

Remote Island Ministries

Jan & Feb
2023

MISSION: WESTERN PACIFIC!

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"It is difficult here to get the personnel needed so please keep praying for this need."

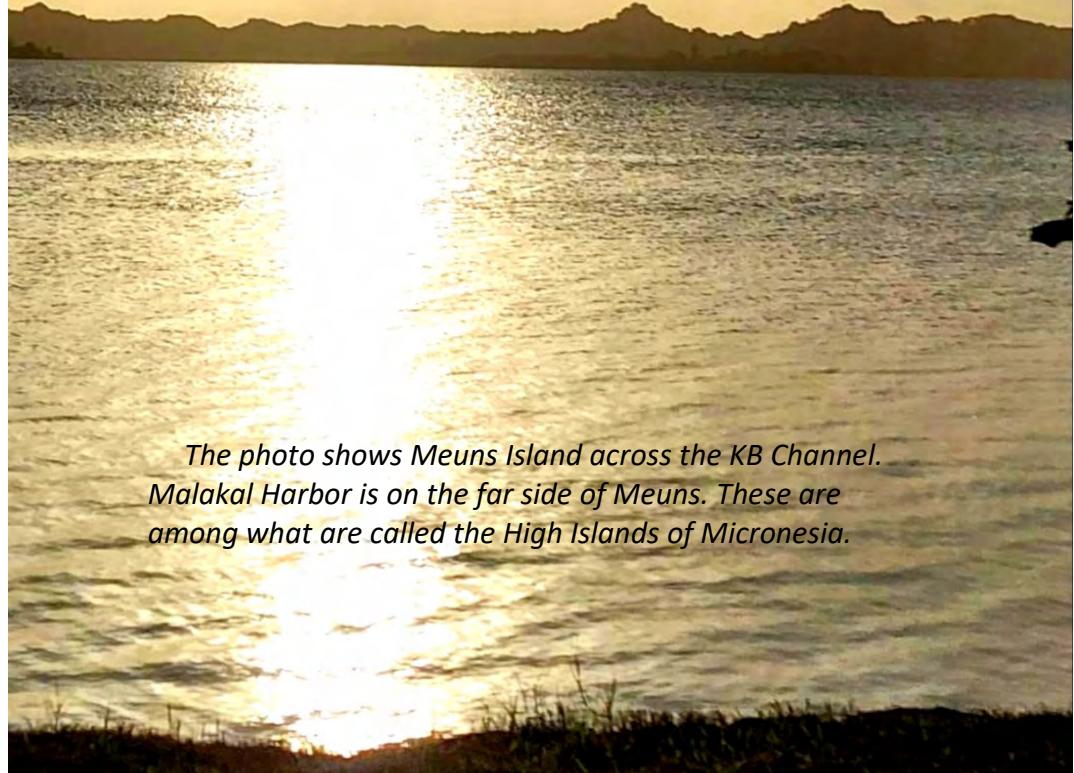


The famous "kalesa" of Manila was once the taxi service of the city. Today, they serve the tourist industry. It's too bad, progress overtook them!

Ship's Log: "Coming Home to NATIVA"

—Glen Knight

The sun sets warm and golden over the Palau Islands in late January 2023. We returned to our awaiting ship at the Marina in Airai State, underneath the Koror-Babeldaob bridge on December 31. It's good to be home from the mainland and now to be able to lay plans for the months ahead. Having an opportunity to make the journey over to the Philippines, we secured the ship for an additional period of time and flew away to Manila. The purpose of our visit is detailed in this newsletter. We have now returned with the ship to our anchorage in Malakal Harbor, Palau. We will remain here for several weeks, taking care of some maintenance and preparing to sail before mid-year. The sailing season will begin around the first of May and we must be ready to go at any time thereafter. But that depends on weather, sea condition and qualified crewmen. It is difficult here to get the personnel needed so please keep praying for this particular need. —Glen & Summer



The photo shows Meuns Island across the KB Channel. Malakal Harbor is on the far side of Meuns. These are among what are called the High Islands of Micronesia.



A wide age span can be seen in the full house of people who attend worship at Smile City MBC. This indicates a good ministry. Please pray for continuation.

"The pandemic of the last three years had prevented us from visiting their place until now."



The young ladies and men are careful to bring their Bibles to church and to study them to see if what the preacher is saying is really truth from God's Word!

