

MISSION: MICRONESIA

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"Sometimes in our missionary lives, course corrections are necessary..."



There aren't many things that melt a pastor's heart quite like a happy child with a Bible story book in hand!

Ship's Log: Course corrections...

Glen Knight

Ocean navigation is a tedious concern, to say the least. It's more complicated than pointing the ship's prow in a desired direction and carrying on for a certain length of time until arrival at the destination. Allowing for windage, drift, current and weather, **course corrections** are necessary. For example, when we sailed from the western Philippines and reached the San Bernardino Passage off northern Samar, we found ourselves immediately confronted with strong currents flowing along eastern Mindanao. Although our destination lay on a straight southeastern tangent from Samar, we necessarily navigated due south with the current over the Philippine Trench until we were on a direct east-west line with the Palau Islands. We then initiated our crossing, 556 nautical miles to reach Koror. Our destination hadn't changed at all. The course, had. It had been, "corrected." Such corrections can be made for the ease of handling the ship or for comfort aboard or for the sake of safety or for economy. In this case, all the reasons for correcting the course were factors of consideration.

Sometimes in our missionary lives, course corrections are also necessary. It doesn't mean that our goals have changed. It does mean that reaching our goals demands a different approach. For example, my years spent in Davao at the Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary helped me accomplish goals that were set for the time. The "course" was that of training Filipino pastors for planting churches throughout the Philippines. I am thankful for strong American churches that stood with my family as we carried on that work and for our beloved Victory Baptist Church and Pastor Robert Harris who have been and remain our faithful sponsors. Following 23 years of intense labor in Davao, and seeing a broader field of ministry in the western Pacific, we made a "course correction." The destination, (our purpose) remains the same. But as The Lord allowed us to build a first-class seminary and church facility in Davao, He has also allowed us to build a world-class motor sailing ship for broad ocean navigation. My vision for ministry hasn't diminished and my love for the Philippines remains as strong as ever. After all, my family and I have made a great investment there. But course corrections had to be made. For this reason, Victory Baptist Church is no longer the financial sponsor of PMBS. It is now the time for the seminary to stand on its own with Filipino sponsorship. Remote Island Ministries will carry on with Victory's full endorsement to reach the islands of Micronesia. There is a broad horizon ahead!



The precious child in this photo is one of many from Babeldaob Island. His big eyes search for all things and miss nothing! We have shown him God's love.

"Water for the body and Water for the soul...two necessary things, each complimenting the other but obviously, the one is temporary while the other is eternal."



Posing with one of the leaders of the community, I am thankful to have the time to spend with his people. We have made so many new friends in Ngiwal and will plan to reach their place again in the near future.

Delivery to Babeldaob Island



The photo to the left shows our new little cargo truck, a 2007 Mazda Titan together with our forty-foot cargo van we presently use as a storage facility. The pallets beneath the blue plastic tarp are some of the overflow items that won't fit inside the container. The load you can see inside the truck is bound for Ngatpang State.

I was happy to see the men of Ngiwal taking things into hand, drilling the holes and assembling the ceramic water filters for their families. We were able to place a filter in many of the homes which will help sanitize their drinking water from the rain collection drums. In most cases, their water isn't fit to drink without filtering and purifying.



Here, one of the men poses with his new water filter and container, ready to sanitize and put to use. He will be able to filter 5 gallons of water at a time, continuously for about a year, provided he takes care of the ceramic filter element.

Perhaps it is only when one has lived on these distant and remote islands, far from utility services of any sort, that an understanding can be had of the need for clean water. This is a matter of concern for Remote Island Ministries at all times and in every location. It is a fact that more than 90% of all tropical diseases can be prevented if clean water is available for people to consume. Thank you for helping us make this a primary goal.

Jesus said, *"But whoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."* (John 4:14)

Water for the body and Water for the soul...two necessary things, each complimenting the other but obviously, the one is temporary while the other is eternal. The man to the right holds in his hands, a new copy of the Bible. On this day, we placed forty-four Bibles in the homes of the people of Ngiwal, each with a word of encouragement and a prayer. These copies of the Scriptures are given by many of you through Rose Lawn Missionary Baptist Church, Tulsa, Oklahoma.



