

Remote Island Ministries

March / April
2020

MISSION: MICRONESIA

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"Our plans of visiting the States in June and attending the messenger assembly of the American Baptist Association have been canceled."



The port shut-down has given us much needed time for maintenance. Here, the deck crane has been serviced and repainted. It looks and works like new!

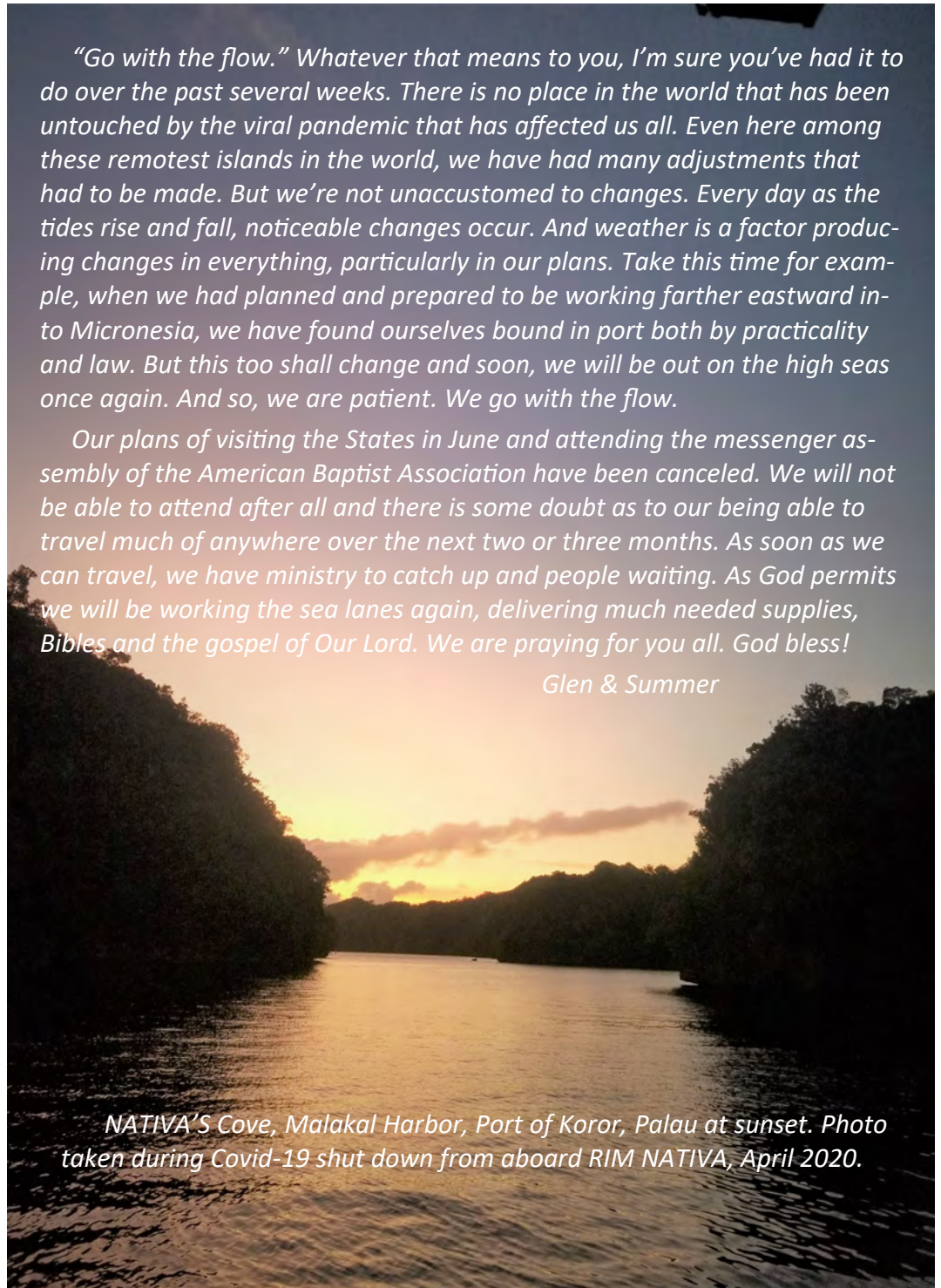
Ship's Log: 7.33 N; 134.45 E, Port of Koror, Palau

