

Remote Island Ministries

July / August
2022

MISSION: WESTERN PACIFIC!

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"I can tell you of notes and maps, sketches and supposed true accounts..."



High aloft on the main mast, Brent Hopkins makes repairs on the navigation lights.

Ship's Log: Searching Among the Islands

—Glen Knight

Through so many years of working among these islands in the Western Pacific Ocean, I have on occasion, been asked the question, "For what are you searching?" I can tell you of notes and maps, sketches and supposed true accounts of things buried or sunken...gold, silver, old coins...the list goes on. Treasure hunters abound in places like these and among them, hustlers of all sorts. To have survived out here for so long is to have ignored the flimflam. I remember once, a pastor friend of mine in the Philippines tried his best to convince me of the discovery of buried valuables from the WWII era. All I needed to do was to "fund the digging." Another pastor there spent years digging up the church grounds that we had purchased, convinced that gold was buried there. I could go on with examples. But all this reminds me of Jesus' parable in Matthew 13:44. (Please read.) It is more than an altruistic notion that our work among the islands is not for our benefit, but for the people. In fact, as The Lord states in His parable of the Hidden Treasure, that once a treasure is discovered in the field, the seeker goes and sells everything in order to purchase the field that has more of the hidden treasure. In the story, the field represents the world and the treasure is mankind. The ultimate price paid for that field was paid by Jesus in His personal sacrifice. And through that, mankind is bought by God's grace. So, in like manner, and for the same reason, we go, spending and being spent without notions of personal gain, except for whatever reward may be given one day in heaven.

Yes, we search among the islands and that search is for treasures far greater than what can be imagined in this world. It is a continual search for the souls of men and women, boys and girls who need to know Jesus. God bless you all and thank you for your help! —Glen & Summer Knight



Purple and orange skies over our anchorage in West Papua from the Hunga Tonga-Hunga Ha'apai volcano eruption.



This summer we said good-bye to our crewman, Jhobert Lastimozo from the Philippines who served well aboard NATIVA for a little over 2 years. We pray for his continued pursuits as he moves on.

"Crewmen typically sign on for a two-year term of service."



Our Indonesian crewman, Jacobus also finished his work aboard NATIVA this summer and moved on. He is now shipboard in South Africa. We pray for his success.

Changing Crew But Not Changing Plans

As has been the case for most of our lives, things change and an example of that fact is in our manning situation on the missionary ship. At one time, we required a crew of not less than 7 men. As time has passed, it has become more difficult to get the personnel needed so we've contented ourselves with fewer. Working smarter is necessary, figuring out ways to do as much with fewer men without adding more hours to already long working schedules. The photo at the right shows an example of that. We built an electric fuel transfer pump that empties a 55 gallon drum of diesel in six minutes. Whereas before, we would sail to the port to bunker our fuel, the extreme cost of diesel per gallon has forced us to haul it ourselves in drums, purchasing smaller amounts. The load of diesel in these drums cost \$7.26 per gallon.



I am thankful for our son-in-law, Brent as he is a great helper to me, able to do most anything. He is shown here painting the EAGLE service boat which we repaired in August, following the typhoon damage it suffered in April of 2021. We now have the boat back in service. Further repairs are being made on its topsides as we have the time. Only our family remains to crew the missionary ship but Brent, Tammi and the children will likely be moving on to Australia toward the end of the year to pursue their lives there.

Crewmen typically sign on for a two-year term of service. We had three men committed to helping us, however their present employer in Koror lately bound them under contract and will not release them. So our search continues. We will be

"In nine years of sailing the missionary ship, we have had more men to work aboard than I can remember. I reckon there are over thirty and some did good work but others, not so good. Some remained for the requested time while at least one actually jumped ship in port earlier this year. Such is how it goes. But one thing I know for sure is that men who come to work here have an opportunity to work in an environment that is altogether different from what is common, for there is no cursing, drinking, smoking or verbal abuse like on other ships. All have an opportunity to know The Lord and to leave as missionaries." —Living Aboard NATIVA

Ministry Scenes from July and August...

We're enjoying building the fellowship of believers here, choosing to meet together onboard the ship each Sunday. The men here are all Indonesian mariners who gather with the group for a great time of singing, praying and preaching!



