

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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"...Spending money on things that aren't satisfying the needs of people with the love of God, is wasting it."



A tiny child with a dirty face and covered in rashes, likely the result of filth, mostly needed a good bath. He was among hundreds just the same.

Ship's Log: Western Visayan Sea

Glen Knight



Expectant faces peered at us from a distance as we approached from the big ship at anchor off their island. What they had known of us from the month before was that we had promised to return and would be bringing helpers and good medicine. But these simple islanders could hardly imagine why people from so far away would hove to on their island. Even some of the team members who had joined the effort wondered why this place. But God had worked His desires out in our hearts long before the team arrived and to this island, we had determined to come, believing strongly that this was appointed of the Lord.

Days spent ashore revealed the needs among the islanders and caused us to throw ourselves fully into the work. It seemed that each experience taught us new lessons and every need presented its own challenge. Whether of sickness due to disease or malnutrition or severe wounds, one common thread runs through the society on this island—extreme poverty. The greater pity is for the children who can do nothing about their circumstance. We saw, first-hand the gambling, drunkenness and immorality of village leaders and parents so there is little doubt in my mind from past experience that the real reason for such poverty is sin. And until that problem is addressed, it will remain unchanged. Oddly, there are churches on the island...several of them. But there is little wonder in my mind as to why the situation of the people remains so bad despite the presence of church facilities. There is little or no courageous preaching and demonstration of the power of God to change hearts. Bringing stuff to patch up the physical being will never produce real change. There must be real gospel ministry among them. When there is no fear nor knowledge of God, the societies of men fail.

Look at the children in the photo above. They are standing in line, waiting for something to eat. Summer and Maricelle Abay made a meal of rice porridge on the ship and took it to shore to feed them. Watching the joy on little faces when someone showed that kind of love for them was overwhelming!

We are making a commitment here and now to be voices for those who truly are in need. Spending money on things that aren't satisfying the needs of people with the love of God, is wasting it. I honestly believe it is time to reassess what is being done in the name of missions and see what changes need making. Please read this newsletter carefully. God bless!

—Glen & Summer





Smiles come with difficulty among these little ones. It's sad to think that many will not reach the age of 5 years. That can change...

"All sorts of problems were extant among them: colds asthma, wounds and infections, rashes, fevers and sore tummies. These are all conditions we saw during our earlier work..."



One cannot grasp the urgency of the problem of hunger without seeing it full-faced. This little one has a light from God shining on her face so you can see...take a good look.

The long awaited medical project...

The team of Remote Island Ministries and Cross Bearing Medical Mission arrived onboard the sailing ship, RIM Nativa on April 2. We departed soon after their arrival for the Western Visayan Sea with the intention of conducting a medical evangelistic outreach. The photo to the right shows the team just before we left port. With the ship provisioned and loaded, we set out on a twelve-hour voyage to Gigantes Island.



Following our Sunday morning worship activities aboard the ship, the workers began preparing the medical supplies to take to shore. Pastor Joseph Stacks, Director of CBMM is seen here together with Jordan Hanson and Pastor Jun Abay. One of our crewmen, Chris is standing with them in the yellow shirt. The day was spent taking care of this work so that all supplies could be sent ashore on time for the project.



Two days were spent in the village of Lantangan and one day was spent in Gabi. The days were very long and hot and with an estimated 1,200 people who came through the clinic, they were also very busy! Pastor Joe Stacks is featured in the photo to the right. You can see many people lined up waiting to be helped. All sorts of problems were extant among them: colds, asthma, wounds and infections, rashes, fevers and sore tummies. These are all conditions we saw during our earlier work on the island so our family was able to brief the visiting, short-term workers on what would be faced. It seems all were prepared and gave their best!



Dr. Hugo Mallozzi was the team's physician and worked from early to late every day. We actually lost count of the number of surgeries he performed! This project was blessed especially by his presence and without him, many things would not have been possible. Thanks to Dr. Hugo many lives were permanently changed! He is truly a missionary. Please help him...

