

MISSION: INDONESIA!

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ship's Log: Southward	1
Feature Photograph "Ship's Bow at Sunrise"	1
Hopkins Family Arrives in Indonesia!	2
A Harbor for a...Base	2
Drydocking Scenes	3
Photo of the Month: "Sorong Harbor Rainbow"	4
Closing Thoughts "It's Hard Work"	

"What lay before us would be four to five days of round-the-clock navigation..."



Ship's Log: 0.876 S, 131.2558 E Southward Bound —Glen Knight

The sea that lay before us heaved gently as we pointed the ship's bow south by southwest aiming to reach the Bird's Head Peninsula of West Papua, Indonesia over the coming five days. This was a journey which we'd planned for more than a year and now the time had come to embark. Threading the narrow Malakal Passage that leads from the Port of Koror eastward into the open Pacific Ocean, we left our beautiful Southern Lagoon and headed out over the deep waters of the Palau Trench. The Western Pacific Countercurrent runs swiftly passed Anguar Island and wells up on the Hydrographer's Bank off Peleliu and for the first six hours of every passage southward, the ship plunges headlong into the sea, rising and falling again upon ten to twelve foot swells in good weather. But this is a sailor's sea. What lay before us would be four to five days of round-the-clock navigation and an uncertain arrival in a land, new to us that lay in the Southern Hemisphere.

Plotting a course at sea and navigating new territories are not unfamiliar to us. But on every shore, there are things to learn that we had not known before. One is wise to be quiet and observant from the outset. There is a lot of traction to be gained by being so minded. Here are people who need not be told how to do things. They are among the most capable of any in the world. They are accepting of outsiders but expect them to keep their places. Respect, understanding, kindness, warm smiles...these are the things that make living here, not just possible, but desirable. So now, we have connected the dots of our ministry domain which includes the Philippines, Palau and Papua, Indonesia. Only The Lord knows what lies on the horizon!

—Glen Knight

Remote Island Ministries, Indonesia





Happy Birthday, Juli...22 years and counting. I am thankful for this young lady and for the blessing she is to our family. Juli is helping Tammi with the children's homeschooling and continues with so many other tasks in our shipboard lives.

"The supply of fresh fish arrives here every Friday by the boat-load."



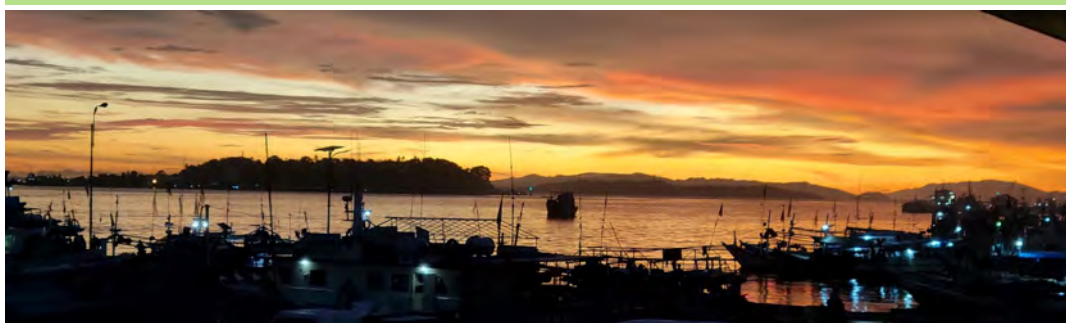
Brent Hopkins on the boat at sunset, 03 March en route to Sorong from the shipyard.

Hopkins Family Arrives in Indonesia!

At long last, Brent, Tammi, Hudson and Mila Hopkins arrived from South Africa to join the ship and the work. We welcome our children and the skills they bring to helping in the ship's operation and outreach ministry. Many of you have prayed for them during the months they were preparing and hoping to come and we thank you for that. Now, pray with us for their transition to living on NATIVA and sharing their lives with the islanders. The photo to the right shows Juli with them as we celebrated her 22nd birthday at Marina Star Restaurant on March 1. Hudson and Mila are 6 and 4 years old, respectively. They will home-school aboard the ship.



A Harbor for a Ministry Base



The Port of Sorong, West Papua, Indonesia seems at this point to be a good harbor for RIM NATIVA as a supply point for our ministry operations to the neighboring islands of Raja Ampat and the Bird's Head Peninsula. Time will tell for sure but for now, the picture you see above is a daily sight to us at sunset. The Bintang Marina shown in the foreground, is a fishing port. The supply of fresh fish arrives here every Friday by the boat-load. The island in the near background is Pulau Doom, a heavily populated island with nearly 7,000 inhabitants. The anchorage for ships the size of RIM NATIVA can be seen here between the marina and the island. We have chosen the area off the left side of the photo as our anchor point with an average depth of 75 feet. The first islands in our ministry target area are just over 40 nautical miles from this anchorage. Since we will use Sorong Harbor as our supply base, finding our way around the city is an exciting thing to do with so many new things to learn. Thanks for your prayers!