The young men in the photo to the left are Indonesian workers in a butcher shop in Sorong. If you look closely, you'll see the audio Bibles that were given them. It's good seeing these guys each week while in their port and taking time to share with them and to pray for their families. They often request additional audio Bibles and printed ones as well. Thanks to FISH Ministries, we have them!



I have long since lost track of the number of guitars the mission has bought for eager guitar pickers who use their skills among the churches. Here, once again, are two which the young man in the photo helped me to select. He is a Christian who gladly assisted me and also took several units of the audio Bible for use in his personal ministry. It was in this store also that we were able to purchase 206 printed Bahasa Indonesian Bibles for placement among the people, all of whom are very poor and cannot afford to make the purchases themselves. Many thanks go to all who provided funds for these Bibles!



The shy fellow in the photograph here is a special friend who received Jesus one day while visiting the missionary ship. While we may never see him again, we will not forget to pray for him and his family. I don't know how many people we've met and prayed with along this journey of more than twenty-eight years. I pray that someday in heaven, we will all meet again. As I grow older, I have an overwhelming sense of not having done enough yet in the service of Our Lord. Please pray for the efforts to continue while there is still time.



"What do you need for your village?" I asked the Chief. And without hesitation, he answered, 'A pair of gates for the children's school.' And he showed us the building and grounds and the wall they had built around it as well as the openings for the gates. So, we built and delivered them. It's up to the people now to install them. I hope they do, but we will not be there to see." —Indonesia, 2022, RIM NATIVA



Landing the boat on Yen Besar, Indonesia with the ship in the background.

Please pray for the efforts to continue while there is still time."



Two little boys of Yen Besar look on curiously as we shared God's Word among the people.

Remote Island Ministries

A Ministry of
Victory Baptist Church
10000 Brockington Ave.
Sherwood, AR 72120
USA

Stateside Address:
REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES
Glen Knight, c/o Cheryl Clem
8101 Thames Ave.
Texarkana, TX 75503
USA

Field Location:
Captain Charles Glenn Knight
Summer C.E. Knight
The Sailing Ship RIM NATIVA
Western Pacific Ocean
Email only:
glen@rimnativa.com

Email me:

glen@rimnativa.com



A little island church in Indonesia is pictured here. We visited the people while there.

...Reaching people on the edge!



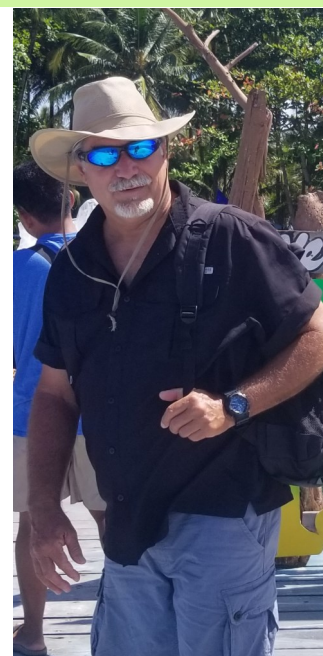
Beautiful Isles of Indonesia

Closing Thoughts: Great ministry lies ahead...

—Glen Knight

In an enlarged territory for Remote Island Ministries, great ministry opportunities lie ahead. We are constantly reminded of such prospects with every mile we journey and every step we make on distant shores. There is a call to us again from Micronesia as well as from the Philippines and Indonesia and while we await crew, we continue ministry here in the Western Caroline Islands. The cost of supplies and primarily of diesel fuel reminds us of the need to seek the most efficient means of navigating the oceans and that means more dependance on the ship's sails for propulsion. That is a great advantage we have with NATIVA but it is certain, we need the right personnel.

Thank you all for your prayers and support. Please pray with us for the coming months that time will find us far and away for the sake of the gospel!



"I did not consider myself early on as an adventurer, although high adventure seems to have been what beckoned me onward. And of danger and toil there has been no lacking. The thing that drives me is not the adventure itself but the thought that out there, there are those who need Jesus in places not accessible except by taking the risk and daring the very elements to reach them and that, time and again."

—Memoirs of a Missionary, glen knight