### **Remote Island Ministries**

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# MISSION: MICRONESIA

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"The Evidence of human habitation...dates back approximately 3,000 years."

Closing Thoughts...

"We sail the sea for..."



Our ministry team, James Houser, Madie Tate and Juli Knight, (seated) and Will Chessir and Demario Riley, (standing) pose for a photo on Tobi Island.

#### Ship's Log: 2 Degrees North, 131 Degrees East —Glen Knight

Lying hardly 80 miles north of the Equator, our two destinations in June were the Hotohobei Islands, the southernmost state of the Republic of Palau. Our first stop was Tobi Island, an almost fabled islet that first appeared in written history when discovered and charted by the Spanish in 1773. The evidence of human habitation, however dates back approximately 3,000 years. Having survived the colonization of nations including Germany, Japan and the United States, and having suffered immensely through war and natural disasters, the island has flourished in the past, despite difficulties. The present, however is a different story and a part of that difference can be attributed to its remoteness and to so few boats that are able and willing to go there.

Our efforts in reaching Tobi Island and its sister, Helen Reef, an atoll laying approximately sixty miles to the northeast, were rewarded with warm welcomes from among the people. We found them to be in need of the kind of work we are able to do so for three days, we remained at Tobi then moved on to Helen for another four days. We ministered the Word of The Lord among them and fed both spirit and body, nourishing food. This newsletter will highlight some of our activities on the islands.

Preparations are underway at this writing to return to Tobi and Helen Islands that we may continue our work there. We have a better idea now of the needs and are praying for great success. I hope you enjoy reading this report!



Glen & Summer Knight

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I hired a big crane truck to load the heavy anchors and deliver them to the port. While Nativa was at the wharf, we loaded them onto the portside deck and tied them down for the trip.

"One may wonder if THIS is real mission work. I tell you, YES..."



James holds two of the welts that were ripped out of a heavy-duty truck tire. This method of securing the mooring lines to the weights is proven, as the hard rubber and imbedded steel cords don't rust and won't fail under the sea.

#### MSM 2019: Return to Hatohobei Islands

The need to make a second voyage in as many months to Tobi Island and Helen Reef is pressing us onward at this writing. One of our service projects upon returning is to lay a heavy mooring anchor on the seabed off the tidal shelf of Tobi Island. Attached to that will be 600 feet of line and will make a deep water mooring for Nativa and other ships of comparable size that may visit the island. This is a great need as we intend to continue working there and cannot anchor our ship, thus limiting the time we can spend on the island during a voyage. The photo to the right shows the beginning of development of this anchor. My friend Raul of Surangel & Sons Construction is shown, standing.





We express our sincere thanks to Surangel & Sons for their contribution of three steel drums and the rebar for use in building these anchors. Will, Damario and James can be seen here loading the drums into our RIM Mobile Outreach truck, ready for delivery to the concrete batch plant. Once filled with concrete, each drum will weigh 1,200 pounds for a combined total weight of 3,600 pounds. The line used will be a doubled, 600 foot length of 1-1/2" rope, buoyed by three, 30" inflatable buoys and another pick-up buoy on a 100' line. I have set mooring anchors in the Philippines like this before, but never as deep as this one. We must hit our target at the drop!

The three interns, (left to right) Demario Riley, James Houser and Will Chessir did a good job assembling the drums with the rebar and double welts from truck tires. It is an amazing opportunity these summer workers have, to learn how to do such work as this and at the same time, provide invaluable help to us. Thanks, men!





As seen, filled with concrete, the drums...now mooring anchors, are loaded onto the ship, ready for tying down and making way to the island. One may wonder if THIS is real mission work. I tell you, YES. A great part of what this maritime ministry is able to accomplish is to make places like Tobi Island more accessible for trade among the other islands. Typically, without any way of dropping an anchor and with no pier, all ships simply bypass this island. We intend to help change that. We also intend to minister spiritually to the people and that requires remaining among them for extended periods of time. The mooring will facilitate that.

"I can't tell you how many times I've seen the needs of people such as these and with each sighting there's a greater desire to come to their aid. It isn't as some might imagine that I can become jaded to their circumstances for in each case, once again, my heart is broken." —Memoirs of a Missionary

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#### Hatohobei Island Scenes



Our three interns and Justin are loading the EAGLE with cartons of supplies from the grocery stores in Port Koror. These have been placed aboard NATIVA for the next voyage to Hatohobei. A fortnight at sea requires ample food for all personnel. I am so thankful for Summer who plans the meals and for Juli who helps her prepare and serve them. A well-fed crew is a happy one. I

am happy as well!

