

# NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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## Ship's Log: Onward 2016

Glen Knight

There are things one learns, when in the course of life many years have passed and with great observation. It is only those who sleep through their time on earth who never really learn and those who spend their years in worthless pursuits who seem not to care. But we have learned and are convinced that there is much left to learn and much remaining to do. Serving the Lord as maritime missionaries makes us realize that the ways of a ship and life at sea are things too incredible to ignore and their impact upon those who set themselves to the sort of task chosen by only a few in the world, is more than amazing. The lessons that come by experience are such as cannot be forgotten and one such lesson is **patience**. But patience doesn't come easily when most things can be done in an instant and there is little or no dependence on what is beyond personal control. It's when everything is seemingly out of hand and things tried have failed and ideas are exhausted and strength spent, that true patience is learned. The Biblical truth is taken as an axiom that may be applied in a variety of situations:

*"Commit thy way unto the Lord; trust also in him, and he shall bring it to pass."* Psa. 37:5

Throughout this year the lesson of patience has been learned by this missionary family. And one should never think that after so many years, all has been done and learned, for every day is new and every circumstance brings its own unique challenge. I am thankful for you who have stood with us and for a family who has been faithful to the Lord in the work we have undertaken. I am thankful as well for a sending church family that has encouraged us to carry on. The new year will bring additional work to be done with islands to visit and people to help and to teach about the Lord in true and simple ways.

At the close of 2015 a look back is encouraging to us. And looking forward is more exciting than ever before. As God permits, we will be visiting stateside for a few months in 2016. We will hope to see many of you during that time. God bless you all...

—Glen, Summer, Juli & Justin  
RIM Nativa, The Philippine Sea



The cartons seen here are water filters, medical supplies and Bibles. We are in need of more Bibles in the immediate future. By the end of January our supply will have been exhausted.

***“I am pleased to report that we now have the warehouse that is needed and are already stocking it with materiel and equipment...”***



Children nearby who have received Sunday School leaning aids from Remote Island Ministries, thanks to Justin and a friend of his here. They are very happy to have such material! Most small churches are poor and cannot purchase proper materials for their classes.

## A Warehouse for Remote Island Ministries!



For many years a proper warehouse has been needed for the mission work. We have attempted to keep our supplies and tools in many places around the seminary in Davao and in doing so, have cluttered up the area badly. It also made our work unnecessarily difficult, especially as we developed Remote Island Ministries into a full fledged work. At this point I am pleased to report that we now have the warehouse that is needed and are already stocking it with the materiel and equipment required to fulfill our mission. The photos on this page show some of the things we've placed in the warehouse. A complete inventory is being made and an orderly arrangement has been created for ease of loading and unloading the ship at the pier immediately adjacent to the building. One more container of supplies is en route from Davao at this writing.

Pictured to the right are all but seventy-two of the survival boxes. The others are in the last container, coming. Also in this photo you can see at the far end what remains of our 5-gallon buckets that are used in assembling the ceramic water filters. Many of these have already been distributed in the aftermath of Typhoons Yolanda and Ruby during the past several months. What remains will be used in the immediate future to aid others in coastal areas.



At this very hour a late season typhoon is bearing down on the Islands, threatening to affect the central Philippines from Samar to Palawan. By the time you receive this newsletter, it will of course be past, but the work of Remote Island Ministries will follow in areas most needy. Late season storms of this type usually bring a lot of flooding and loss of homes. Having our supplies in the immediate area will make our work much easier.

*“In the service of the Lord, especially in an overseas setting, there is never too much of the things needed, whether of materiel or of money or of personnel for that matter. Indeed, it takes plenty of all to do the work that is mandated. When the supply is abundant, the work flourishes. When it is otherwise, the work still flourishes. For you see, it isn't the supply or lack of whatever is necessary that determines the progress. What makes the difference is the all-sufficient supply of God's grace.”* —Memoirs of a Missionary, gk



## Reaching People on the Edge...



Among all these islands, the main work of the people is fishing. The old men teach the young those techniques that have been part of this sea-faring culture for hundreds of years. While the boats these days are mostly motorized, the methods of bringing in the fish remain the same. The boys to the left are learning from their fathers. And we are helping all of them to know the Lord of the seas!