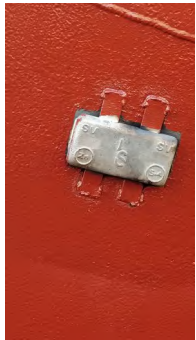
"My memory keeps cropping up these days and taking me back so very many years to similar experiences in another island nation, where life was being charted by the day and every day seemed different. But what wasn't different then and even now, was our commitment to God's leadership." —gk

Shipyard Scenes: Drydocking RIM Nativa

The photo to the right shows NATIVA just after being hauled up on the rails at the shipyard. The sand-blasting had not been done at this time so you can easily see what three years of being in the ocean does to a steel hull. Drydocking is necessary and costly. But the life of the ship is in hull-care.



Look closely at the photos to the left. Both show the same area of the starboard fin keel. This was severely bent during Typhoon Surigae in 2021 and is one of the main reasons we came to drydock. The top photo shows the section cut away and the bottom, the same as it had been rebuilt. The paint was the primer and the anticorrosive. We followed that up with a good coat of the antifouling paint that inhibits sea growth. These keels are vital to stability.



Another important thing we accomplished during this haul out was to replace all 38 zinc anodes on the hull. To the left, you can see one of them as it was installed. These help prevent galvanic corrosion on the steel hull. The photo to the right shows the new stern tube bushing we manufactured and installed. The propeller shaft inserts through that hole into the ship and to the engine.

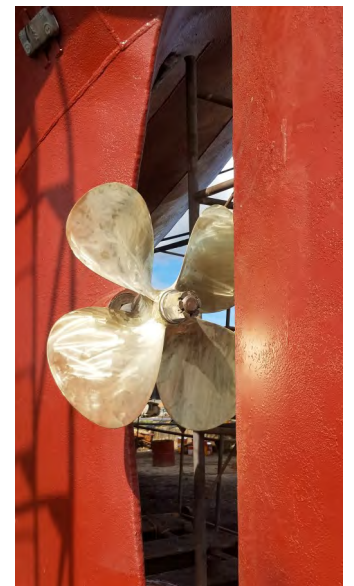


And finally, after thirteen days, the ship was finished and ready to launch again. The photos to the left and right were shot at sunrise on March 4.



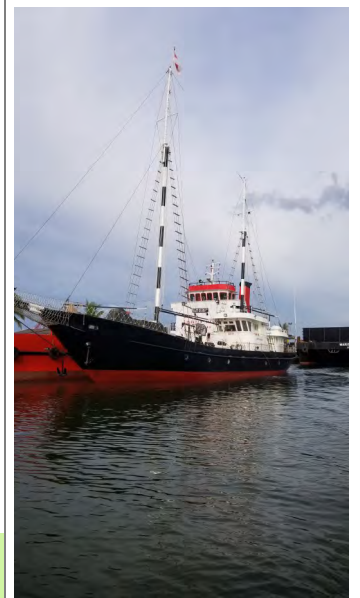
I pray that our work now is sufficient for the coming three years. Taking care of the gospel ship is extremely important but more important than that is to press her and ourselves once more into ministry service. We will again mount her big sails within days from now and point her bow toward Raja Ampat and associated islands of the Bird's Head Peninsula.

"The builder always knows the thing that is built. There is little that anyone can tell him that he doesn't already know and when things go wrong with that which is built, the first consultant to setting it right again, is the builder. What is true with things of man's crafting, is even more true with that which is made by The Almighty. He knows what will fix this world, but sadly, too few will listen. We will not be among them. Hear The Word of God." —gk



Here you can see the newly polished propeller with a close-up view of the new bottom paint.

"The life of the ship is in hull-care..."



The work was completed on Day 14 in the shipyard. The ship was floated again on March 4,

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The beautiful smiles of a young Papuan child make us know why we are here.

...Reaching people on the edge!



Photo: Summer Knight

"Sorong Harbor Rainbow"

It's hard work...

—Glen Knight

Closing out this month is a welcomed thing as we've completed our time in the shipyard. There is nothing about a haul-out that is fun. It's hard work. In every drydocking, we have to choose what must be done over things we'd like to get done. This time in the shipyard has been no different. There are still things that need doing but I am pleased that we got everything below the ship's waterline completed. Other things can be done afloat as we have time. For now, we must get busy with the most important matters at hand...ministry to the people of these islands! We thank you all for your support and prayers.



"I remember almost thirty years ago, bringing my family to a country far away and immersing ourselves in a culture, vastly different from what we had known. I remember the fears and the curiosities and the excitement of the challenge. It is now the same, once again. And we embrace every moment of it and every step along the journey." —Making New Memories, Knight & Hopkins Family