"Take it in hand...don't be afraid. Just do it. See the need and know you can do something by the grace of God to help. You can make the difference between life and death. You can change the course of a soul toward heaven. You can, if you will. But you have to try. So, take it in hand...your hands. Surely that is reason God gave them to you. So go ahead..." —Memoirs of a Missionary, Glen Knight

On the ground in the face of deep poverty.



Nurse John Pickett has been a big helper in this work twice now, having come in 2014 and again on this trip. His skills helped save the life of the young woman shown in the photo to the right. John fixed an IV in her frail arm so she could receive desperately needed fluids and antibiotics. Monitoring her over a couple of days time, he reported that she was stronger. We will see her again soon.

Nurse Haliagh Hanson together with Nene dela Cerna serving as her translator, saw many people such as this woman shown here. We're thankful for those of our team members who came from Davao to aid in the translation and counseling since none of the visiting members were able to effectively communicate. Together they all made a powerful force of labor for the Lord! In that process, bonds of friendship were strengthened to last a lifetime.



This 22 year-old mother is dying of malnutrition, possibly the result of intestinal parasites. She was treated but needs careful follow-up.



The photo to the right is of her left knee. You can see the results of starvation.



Police Officer Jordan Hanson served well in many areas of the project. Here he is shown helping with clean rags and fresh, cool water and soap, cleaning dirty little faces, arms and hands. It is not uncommon on these remote islands to find dirty children but admittedly, these were among some of the most filthy we have encountered. Water shortage is critical.

Spiritual counseling among all who came through the clinic was provided by Pastors Keith Bogador, Jonathan dela Cerna, Randy Emban and Jesrel Hamago. While the medical team dealt with the physical, these men dealt with the hearts! Over 500 Bibles were placed with the people, one at a time as they listened to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Because these are Old and New Testaments, we gave one to each family.



"If I ever reach the point that all things look the same and nothing is shocking or surprising and things that I see do not move me whether in pity or disgust; if I ever reach the place that the day is easily squandered without a positive, progressive effort or thought or idea that makes carrying on more effective; if I ever come to the point that I think all things done are worthless and make no difference in the lives of hundreds or of tens or even one; if that time comes then I will no longer serve as a missionary. Until then, I am, by God's calling and His grace...a missionary." —glen knight

"It is not uncommon on these remote islands to find dirty children but admittedly, there were some of the most filthy..."



The child shown here is the baby of the mother at the top. The entire family is dying of starvation. The father is a smoker.

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
c/o The Harbor Master
BREDCO PORT,
Bacolod City, 6100
Philippines

Cell: 011-63-939-372-7916

Email me:
glenknight.ph@outlook.com



The smile on this man's face says it all...he can now see clearly. Glasses for the elderly make a great difference in their lives!

...Reaching people on the edge!



Simple food given to hungry children humbles those who have provided it and nourishes the little ones for the moment, leaving the question to beg: Who will go and give again? The answer comes without hesitation—we will!

Photo: Summer Knight

Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

Reflections upon the past month leave me with a greater sense of urgency than what I had had before. The second foray into the target area of the Western Visayan Sea has revealed much more than what we had imagined of poverty and physical need and the tremendous burden of the spiritual condition of the islanders. In a land where there is so much religion the moral situation of the people is incredibly low. I have witnessed first-hand the degradation caused by sin among these islands. For example the drunken leader of Lantangan where people are disease ridden, parasite infested and are literally starving to death, cares nothing for the condition of the people. A syndicate man running a numbers game among them with promises of striking a jackpot, exploits the poor. More children in any single place I've ever seen to be so small, roam about without supervision, wallowing in the filth of garbage heaps to find food. There is a great need to return as difficult as it is to do so because only God can change such a people. We can wash the faces, hands and feet and feed the stomachs but the Lord can wash the heart and nourish the soul.



"He made every effort to block our work, this bellish man who thought himself bigger than God. It was he who told me we had no permission to come there and that we could not do what we had planned. But what he hadn't realized was that he had just squared himself off against the Almighty, which proposition is forever a losing circumstance. By the power of the Word of God and one on one with the Lord's servant he was made low and the work carried on the next day. There is merit to the admonition, "Be strong in the Lord..." —gk