

MISSION: MICRONESIA

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ship's Log: Sailing ...	1
Feature Photograph "Knowing when to..."	1
"We say, See you Later..."	2
December 2021	2
Preparation to Sail...	3
Photo of the Month: "Fishing Birds"	4
Closing Thoughts "On ward with Hope"	

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Knowing when to stay and when to leave are two very important and often, difficult things. A missionary's heart is often torn between the two and it's because of a longing to put down roots but at the same time, the compelling desire to see what lies beyond. Journey, we must.

Ship's Log: 7.33 N, 134.49 E Sailing Away

—Glen Knight

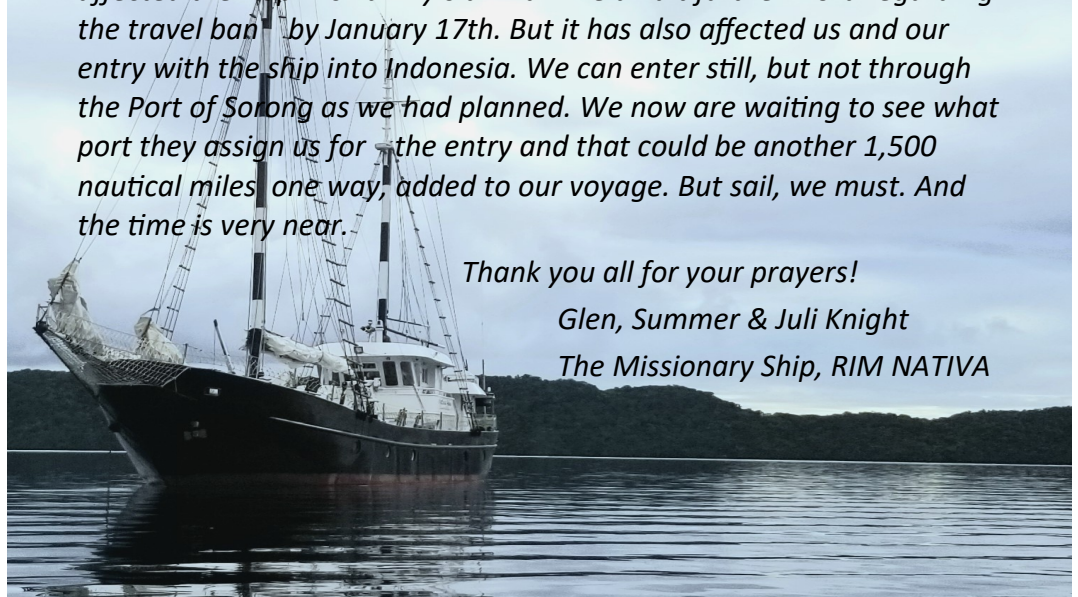
To say the least, this year has been an interesting one. It would not be difficult to look back upon it with disdain in many ways, but I refuse to do so. Our stateside trip after three years, was good. We reconnected with family and a few friends but because of the covid issue, were not able to visit among the churches as we would have liked. So, following our return to the ship in Malakal Harbor, we immediately set about preparing to sail, awaiting the green light for entry into neighboring countries. That came in November when we were accepted by the government of Indonesia for entry into West Papua, New Guinea. Our primary purpose in going there is to dry dock the ship and complete repairs on her hull following the April 2021 typhoon in Koror. So, with Indonesian visas in hand for the three of us as well as for Brent & Tammi Hopkins and children, Hudson and Mila, we shifted all activity into high gear. The ship will obtain a 3-year cruising permit, allowing us to sail anywhere within Indonesia during that period of time. Needless to say, this is a great opportunity for us to launch our activities in the area that has been of interest to us for many years!

Enter, Omicron variant. In late December as the new strain of the virus emerged, the Indonesian government has once again restricted travelers entering the country from South Africa. So, that has now affected the Hopkins Family's arrival. We await further word regarding the travel ban by January 17th. But it has also affected us and our entry with the ship into Indonesia. We can enter still, but not through the Port of Sorong as we had planned. We now are waiting to see what port they assign us for the entry and that could be another 1,500 nautical miles one way, added to our voyage. But sail, we must. And the time is very near.

Thank you all for your prayers!

Glen, Summer & Juli Knight

The Missionary Ship, RIM NATIVA





During the four years of our sojourn here in Micronesia, I have enjoyed flying the colors of my beloved homeland. I am not ashamed to be an American. The time has now come that a different flag must be flown as a courtesy to a new host nation.

