks to come.



Our crewman, Louie is painting the mizzen topmast in this photo. Making the ship ready for ocean crossing is a big task. You can see both the Philippine flag and the Palauan flag flying on the mizzen mast. Soon, we will sail beyond our present location and strike one flag.

"We have all the comforts of home. A kitchen in which to cook good food and even a BBQ grill out back! We have toilets and showers with hot water. We have good beds for sleeping and hot coffee when we awaken in the early mornings. And let me tell you, the view from any of our windows usually can't be beaten by any in the world! And a lawn...well, no but that means there's no grass to mow or hedge to trim. Carport? No need for one...don't have a car anyway. I'd like to say that the days at home are calm and some are but most aren't. It's windy. The sea is rough. And some days we can't leave to go to shore. But as it is said, 'Home is where the heart is.' And our hearts are here...at home." —gk

REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES

A Ministry of
 Victory Baptist Church
 10000 Brockington Ave.
 Sherwood, AR 72120
 USA

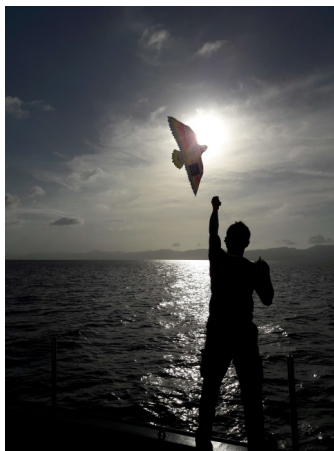
Stateside Address:
REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES
 Glen Knight, c/o Cheryl Clem
 8101 Thames Ave.
 Texarkana, TX 75503
 USA

Field Address:
 Captain Charles Glenn Knight
 Summer C.E. Knight
 The Sailing Ship RIM Nativa

Email only:
glen@rimnativa.com

Cell: 011-63-939-372-7916

Email me:
glen@rimnativa.com



Flying a kite from the stern of RIM Nativa is one way Summer has to remember loved ones who have died through the years. The kites are then given to children on the islands.

...Reaching people on the edge!



The sky over Negros Island, the Philippines at sunrise, looking eastward in the direction of our intended labor, I am hopeful for a bright future in the work!

Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

Making headway in a rolling sea shows a lot of action with the wind and the spray from the bow cutting through the water. To say the least, it isn't a boring ride! The test of strength both of the vessel and the personnel comes at such times. And the test of faith in The Almighty is one that comes without end. I remain convinced as to the need of remote islanders to hear the gospel and am fully committed in the time God has given me to carry on that I may preach it. So, we will face the rolling seas and brace against the wind, knowing that all is well as we remain in the center of the circle of God's purpose in grace for us. We desire to go out full and return empty. God will fill us again and again as necessary and will hold the ship in the palm of His hands, giving wind to our sails and a correct compass to the destinations He has charted for us.



"It isn't hard to imagine how a work such as this can benefit the world. The thing that we see is that there is so much of the world that is untouched in terms of gospel service. The fact of it being untouched doesn't indicate that there has never been a gospel witness in so many of these places for surely there has been. But typically, generations pass and new generations take their places and as time goes on, without a strong gospel presence, the weakening message among the people soon becomes ineffective and only a form of rote religion takes its place. And sometimes, not even that." —gk