Visiting so many villages, towns and cities across the central Philippines during the second half of this year, has given us opportunities to meet and befriend a great number of people. Some faces stand out in our minds and the laughter and tears cannot be forgotten. We have set the course already for the months ahead as it is our desire to revisit some of the places and add others in our circuit of ministry. There will be more faces and much more joy as well as sorrow, but in it all, God will give us time and space to share Him with so many like this girl to the right and their families. Thank you for helping us in this unique and exciting work!



*"We have set the course already for the months ahead as it is our desire to revisit some of the places and add others in our circuit of ministry."*



When your children are small you probably keep the knives away from them for fear of severe injury. This is not the case with kids in remote island villages where they are taught at earliest ages how to use knives in day to day tasks. Even large and very sharp knives such as the bolo you see in the child's hands to the left, are wielded by the young for splitting firewood, sharpening sticks for tools and hacking open coconuts for food. We are reminded of the need to put the Bible in their hands as well. It is sharper than any double-edged sword...or as in this case, knife. And it will make great differences in the lives of these people, young or old!

The type of houses shown here to the right are typical of island homes and families living in them often suffer total loss in events of typhoons. There have been fifteen such storms in the Philippines in 2015. The simplicity of construction makes them easily replaced, however, when all a family has is inside such a house, there is usually great suffering when it is blown away.



RIM Nativa is pounding into head seas along the Pacific Ocean coast of Eastern Visayas, the Philippines. Reaching people on the edge is difficult and often, precarious. But this is the work to which we are called and God is gracious.

*"What can be done to change people's lives permanently? I mean to ask, is there anything that can make a genuine, lasting difference in someone's life? It seems that any attempt at doing so in this sphere of labor is near to useless inasmuch as one will immediately find himself working against centuries of tradition. I suppose the sort of differences that should be hoped for aren't really those that only house the poor, feed the hungry and clothe the naked or even to relieve the destitute. The differences that must be sought are those in the heart. They are those of eternal merit and durability which come by knowledge of the Savior." —Memoirs of a Missionary, gk*



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Children are gathered along a beach, looking out to sea as our ship prepared to weigh anchor for other destinations. One imagines that these kids may also grow up to work the seas of their islands as fishermen and perhaps as missionaries too!

*...Reaching people on the edge!*

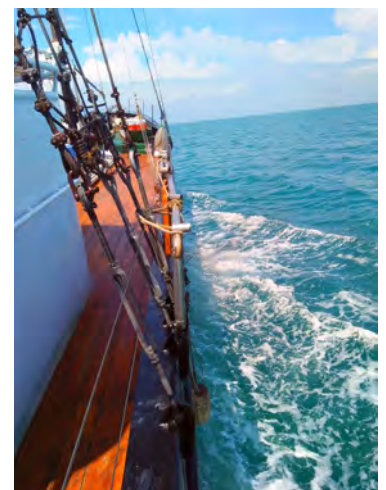


*RIM Nativa's crew watching the bow wake while under sail, crossing the Visayan Sea in August of this year. We are pleased to carry on working in this region during 2016. Our ministry domain will be from Siargo Island in the east to Panay Island in the west.*

### Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

*Closing another year on the mission field seems nearly impossible to me and yet there's no denying reality. It has been a good year and one with many challenges in a great variety of ways. Among those was the move from land-based work to full-time sea faring. That has come with difficulties we hadn't anticipated. But God is gracious in helping us make the transition and we are thankful. The abduction of four friends of ours by a terrorist group here set us on alert that has kept us close to port and on our knees, praying for Kjartan, Robert, John and Tess and for ourselves. During this time of virtually hiding out, we have taken care to continue working on the ship, improving our security systems. It is time now to move on and this, we will do. Please remember to pray for us. God bless...*



*"What does it mean to you that someone, somewhere has so little that what he has can be packed into a box or into a bag of sorts, fashioned from the sturdy sacks that are made for rice? Does it make a difference with you if I tell you that this person is happy with what he has? Perhaps you will say, 'Then let him be.' But I will tell you that there are things more valuable than what could be packed into anything, be it of poor construction or of lavish. And what is of greater value is that he...that we all...know the Lord." —gk*