"Thank you all who prayed for him and Onie..."



December, 2021—last full moon of the year setting over Malakal Harbor.

We say, "See you later..."

Among most of the islands out here, to say "goodbye" isn't common. Rather, we say, "See you later." And this is what we had to say to our crewman and shipmate, Tony Cierva of the Philippines during December. Tony suffered a stroke which at first rendered him debilitated and then another two which ultimately took his life. He leaves behind his wife of many years, Onie and their children and grandchildren in Bulacan, Philippines. He also leaves a tremendous gap in our crew as he had served as our engine and general maintenance man aboard NATIVA. Thank you all who prayed for him and Onie. So, for now, we simply say, "See you later, Tony!"

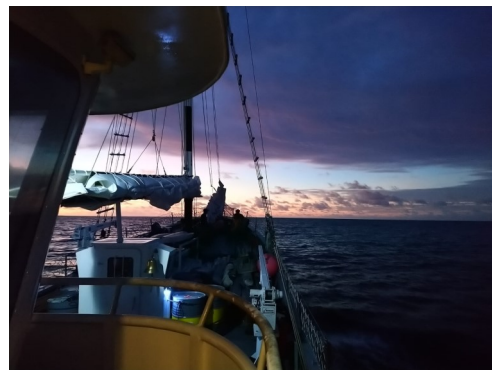


December 2021 Scenes...



Some of the adults of our Marina fellowship are shown in the photo to the left. We regret that some weren't able to attend this last of our Sunday fellowship meetings due to other commitments over the Christmas weekend. But these were here and we were happy!

Some have asked what life is like on the open sea. That question has many answers. Sometimes it's nice and calm, as in the photo to the right. This picture was shot at sunrise as we were heading across the Pacific Ocean en route back to the Port of Koror from Helen's Reef. Overnight crossings are often long and very dark when the moon and stars are veiled by clouds. But with the sunrise, that veil is lifted and, as you can see here, God's beauty shines in warm, glowing tones that are glorious!



The sailing domain we have charted since being in Western Micronesia, has been mostly the southwest island of Palau. These stretch far to the south and merely 120 nautical miles off northern New Guinea. This will soon change as we reach farther than we ever have, this time well into West Papua and Indonesia.

"There is a nearness to God that one feels when far away from all that otherwise claims attention. With me, it is being on the ocean. It is God's creation as much as any other part of the earth. And it holds wonders in its depths, unimaginable to most people. I will sail. This is God's pathway for me." —Building Boats, Memoirs, gk

Preparation to sail...

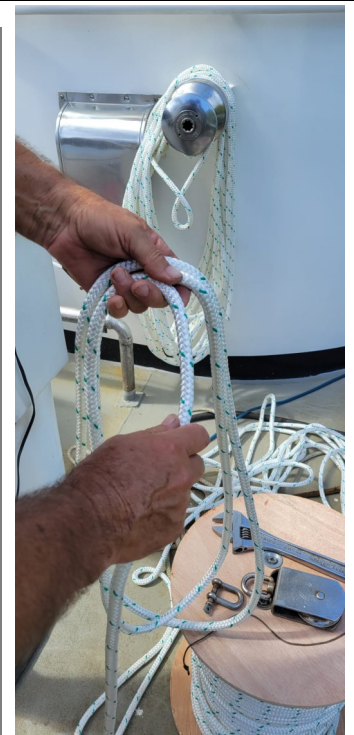


An interesting development in our efforts to reach Indonesia, is the presence of the men in the photo to the left. These are all Indonesian mariners, some of whom have been working in Palau and others who are stranded after delivering a tug-boat. They will assist us on our voyage going down. I am thankful!

We cannot express well enough, our thankfulness to Joe and Mimi Mills and family of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Acworth, Georgia, who gave the ship this generator you see in the photos to the right and below. It is a Phasor Marine, 30 KW unit that is first class!



This unit is built to carry the load of a working ship. It runs quietly and very cool, making our engine room a real pleasure to enter, unlike before with generators we've had. We look forward to many years of good service from it. God bless you, Joe & Mimi!



Preparations to sail include a lot of things to make the ship ready. Among those things, and because she is a sailing vessel, we are replacing all our sheet lines. You can see in the photo above a part of that work that is ongoing. Next, we will bend on NATIVA'S big sails and pray for good wind on the journey.

Hopkins Family coming to the ship soon!

