## **Remote Island Ministries**

#### May/June 2022

# MISSION: INDONESIA!

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*"We will soon begin our ninth year, living on the ocean..."* 



#### Ship's Log: 7.5150 N; 134.5825 E and reaching –

—Glen Knight

A common sea bird out here is the frigate bird. To say the least, this is a very interesting creature, being a genuine sea bird but it hasn't the webbed feet of other sea species. The fact is that it hardly ever lands, choosing rather to remain aloft for long periods of time. Even the young when leaving the nest for the first time, will fly away and remain airborne for three months or longer before alighting somewhere. This animal, with its two-meter wingspan, can soar with ease to ten thousand feet or more and ride the wind currents across oceans. It feeds upon the fish that other sea birds have caught, wresting them from their beaked grasp or upon fish snared in nets behind ocean-going trawlers. The frigate bird can be found throughout the world along the low latitudes. A group of four were the first to greet us as we sailed across the Equator, a sight I will never forget!

I am reminded that God has prepared every creature for its own habitat and way of life. Although not of the sea, we have chosen it as our habitat. Its currents are our pathways; its waves, our hills and mountains. God, in His grace has prepared us for these things. We will soon begin our ninth year, living on the ocean and ministering among remote islands. Our ministry domain includes the Philippines, western Micronesia and eastern and central Indonesia. We sail with ease among two continents— Southeast Asia and Oceania. Our service area encompasses a million square miles of ocean. The Western Pacific Ocean, the Philippine Sea, Visayan Sea, Molucca and Halmahera Seas and the Banda Sea are all areas where we have sailed and continue to sail for gospel ministry. Like the frigate bird, God has prepared us and made work ready at hand. The Lesser Sunda Islands are our next target area. Distance is no barrier. Thank you for praying!

> Glen & Summer Knight Remote Island Ministries

A Great Frigate Bird spreads its wings over the ship as it hovers, awaiting a meal of flying fish. —May 2022



"I can see in his eyes an inquisitiveness that matches youthful energy and no doubt, God will choose him to help his people in many ways, not the least of which will be to help take the gospel to islanders far and wide." My thoughts upon meeting this boy.

"...a repository of Bibles in numerous languages and by the hundreds, ready for distribution."



Mila has found special friends on the ship. Stanley, Yani and Bongo have once again come to life, helping us reach the children. We had an opportunity to share the gospel with children of Gam Island in their elementary school. Such blessings!

## Ministry Scenes: Raja Ampat and Soop Islands

A friendly wave 'goodbye' warmed our hearts when this Papuan man pushed back from NATIVA to carry on with his day. He had called at the ship earlier in the day, bringing coconuts for sale. We bought what he had and then took the time to share with him. He was happy to receive the Word of The Lord and to know that God's grace is free! He would return several times afterward to visit again and to bring more coconuts...but now without charge. We gave him Bibles...many of them, and he took them home to his family and neighbors. When we return, we will call on his village and with his assistance, share Jesus among them again. Time will seem to pass slowly for us and them but soon, with the trade winds shifting in their direction, we will sail into their anchorage. Thank you for helping us and for praying for these islands.





"This, my friends, is what it's all about. Tiny, remote islands of the sea and people whose roads are the ocean currents and whose vehicles are boats of every description, are the 'People on the Edge' whom we have committed ourselves to reach with the gospel. There is a culture of the sea that is understood only by those who embrace the sea as home. And that commonality opens doors that in most cases, would be closed either by distance or simple inaccessibility." —Remote Island Ministries

"The ship RIM NATIVA is not just a vehicle that takes us from one place to another. She is a ministry platform from which the gospel is shared. She is a warehouse of goods that provide relief to often desperate people. She is a machine capable of carrying heavy loads; a vessel of rescue; an honorable ship of sanctuary to those who are injured, hungry, cold and half naked. NATIVA is a storehouse of food and fresh water; a repository of Bibles in numerous languages and by the hundreds, ready at hand for distribution. NATIVA is in truth, The Chapel of the Sea." —Remote Island Ministries



While tied alongside the missionary ship, the man in the photo to the right received Jesus as his personal Savior.

"The morning sun often finds us sailing away, whether to the east or west, north or south. And when the same sun sets on a broad reach, we plow ahead into the night, seeking our way in utter darkness to the next port of call. Around the clock sailing is typical and often, for days on end." —gk

## More Ministry Scenes...

I can't adequately share the joy we have in our hearts when people we meet on these islands receive The Word of The Lord. Their reactions at having understood the simple gospel message and the immediate impact that has on them are priceless. Holding a copy of the Bible in their native language and being able to read and share it among themselves is a huge encouragement to us. With the help of our stateside mission partners, we were able to furnish Soop Island with 211 copies of the Scriptures in Bahasa language. We promised to bring more soon.





A Papuan family, one of many who came to the ship to receive what we shared.

"There is an entirely different field of ministry in harbors where we so often drop anchor..."



There is an entirely different field of ministry in harbors where we so often drop anchor. We are never in port long before the local people passing on their boats, work up enough nerve to satisfy their curiosity and stop at the ship. They quickly learn that we are servants of The Lord and most continue returning almost daily to get to know us better. Our interest of course, is that they get to know Jesus! Many are surprised at the love and compassion we share.

The photo to the left is precious. A very shy mother and her curious little girl stopped at the ship one morning. We gave her a Bible and some simple clothing for the child as well as a few hygiene supplies.

We developed good friends while among the Raja Ampat Islands. The people are generally very friendly and most have open personalities so that establishing friendship is not difficult. There are of course, language barriers but that's a minor inconvenience. The man with me in the photo on the right stopped by the ship daily to help us with whatever needed doing. He is a Christian and knowing that we are a team of missionaries on the missionary ship, created an instant bond that became very strong. We will not be long before returning to his home island and will gladly welcome him back aboard NATIVA.



The Lesser Sunda Islands of south-central Indonesia are the target area of our next sailing venture late in the current year. We are planning to reach these islands and work from east to west over the coming year, 2023. There are several matters to work out between now and then, not the least of which are the immigration regulations that at present are a very expensive and difficult challenge. We will do what is necessary. Thanks for your help!



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## ...Reaching people on the edge!



"Raja Ampat Islands Sunset"

*Off the bow of the sailing ship, RIM NATIVA the sun casts its golden beams across the Indonesian equatorial sky in a spectacular scene, May 2022.* 

### Closing Thoughts: Onward...

With the middle of the year, 2022 at hand, we are thankful for six months of fruitful ministry in West Papua, Indonesia. As the second half of the year is now upon us, we anticipate preparing another voyage soon that will take us deeper into Indonesia to work among the Lesser Sunda Islands for a period of one to two years. Several factors weigh in on this effort, not the least of which are the Indonesian Immigration regulations affecting our ship's presence as well as sufficient crew. Your prayers are once again vital to the success of this ministry. We are thankful for your interest and support of REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES. And as always, we appreciate hearing from you!



-Glen Knight

"There is one thing you can count on when at sea—the weather. It most certainly will not be what you had hoped. I have a friend who says to never talk about weather when sailing. It seems to have ears and a great sense of humor! What is expected to be favorable will be anything but that. Maybe a bit of reverse psychology would work. Expect awful weather and perhaps it would turn out to be perfect? Not likely! "\_\_\_\_On sailing NATIVA, Glen Knight