## **REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES**

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# Newsletter Philippines

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"A missionary journey among eight Pacific Island nations...over a period of one year...is in our consideration for the moment."



A late afternoon sun streams from beneath clouds on the southwestern horizon. Dropping and brailing our sails is a necessary task ahead of potentially heavy weather.

### Ship's Log: Outbound and Onward...

**Glen Knight** 

I have for many years known that our work would eventually lead us to areas far beyond the familiar and beloved islands of the Philippines. The directions that are possible from our present center of operation are numerous but considering the political and social strife of certain of our neighboring islands, one must wisely choose the direction that is to be taken. Much prayer and research coupled with considerable discussion among our shipboard family members seems to be bringing a plan together. It will be reasonable and workable while maintaining the Godgiven task at hand to evangelize and give spiritual and physical aid to those in need. A missionary journey among eight Pacific Island nations beginning with the Philippines and traveling east by northeast, then southeast by south over a period of one year, covering a total distance of 4,350 nautical miles is in our consideration for the moment. If we pursue this year-long voyage, the dynamics of our work will change due in part to the distances to be travelled at sea. Also a factor here will be the cost of ministry on a monthly basis. At the same time, ministry opportunity would be enhanced many times over through opening new territories of missionary endeavor. It isn't that missionaries haven't labored in these places in the past. They have since before World War II. But in recent history very little attention has been given to support and strengthen the faith of the indigenous people and generations have grown up virtually ignorant of Biblical truth. Remote Island Ministries with the aid of our sending church, Victory Baptist of Sherwood, Arkansas and the financial support of many churches across America, can help to renew interest in this region of the oceanic world. While some of the nations on our journey aren't poor by any means, four of the eight rank among the most poverty stricken in the western Pacific region and are in the top forty impoverished, worldwide.

Only God knows the future of our work as we press onward. What we know is that He has equipped us with the vessel and the provisions needed to go far and to reach thousands of islanders on distant horizons. Through the weeks remaining in this year we will continue to pray, plan and prepare the ship and ourselves for what lies ahead. We are facing circumstances in the Philippines that are critical as many of you know. It has been declared by the leaders of the nation that America is no longer needed and Americans are no longer welcomed. It takes little thinking on my part to realize that it is likely time to move on. We need your prayers as we seek God's direction in our missionary service. Pray with us for grace to stay or to go as The Lord leads. As for our family, we aren't afraid to face the future. We just need to be certain we have a good plan and when the time comes we are ready to weigh anchor on an epic journey with Our Lord. We will be outbound and onward!

God bless you all!

Glen & Summer Knight, Juli and Justin



Unloading one small trailer load of supplies after another in the Hamburg, Arkansas warehouse has been part of our work through the summer. Many thanks go to those who have helped!

"Malnutrition and starvation are everyday problems, especially among the young and the very old."



The joy of summer for many of us is found in good fishing and time spent with children and grandchildren! Fishing in Texas with our grandchildren has been especially fun. One of our boys, Nathan, shows off the catch of the day, a nice large-mouthed bass! Soon we will be missing our kids and time spent with them.

# Looking back over the year...

Children of Isla de Higantes watch Justin's UAV as it soars high aloft to get photographs of their island. Such technology has not been seen on their island so you can imagine their excitement! We have been able to use the photos shot in making plans to aid the people in the villages to locate good water.





It is essential to find the sources of water quickly for most of these islands along the 7th parallel here in the western Pacific region. The El Nino effect has produced severe drought and what water the people can readily access is more often than not, contaminated with animal and human waste, giving rise to . Malnutrition and starvation are everyday problems, especially among the young and the very old. Our demographics studies reveal that among the islands of this area, the Philippines actually ranks much higher on the scale of most poverty stricken at number 68, worldwide. Other islands of our concern, namely, the Marshall Islands, several of the Micronesian Islands and the Solomon Islands range between 39 and 22, worldwide. In these places, there are great physical needs. It is this and the greater needs of the spirit that call to us.

I couldn't quite determine what this lady was doing with Justin...neither could he! The photograph was taken the day after we had drilled a water well near this simple chapel building. I think she had discovered that our Jus is still single and perhaps she had some sort of special blessing in mind? Whatever the case, we were to soon leave with his bachelorhood intact and all the village happy with the work we were able to accomplish while among them. One hundred Bibles, Old and New Testament in the Hiligaynon dialect were placed among the families and other Bible study books and lessons were given to the young pastor of the church.