Everything is in order for Brent, Tammi and the children to join us on the ship. Airline tickets are purchased, quarantine hotel reservations, made and visas are in order...but another brief snag has entered the picture. With the Omicron variant of the virus causing yet another closure for entry into Indonesia where we will soon be with the ship, they are delayed once again. They remain on standby in South Africa for the present as we all pray this travel restriction will soon be lifted.

Thank you all for your encouraging words and prayers for this young missionary family and for us as we eagerly await their arrival. Updates will be forthcoming!



"Thank you for your encouraging words and prayers..."

"Your children...they are gifts from God. Each has a unique personality, as individual as the name given. Each has skills, some shared but most, entirely different from the other. And those born into your family will be like you in appearance and nature. Some, adopted and taken to your family, may be very unlike you in most respects but exactly the same in others. But each is given and with purpose. And God doesn't make mistakes. Value your children." —From, "A Missionary's Family", Memoirs, —g. knight



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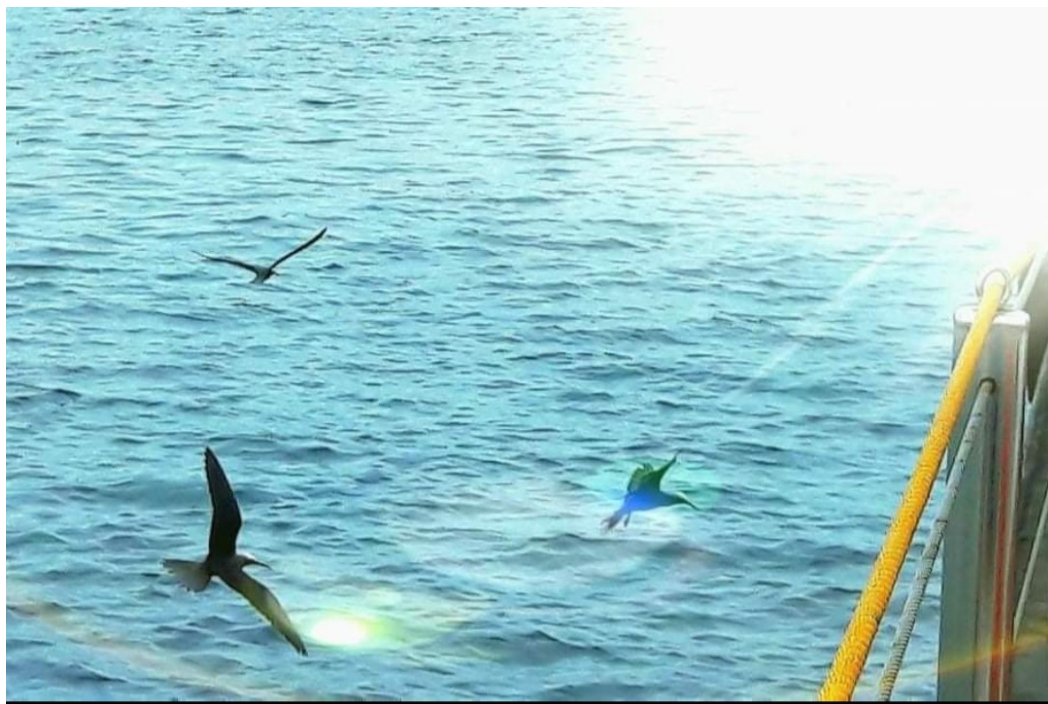
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Palauan children here are playing in a freshwater stream on Babeldaob Island. We have not taken very many photos of the children as it is dangerous should one of them fall victim to human trafficking. Among all these islands, this is a fearsome reality. Pray for the kids!

...Reaching people on the edge!



"Fishing Birds"

Among the many wonders of the life on the sea are the ocean-dwelling birds. When on broad crossings, one always knows land is near by the different species of birds that are encountered. God's creation is utterly amazing!

Southern Hemisphere: Onward with hope... —Glen Knight

More than four years ago, we entered Palau from the Philippines, seeking refuge from threats of violence. We have remained here longer than anticipated due to covid-19. But the time has come to press onward. Many friends and a faithful group of Christians are now to be left for a while. It's time for us to venture across the seas once again. The Lord knows what lies ahead for us and we trust in His unfailing leadership. We hope for great opportunities soon as we cross the Equator!



"What decisions would I have made, if I'd known then, what I know now? There is no real answer to that. The question that should satisfy me, when answered correctly, is, did I follow what I thought was God's leadership?"