"Eleven thousand men died on an island not large enough to even sustain such a population. It was the place where two armies met, each bent on destroying the other...each hoping to hold ground at the end of the conflict that would not be worth such loss. One of the most bitter and destructive battles of the Pacific during WWII was engaged here on Peleliu. This tiny, five square mile rock island and many others like it out here were the scenes of unimaginable destruction. The rusting military junk serves a gruesome reminder. We pray to bring life instead, by The Word of God."

Ministering The Word of The Lord



It was Sunday, the last day of 2017 and we were busy sharing God's Word at the far end of the largest island in Palau. With eagerness we embraced the opportunity and with joy, the people received us! Many thanks go to our ministry partners Gustav and Sadie Ngotel whose home is Ngiwal. Gustav introduced us to the state leaders a month earlier and helped arrange the Sunday afternoon's activities. Gustav and Sadie are also the owners of the property where we have set our storage container. They ask nothing but our love and kindness in return for their generosity. The Lord is blessing this sweet couple as a result of their assistance.

The ladies in the photo above and the children to the right were all among those who came to the meeting house for the afternoon. We were able to meet so many people since more than half the population of Ngiwal came. There are churches in Ngiwal...an Evangelical and a Catholic and many of the people are attendees. I will soon return to share in a Bible study and prayer group that has formed under the leadership of one of the men. In this way we will be better able to determine the spiritual condition of the people in the area. Cultivating new fields of ministry takes time and demands a lot of personal attention. Ngatpang and Melekeok are next in line!



One of my new friends from Ngiwal loves to sing. If you can see, the book he is holding is a hymnal. Among the things he wanted is this songbook and many educational books that will be reserved for the elementary school there. One of the teachers came and loaded her bags with children's reading books and Bible story books to be used in the Ngiwal school library. There is strong sense of family among the Palauans and parents in the rural areas are really keen on teaching the children about The Lord. We will do our best to help them!

"I'm burning up to discover what lies around the bend or over the hill or across the way or beyond the horizon. I have been lost in travel more times that I can ever remember but feel fairly certain that I've seen more than a lot of folks ever see who never lose their way. And It isn't that I have lost my way. I just sometimes like to take the long way around. And whether on purpose or by mistake, that usually results in a most pleasing experience with surprising results. And going the long way is often paired these days with going slowly. That too lends itself to much pleasure. And there are many people with whom to pass the time."—gk



This handsome young man is the son of Gustav and Sadie Ngotel. He is a college student at the University in Guam and was visiting over the holidays. A new Bible in hand, we hope the best for him and his fellow students!

"Cultivating new fields of ministry takes time and demands a lot of personal attention."



Oh, how he loves his tiny baby girl! It isn't difficult to observe how this father cares for his little child. A new dress and some children's books are what he took for her, and a Bible for himself.

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Bibles, Bibles and more Bibles!
Many thanks go to Rose Lawn
Missionary Baptist Church, Tul-
sa, Oklahoma and Pastor Rick
McVeigh!

...Reaching people on the edge!



Contemplating a table full of OTC medical supplies and books, this man of Babeldaob Island, Ngwal state, makes his selections on New Year's Eve to take home to his family.

Closing thoughts... A Child's Imagination

Glen Knight

Children at play and new toys to spark their imaginations are always a joy to see! Many of you have given toys like these in the photo to the right. Perhaps you can understand their pleasure at selecting special gifts to take home. Most of us will never know the impact that such a simple gift may have. I know for sure that these kids will not forget the act of kindness that was shown at that moment on New Year's Eve, 2017. Toys for children teach them to imagine life. It may be a doll or a plush animal toy or a little tool box or a plastic cooking set, a car or a firetruck, but life is imagined in them. For me, (it was a very long time ago!) I was once a child with a toy boat in hand and some old tools in a box!



"I remember my 4th grade teacher in Gould, Arkansas telling us one day of the voyage of Christopher Columbus. It must have been around the Columbus Day Holiday...and I have to smile now looking back on it. But as she taught us the lesson in the story, I found myself making a drawing of a sailing boat such as what I imagined the celebrated Portuguese sailor must have had. In those days I didn't know about caravels and such boats of the 15 Century but in my mind I could see one of his boats and I busied myself drawing it. But without warning a sudden smack on the hand that broke my pencil lead on the paper and the scowl of the teacher as she snatched the rendering from my desk ended my drawing...but not my imagination!"
—Memoirs of a Missionary, Glen Knight