"Go with the flow." Whatever that means to you, I'm sure you've had it to do over the past several weeks. There is no place in the world that has been untouched by the viral pandemic that has affected us all. Even here among these remotest islands in the world, we have had many adjustments that had to be made. But we're not unaccustomed to changes. Every day as the tides rise and fall, noticeable changes occur. And weather is a factor producing changes in everything, particularly in our plans. Take this time for example, when we had planned and prepared to be working farther eastward into Micronesia, we have found ourselves bound in port both by practicality and law. But this too shall change and soon, we will be out on the high seas once again. And so, we are patient. We go with the flow.

Our plans of visiting the States in June and attending the messenger assembly of the American Baptist Association have been canceled. We will not be able to attend after all and there is some doubt as to our being able to travel much of anywhere over the next two or three months. As soon as we can travel, we have ministry to catch up and people waiting. As God permits we will be working the sea lanes again, delivering much needed supplies, Bibles and the gospel of Our Lord. We are praying for you all. God bless!

Glen & Summer

NATIVA'S Cove, Malakal Harbor, Port of Koror, Palau at sunset. Photo taken during Covid-19 shut down from aboard RIM NATIVA, April 2020.





There is never a time when ministry out here cannot be done. Day by day, there are people in need, most of whom are poor and many are sick. This mother and child live near our storage containers and have been recipients of many things but none more important than The Word of God.

“The timing of our delivery will have to wait for the reopening of ports to us without our being quarantined upon arrival.”



Repairing our water maker pump—routine maintenance never ends on the ship!

RIM Mosquito Nets Ready—Covid-delayed

Once again, we want to thank you all who are helping us with the mosquito net project for Micronesia. We have been able to give some of the nets and Bibles to area residents here in Koror and on Babeldaob Island, but the bulk of the nets that are ready for delivery to Micronesia are on hold. We're simply unable to sail with ports throughout the region being closed. The timing of our delivery will have to wait for the reopening of ports to us without our being quarantined immediately upon arrival. When that will be is anyone's guess. Until then, please know that we are ready. Thank you again!



Soon after our arrival in Micronesia, our ship became known as “that church boat.” This was said with contempt by certain people we've come to know through our three years of porting in Koror. We never took offense although it was meant to offend. Never mind. Our service among these islands has brought glory to God and helped a lot of people. Recently, with time on our hands, we repainted the entire ship and applied new decals, one of which can be seen in the photo to the left. NATIVA truly is the “Chapel of the Sea” so designated because from her decks, the gospel is proclaimed and life-sustaining supplies are offloaded in distant and needy places. And during the Covid closures, she has become a place for people to gather for worship and prayer.

The photo to the right is of our two standing crewmen on RIM NATIVA, Tony Cierva (left) and Jhobert Lastimozo, (right). Tony is a good diesel mechanic, welder, painter, electrician and most anything else he needs to be. Jhobert is a certified seaman and a quick study under Tony's and my tutelage. I am thankful for these men, knowing they are God-sent.



The Lord answered our prayers for good crewmen. Tony has worked with us for just over one year now and Jhobert joined us in early March 2020. Both men are from the Philippines, Tony from Bulacan on Luzon Island and Jhobert from South Cotabato on Mindanao. I have known Bert's family since 1982.

“I am amazed to watch from this distance, the things that are happening in my homeland. The godlike character that many leaders have assumed in the last several weeks is surely no surprise. The desire to control people and even life, itself is not new with fallen men. We do well to remember that this world is not a friendly field for Christians to frolic in like so many children. It is a field of conflict—a battleground for truth and the souls of mankind.” —Thinking Out Loud, gk

Ministry Scenes... Palau & Manila, Philippines

How our hearts long after those we've labored among over the last several months. The photo to the right shows the children of Tobi Island together with Stanley the Missionary Monkey and all his friends. Look closely at the photo to see all the other small monkeys in the hands of the children. Very soon, we will be able to reach this island again with God's love.



On a recent trip to Manila, Summer and I met these two young men, both Christians and working courageously for The Lord. The taller boy is from Saipan and the other, Manila. It was refreshing to us to see their love for Christ and to share their fellowship for a short while.