The more work we do among islands where there are churches already established, the more we realize the need to aid them in doing a better job of ministry to their people. And sometimes, I feel like the Apostle Paul must have felt in finding Apollos who needed careful training.



"Days fold into weeks, months and years as time moves forward for all of us. And the older I get, the faster this process seems to occur. Living and working so far away where communication with loved ones abroad comes only in short, random messages, one forgets how life goes on. But children grow up and adults grow older and some die and nothing is ever the same. As time passes there is a hunger deep down that longs to turn back missed opportunities to hold someone near and look into eyes that confirm the words, I really love you.' That tells us to do it now because missed opportunities are just that." —Memoirs of a Missionary, G. Knight

## People and places...



Young boys on the island of Bohol in the central Philippines point to sea at our ship laying at anchor off their beach. One has to wonder what was in their minds. Perhaps they suddenly dreamed of sailing to far away places on such a ship. But I pray that some also imagined how they themselves might be able to help other of their island neighbors or people on islands half a world away in the same way we had come to help them. Perhaps God will lay such desires on their hearts some day.

From places far away, tiny dresses made simply from pillow cases have been crafted by loving hands and are given to the children during our visits to their villages. This year we are adding short pants, also home made to be given to little boys. Thank you all so much for your care and hard work!





Handsome youngsters look healthy at first glance but the ravages of hunger are already taking a toll on their frail bodies. Swollen knee joints reveal cases of rickets and bloated bellies speak of intestinal parasites. And eager, watchful eyes reveal a fragile hope. These islands throughout the western Pacific region are virtually all the same. Not only is the ethnology similar among the people, but the physical and spiritual needs are also the same. To continue reaching them is our task and to expand the scope of our work is the greatest need. It is sad that the government of the Philippines does so little to help while corruption of money is so rampant.

A small girl looks timidly at the camera after receiving a plush toy recently on one of the islands where we have spent time this year working. Our hearts break for these children who have so little and to whom no one is giving. It is a bitter pill to swallow to know that they may very well fall victim to the harsh realities of poverty as they grow older. For example, I have often seen children like these sent to the cities to beg in the streets whose lives stand a good chance of being entirely wasted and even lost. Mortality is high among them.



"Who is this man? I asked because his face was not recognizable to me. He is Noli de Castro, came the answer. I see, I replied and with that, determined to speak briefly with him if it would be possible. The former Vice President of the Philippines and now, the most famous of all newscasters in the nation, was there nearby, taking his leisure on the island where we had been working for three days. They said he'd been doing some 'investigative reporting' but it looked to me like his concern was for other things. A sudden electrical storm and a near electrocution while wading in the surf could have been his wake-up call." —Memoirs of a Missionary



Here is one of the little girls on an island who received a hand-made dress from one of the churches in the United States. Many ladies and men as well across the nation have worked so hard producing many hundreds of these that will soon be given to needy children.

"Eager, watchful eyes reveal a fragile hope. These islanders throughout the western Pacific region are virtually all the same."



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Sunset over Western Visayas

# ...Reaching people on the edge!



Few things are as beautiful as a ship at sea or as calming as a sunset. Put the two together and one finds a sight that is nearly mesmerizing. The vessel RIM Nativa laying at anchor in the Sibuyan Sea makes such a sight.

#### Closing thoughts...

His name is Ernie Webb. He is a US Army veteran of World War II. He is a member of The Greatest Generation. I met Mr. Webb in Lower Providence, Pennsylvania in July of this year and have saved this photograph for this newsletter to help us all celebrate Veterans Day 2016. Here is a soldier who helped with the liberation of Manila and with securing the war-weary city following the return of the United States armed forces to the Philippines. This man did not choose to go...he was sent. He didn't have ulterior motives in being there...he went to serve. He had no hidden agenda...he was there to do what he could to help a stricken people. His life was laid on the line and thank The Almighty, he survived. Many of his fellow warriors did not survive. They, like Ernie, willingly put their lives on hold in America in order to bring freedom once again to the Islands. For those who served, I offer a tribute and a heart of gratitude. Because of their sacrifice, I have been able to work as a missionary to the islands of the Filipino. I urge my Filipino friends to do the same and to never forget Americans like Ernie Webb.





"It seems to me to be the height of ingratitude to take from those who have given willingly the things needed not only for survival but more than that, for qualities of life not previously known and to plunder what has been given or to squander opportunities for betterment and at the same time to never really say, "Thank you." But such is the way of the world and the reason why so many give as unto the Lord." —Glen Knight