Ministry Visit to Bacolod City, Philippines

It was our joy recently to reunite with some of our former students from the seminary in Davao. The photo at the right shows (left to right) Ching and Jojo Calisagan, Jun Abay and Ging & Ernie Adlaon. All are faithfully serving The Lord in the churches of Negros Islands.



Pastor Jun Abay of Smile City Missionary Baptist Church, Bacolod City continues to do a great job leading the people and reaching their community. It was so good to see him and his family and to spend time encouraging one another recently. The pandemic of the last three years had prevented us from visiting their place until now. It's good to see the church thriving and the people excited in serving The Lord. This church is a stronghold for the work in the central Philippines and they desire our prayers as they carry on their ministry.

It is a well known fact that the strength of a church can be observed in their youth. The photo to the right shows the young people of Smile City MBC during their regular Sunday afternoon fellowship. Juli is pictured with them, the fifth from the left. We have been around long enough to have watched many of these young people grow into adults!



An entirely new group of children can be seen in the photo to the left. These show the success of the children's ministries in the church. We're thankful for the efforts all are making and the blessing of The Lord upon them. We commend the adults and parents who are training these kids up in the way of The Lord. It's exciting to see!

"They said it wouldn't succeed, this effort that was made to put up a church. But what was not realized was that when God lays it on the heart of a devoted servant to accomplish a task, it isn't in the strength and wisdom of that one or even of the many who may also help. It is God's work from the start. And it will be His work when it is finished. Not all men will approve it and many may criticize but these are not things that matter. It is God Who has the final word."

More scenes from the Philippines

Manila Bay is a place of legend for many reasons. We always enjoy our visit when we sail or fly into the PI. The photo to the right shows the busy South Harbor facility of the Port of Manila. Two large container freighters can be seen in the distance and three tugs.



The Philippines is one of many Asian countries that is very aggressive in training its young men and women in maritime operations and is one of the largest exporters of marine labor in the world. We visited one of the maritime colleges during our recent trip to the Islands.

A time for a bit of ice cream and meeting a new friend inside the old city of Manila, gave an opportunity for a Jesus talk. The young man to the right professed to be a Christian and answered my questions very well. He sells ice cream to raise money for his schooling and hopes to one day join the international labor force as a seaman. We have received many applications from mostly apprentice seamen, desiring a job aboard the missionary ship. This was in part, one of the reasons for making our journey to the Philippines early this year.



The abundance of produce in the markets is pictured here, reminding us of the abundant harvest of souls that can be found.

"A setback has occurred..."



Looking ahead as much as possible, we are intent on continuing this western Pacific mission both in the Philippines and Indonesia. A setback has occurred in that two crewmen we had hoped to gain during late February were not in fact, able to join the ship. They were required to return to Indonesia when their contracts expired with the fishing company they had sailed with in Palau. This is a matter not completely unexpected, but obviously we had hoped otherwise. They can join NATIVA once we're in Indo again by mid-year. We will miss them as they're also a part of our mission here in Koror.

"I cannot complain and I will not doubt, though things often aren't like I'd have them to be if I could make all the decisions. I will pray and leave it at that. I learned a long time ago that seeing clearly ahead isn't my obligation. That's God's part. Patiently following Him is mine." —working the western seas, gk



The markets are always a good place to conduct one-on-one evangelism in Asia. The man in the photo above is a dried fish vendor in Bacolod City, Philippines.

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A small child plays with a flip flop and a rock wrapped in plastic on a street in Manila.

...Reaching people on the edge!



Closing thoughts: Searching for ship's crew

—Glen Knight

Spending time back in the Philippines during January and February reminded us of the enormity of work that remains to be done. Some follow up ministry with the brethren in Bacolod City was a great encouragement to us all. But we must keep our focus on the broader field and be ready by June to move ahead. We are still facing the difficulty of finding qualified crewmen for NATIVA. While in the PI, we interviewed several men and many others have applied for positions via email. They are mostly apprentice seamen, however and aren't yet suited for the open sea. We pray for qualified men to be able to join the ship soon. We anticipate sailing for Indonesia in early June. Thanks for your prayers and help!



"The south wind blew up strong and gusty and we were thankful to have been tucked up under the lee side of the island that afforded us some shelter. The sound of the wind over the island was a constant reminder of its present strength and caused us to be on watch should it suddenly shift or become stronger with the sun's heating during mid-afternoon. As in many places around the world, it's storm season."