Off Tobi Island, looking across the tidal shelf, one can see our tender and the state boat tied off in the near distance and behind them, drifting at sea is our ship, NATIVA. With no place to anchor last month, while we worked ashore, Justin manned the ship, adrift off the island. We hope to resolve that problem!





Bicycles for all the children of Tobi were purchased, thanks to many of you who gave offerings. In fact, enough was given to allow us to purchase additional bicycles and tricycles for the smaller children. No child on Tobi has been left out of this wonderful project. Thank you for giving!

You might imagine the fun that Jello, the color of the deep blue sea all around Tobi Island, brought to everyone! Summer knows how to make the best gelatin possible, some even with fruit and she makes it in extremely large amounts so everyone has all that can be eaten. What a joy it is to see the smiles and watch the happy dances of children while eating this crazy, giggly stuff! Keep in mind that on these islands, there is no refrigeration so when a cool treat such as this is given, it is really a big hit. They will be looking for more Jello soon and I have inside information that the ingredients are ready!





This very shy little boy is severely malnourished. Upon our return to the island now, we are taking foods that will help him and the others as well. Whole milk is one of the things needed to turn this problem around. The long-life milk that is available here and requires no refrigeration, is what we intend to deliver by multiple cases to the families. Baby formula and cereal as well as vitamins for children of all ages are also needed continually, in very large quantities. Our ship is truly a ship of grace and mercy to those islanders in need. Your help with purchasing the things that are needed will be appreciated and will return a blessing to you in untold ways. Summer has ordered another large shipment of fresh bread that will be divided among the Tobians next week. We need to rig an oven soon on the island and bake bread there.

"Hard work and long days and longer nights, restless from being overly tired and the hundred questions that typically busy my mind, all seem to melt away into the fathomless blue sea, when once the wheel is taken in hand." —Memoirs of a Missionary, Glen Knight, Western Pacific Ocean



Our friend, Max on Tobi Island will learn to play this guitar that Demario left him. Stanley seems to enjoy being a part of the action as well! We left around 20 monkeys with the children, all of them given by various friends among our supporters in the States.

"Whole milk is one of the things needed to turn this problem (of malnutrition) around."



What joy simple bubbles bring to little hearts! This boy was fascinated by the floating, brightly colored bubbles. Perhaps this was the first time he had seen them. Pray for these children as we share Jesus among them.

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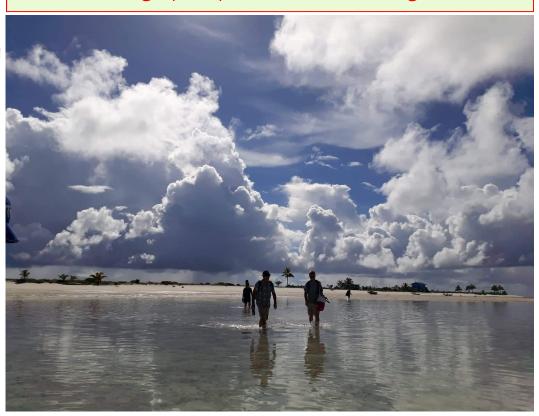
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Our friend from Tobi Island had caught this great fish to give to us on the ship. We cooked and enjoyed it so much! Gifts such as this are cherished aboard Nativa.

### ...Reaching people on the edge!



Our ministry team wading across the tidal shelf at Helen Reef on the way back to the ship in June 2019, Will Chessir, James Houser, Madie Tate, Demario Riley and Glen Knight.

#### Closing thoughts... "We sail the sea for Jesus!"

Glen Knight

Many people we run across out here sail the seas and oceans and some, even circumnavigate the earth. That would be an amazing thing to experience! We sail too but not for the same reasons. Our purpose is to reach people who are basically unreachable, with the gospel of Jesus Christ and in the love and saving grace of our Heavenly Father. Some people seem to fear us while others are skeptical. But our sincerity proves itself through patient and kind deeds that demonstrate what we proclaim. Going far and doing much are typical among us. It is our joy this summer to have our missionary interns present on the ship, engaged in the work. What great helpers they are to us!



"When it's time to go, it's time to go! There may be delays along the way and the weather may or may not be optimal. But as we have known before, those who wait on the weather, wait on a fickle circumstance that is as likely to change for the better in this hour or the worse in the next and neither will last for long. So, go. Make ready as best possible and determine to loose the lines that tether your ship to what you view as a safe harbor. Go! It's time."—Memoirs of a Missionary