

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ship's Log:	1
New Courses and...	
"Hauling up...onshore"	1
From the East to the...	2
Working together...	3
Photo of the Month	
Work Aboard the Ship	4
Closing Thoughts...	

"Our work through the months ahead will surely find us ranging much farther from areas where we are known..."



Hauling supplies up onshore, Justin and Noel work in the morning heat to get the job done!

Ship's Log: New Courses and Islands Forgotten

Glen Knight

The horizon stretches farther than can be imagined as one gazes to the east of the Philippines across vast oceans between the 10th Parallel and the Equator. There, the Caroline Islands dot the seas, extending some 1,700 miles toward South America. These islands comprise a land area of only 340 square miles. They are among some of the most remote and forgotten islands in the Northern Pacific, situated roughly halfway between Australia and Hawaii. This is an area of interest as Remote Island Ministries may be pointing in the direction of the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia. Time will tell. I only ask that you pray with us for direction from the Lord. We are taking steps at present to equip the sailing ship as a trans-oceanic passage maker. Improvements in equipment, communication and rigging are coming.

Since our last Newsletter Philippines, many changes have taken place among the Islands. One thing that is a matter for much thanksgiving is the release of our friend Kjartan Sekkingstad from captivity among the Abu Sayyaf. Additional captives who have been held by the bandits have also been released at this writing. Pressure brought to bear upon the Abu Sayyaf by the Philippine military forces is apparently having its desired effect. Another development since our last report is the broad, sweeping effort of the new President Duterte to deal sternly with the illicit drug industry across the nation. This is resulting in the slaying of thousands of drug smugglers, dealers and users, a thing that has drawn international criticism of the Philippines inasmuch as suspects are rounded up and eliminated through extrajudicial methods. The need for much prayer is extant among us as we carry on the work of the Lord in areas of grave danger.

Our work through the months ahead will surely find us ranging much farther from areas where we are known and can be easily tracked. As always, our desire is to aid those people who are in the most remote and impoverished areas. I am reminded of the days of the early churches when danger and persecution rose to the extent of causing the folks to scatter to the far ends of the earth—"...(they) went everywhere, preaching the Word." (Acts 8:4). I have known for a long time that sooner or later, we would be venturing farther than what we ever had and now believe the time is drawing near. God has prepared us for such a step as is necessary, having provided the vessel and the mental and physical abilities to go as He leads.

During the past months as we have traveled among the churches here in the United States, we have found a great and warm welcome with intense interest in the maritime work. For this, we are extremely grateful. Now the time is nearing for our return and in the last weeks, we must focus on budgetary requirements that the work may continue without interruption. Please read this newsletter prayerfully that you might understand the needs and challenges before us. Thanks and God bless!

—Glen & Summer Knight, RIM Nativa

From the West Coast to the East Coast...



I must brag a little about my family...my parents, children, brothers and sisters. I am blessed to have such close family who understands our work and long absences and who often lend a hand to get jobs done, without whom, I'd be sorely handicapped. My brother-in-law, Bill, pictured above is an example. Thanks for the hand, Bill!

From coast to coast, We are thankful for such great interest in Remote Island Ministries."



Hands on the work as we teach them how to prepare and set the well casing in a new bore hole. This well has been finished since the photo was shot.

The churches of California are such great partners with Remote Island Ministries. I cannot express well enough, the generosity of the people and their concern for the work. Many of the churches worked together to make up the load of supplies you can see in the photograph to the right which was delivered to Garland, Texas by Pastor Weldon and Rose Marie Chambers. We enjoyed being able to spend the weekend with our sweet friends while visiting New Liberty BC.



From the East Coast a nice load of supplies consolidated at First Missionary Baptist Church of Green Valley in Monrovia, Maryland, was delivered by our dear friends Cliff and Sharon Stewart. Summer, Juli and I met them at the warehouse in Hamburg, Arkansas to unload and enjoy a little time of fellowship before they went on their way. Words alone can hardly express our joy in knowing so many people who sacrifice so much for the work.

For many weeks now, the ladies of our sending church, Victory Baptist in Sherwood, Arkansas have been working on the "100 Dresses Project." This effort has produced 102 hand-made dresses and numerous short pants for boys. We are amazed and grateful to our ladies for their diligent undertaking! I am sure the number is higher than what is reported here inasmuch as the effort is ongoing. In our November/December newsletter we will feature more information about their work and that of so many more across the nation. The photo to the left shows those that had been completed at this writing. Thanks VBC Ladies!



In the state of Florida, we found great help among the churches in so many ways. We are thankful for such interest in Remote Island Ministries. At the left, our friend Buddy Raney shows Justin around his business operation on the day we were able to visit his area. Many thanks go to Dr. Hugo Mallozzi and his sweet wife, Alma for giving us a place to stay in their home while we were in central Florida.