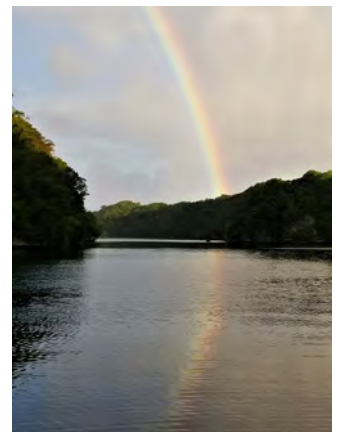


From the bridge of the sailing ship, everything is still and quiet. Each week we start the big Caterpillar engine and check all the ship's systems to keep ourselves ready to go. We're praying for the present viral crisis to end soon.



As the area once again opens to sailing vessels and ports are open to what are deemed non-essential entries, we hope to make our way southward to the Bird's Head peninsula of West Papua, Indonesia. We will be looking at the Raja Ampat Islands and the possibility of working from the Port of Sorong as our southern hemisphere operations base. We feel the need to build a Mission Station in that area but are unsure of exactly where at this writing. More investigation must be made to make that determination. The Mission Station would give us a staging area where we can build a chapel, a medical clinic, a school for children, a warehouse and guest houses. If this becomes reality, we would call it the "Harapan Cerah Centre" or in English, "The Bright Hope Center." This is a bold step for missions in this region of the world and one that will need plenty of prayer and volunteer assistance. Watch for more information.

"Dreams have never been in short supply with me. And I've never thought most things imagined, to be impossible. But this is the essence of faith in living for Christ." —Memoirs of a Missionary, gk



Spectacular rainbows are common sites to see around here but are never boring! They always signal hope by God's special promise. PTL!

"It was refreshing to us to see their love for Christ..."



We recently furnished the ship with 25 new, USCG-SOLAS certified, offshore life jackets. Here is one in the photo above. We hope to never have to use them, but we've got them just in case!

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A sweet child enjoying a rare treat. Remote islanders don't usually have access to snacks such as this package of chips. There's a lot that we all take for granted but sometimes we're made to stop and think...

...Reaching people on the edge!

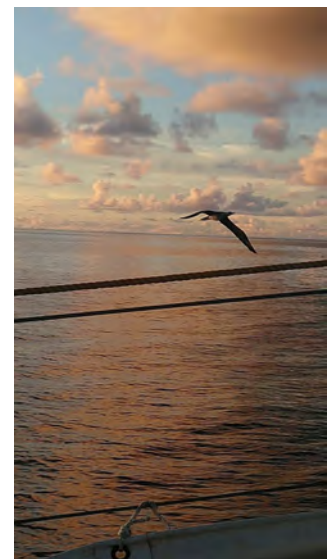


Photos by Summer Knight

The Missionary sailing ship, RIM NATIVA makes possible our travel throughout a broad region of the western Pacific that we may minister the love of God to islanders in remotest sections of the ocean. Your help is continually needed that we may carry on month after month. Thank you so very much for your prayers and financial assistance!

Closing thought: A Legend of the Sea—The Albatross

The Albatross, pictured in the photo to the right is one of the most unique and best adapted flight birds of the western Pacific Ocean. It can live for up to fifty years and typically spends the first six or so years of its life without ever touching land. Its ability to soar is second to none and out here, it has no fear of humans, whom it seldom, if ever sees. There are many superstitions concerning the albatross, some indicating it is an omen of bad luck, while others speak of its being a sign of good luck. Many old seamen believe the souls of sailors who perished at sea come back and inhabit the birds. We don't believe in luck—good or bad and we know human souls return to God when their bodies perish. But the albatross is always a welcomed and curious sight to us on Nativia. Sometimes one will land on the ship within an arm's reach and stare for a long time right into our eyes. Hmmm...



"The large bird circled the ship for hours as we plodded along the seaway. It seemed unconcerned at the thirty-knot wind that whipped up the salty spray, soaking the decks and obscuring my vision from the bridge windows. With graceful and powerful wings, it rose and sank along the sides of the ship, fishing for food that washed near the surface in our wake. This creature was doing what it was made to do and with confidence, strength, agility and determination. God has so made all His creation, even man." —Memoirs of a Missionary, gk