"Alone? No, I've never been alone in anything I've ever done. There have been many who have helped in a great number of ways, whether on land or sea and in one half of the world or the other. To consider myself to have ever been alone in the work is absurd. It is the stuff of self pity...such as I want none of. The principle learned many years ago that, 'many hands make light work' is genuinely true. And I recount that many hands have aided the work, a thing for which I cannot adequately express my gratefulness. The Lord has the record and the results of shared labor will be known in eternity." —Memoirs of a Missionary, Glen Knight

Working together for the cause!



There are so many things needed in an ocean-going mission work. It stands to reason that working on a ship at sea requires specialized equipment...many different kinds. The photo to the left shows one such piece of equipment...an air compressor for filling tanks with breathable air...dive tanks, in particular. Our good friends Robbie and Tammy Murry of Arkansas spearheaded the effort to purchase this compressor. Others who helped to raise necessary funds for this expensive little tool were Tammy's mom, Marilyn Garrison, our fellow church member, Jeff Lemaire and the Fidellis Sunday School class of Beech Grove Baptist Church, Fordyce, Arkansas.

On our family farm in Tennessee, Juli and the farm dog, Willie pose for a photograph at the back of our cargo trailer. Here is yet another big load from the good people in Lobelville, Tennessee. Many thanks go to First Baptist Church and First Methodist Church Ladies for the supplies, which include many boxes full of the dresses that are being made by church groups across America for the poor children of the Pacific islands.



An interesting turn of events brought Graeme Beckett and me together after a long friendship via email. He is pastor of St. Helena Baptist Church, St. Helena Island in the southern, mid-Atlantic Ocean. We met for the first time this past July in Philadelphia, PA.



Take a good look at the child in the photo to the left. He is typical of the children among whom we work day after day. If you have been helping to make or to otherwise gather supplies...clothes, flip flops, shoes, medicines and hygiene items, on this boy's behalf and all the other hundreds of children, we say, THANK YOU! One can never really understand the depth of poverty and the extent of personal need such children suffer throughout their young lives without seeing first hand. If we have been able to speak for them and to show their realities in even the smallest of ways while we've been stateside through the summer, then our purpose has served the effort well. The work before us is large and in so many ways, really uncertain. But what is not uncertain is the commitment we have made to do our best to bring the love of Christ to the islands, whether the Philippines or far beyond.

“The work before us is large and in so many ways, really uncertain.”



On September 15, 2016, one year to date after he was abducted from our home port of Davao, our friend Kjartan Sekkingstad is free. A ransom amounting to more than one million dollars was paid for his freedom. The war continues in the Islands...

“I have known uncertainty before. And I've known what it is to be afraid. I have looked up from the bottom of life's circumstances so often but have in such times understood that when there is nothing to do and there is no one to help, there have always been the hope that I have in the Lord and the faith that I had that He will not fail. If what I prayed for of direction and deliverance and of comfort and aid, did not turn out as I had asked, and sometimes it hasn't, I have always known that His ways are perfect and His grace is complete. And, He loves me, unconditionally. —Memoirs of a Missionary, Glen Knight

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...A local pastor with his new Bible and reading glasses!

...Reaching people on the edge!



Work aboard the sailing ship is never ending. The photo above shows our unloading supplies and equipment for drilling a water well on a remote island of the Sibuyan Sea, western Visayas...with heat and humidity and plenty of sunshine!

Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

I suppose it's a matter of being too hardheaded to take "no" for an answer or to be too convinced that a job can be done despite the detracting words of others who say that it can't. But I learned a long time ago the truth of God's Word and the surety of His promises regarding our holy desires. It is a matter of fact that when fervent prayer is offered up to the Almighty, making request for things needed, and when that which is needed gives Him the opportunity to show Himself strong and able, He answers. And we glorify Him in all He has done. This is the way of a missionary. We live in places and in ways that are uncommon to most other folks. And things that we see as daily needs are typically things hardly thought of elsewhere. The photo here illustrates what I am saying. It's a hole in the earth and what makes it significant is that it bears water from beneath the surface...water for the life of the villagers...water that has been prayed over and sought after, but not for ourselves. It is for others. And that's another unique thing about missionaries. We spend and are spent for others. Holes in the ground...yes, and Christ in the heart. And that's pretty cool!



"Where will you go from here, he asked, to which I gave the answer that I didn't know for sure. Then how can you go anywhere if you do not know where to go? ...the inquiry continued. But in that moment, with a curiosity in my own heart that outstripped the inquisitor's interest, the thought came to me that knowing where to go from there was not so important just then. What was important was knowing why I had come that far. And such knowledge comforted me inasmuch as I knew to preach. I knew that all the people around wanted to hear God's Word and I was the messenger sent to them. And so, I preached." —Memoirs of a Missionary, Sarmiento Logging Camp, Interior Mindanao, Glen Knight