

Remote Island Ministries

Sept & Oct
2023

MISSION: INDO-PACIFIC!

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"It is here that we will remain for a period of time, likely, well into 2024."



NATIVA's crew watching for shallows in Suli Bay as we entered for anchoring.

Ship's Log: The Southern Hemisphere

—Glen Knight

We have sailed far and long to reach this point and where we are now, is only the beginning. The weeks since leaving Micronesia, have been filled with new scenery and new people and an entirely new challenge of finding our place among them all. God has given us an opportunity to labor here for a while and we embrace it with joy. I am grateful to so many of you who are keeping up with us through our Facebook posts and are praying for us each day. I hope this newsletter will be informative as well, and that you can share it with your church community.

The demands upon us are greater now than ever before in that we're adjusting to new cultures and basically, those change from one region to the other in Indonesia. We began working in the Minahasa Region of North Sulawesi and from there, moved to the North Maluku region of Ternate and Tidore. We have since, sailed south of the Equator into the area of middle Maluku and are among the Ambonese people. It is here that we will remain for a period of time, likely, well into 2024. I have begun learning some of the language and am finding it very similar to southern Philippine dialects. The entire region from here south to the Sunda Islands has been our target area. Thank you for praying for us and helping us financially as we reach people on the remote islands of the Banda, Arafura and Flores Seas.

We have funds on hand for purchasing Bahasa Bibles. Many thanks go to you who have given to help with this need.

We appreciate your prayers!

—Glen & Summer



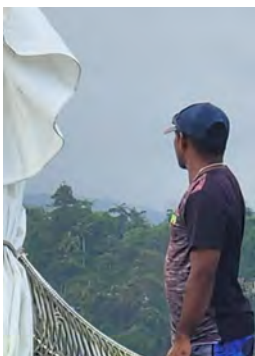
The Sailing Ship, RIM NATIVA, laying at anchor in Suli Bay, Ambon Island

Ministry Scenes from Sept & Oct



Our crewman, Dimon, gives a Bible and some other study materials to a friend on the dock at Likupang. The man learned from others in the area that we are Christians and came some distance to find us and ask for a Bible.

"We pray this contact bears a good harvest in time."



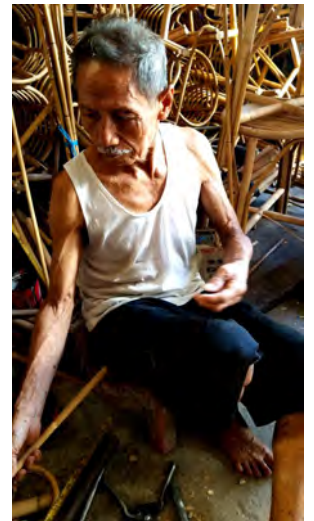
Our crewman, Kevin, looking at his home in Suli Bay. His house is on the hillside above the beach.

Young men here love playing soccer. This group needed a new soccer ball and were so happy to know we had one to give. This provided an opportunity of service and ministry in the port of Babang on Bacan Island.



Happiness can be easily seen on the faces of these young teens in the Port of Likupang. It was difficult leaving this port, as you can well understand by seeing these young faces. But we had to move on across the Molucca Sea while we had a break in the weather. Any delay at the time could have made us another month late, arriving in the Maluku Regency. Our voyage to Ternate took us over two days.

The man in the photo to the right is a rattan furniture maker in Suli, near Ambon which is the capital city of the Maluku Regency. We visited his shop for some time, getting acquainted and ordering some bamboo shades we need on the ship. He graciously consented to make what we need and we paid him a fair price. It's interesting to see the sort of work he and his helpers do in their shop. Another trip there to pick up the shades, and to give some Bibles and pray with his family and workers, came the following week. We hope this contact bears a good harvest in time. There are many others like this family in the area. We pray God's blessing for them.



We are anchored in Tulehu Harbor while waiting for the trade winds to shift, which should be in November. While here, we have easy and quick access to Suli and to Ambon, by road, taking about twenty minutes. Tulehu is a Muslim community as you can see.

"Ours is a difficult task that involves moving from one place to another for reasons dictated by weather and sea condition. A ship at sea is under watchful care around the clock, and every day of every year of its life. Those who tend her, either love or despise her and there is little middle ground. "

Around the ship...always busy!

Work on the ship is never ending. The photo to the right shows some of our crew uncoiling a 200 meter roll of new, 8-strand braided rope, 48 mm (1.5") diameter. This rope is a part of the solution to a problem we had upon arrival in Ambon Harbor recently.



While dropping anchor in the harbor, our anchor windlass malfunctioned and let go all 450' of our anchor chain and the heavy, starboard ship's anchor. It fell in over 200 feet of water and at this writing, has not been retrieved. The water is too deep to dive, otherwise, I would dive it and get the chain and anchor. I'm working on a plan to attempt snagging it with a grappling hook and line and bring it back to the surface. That will be later, however. For now, we have rigged our heavy, storm kedge anchor with chain and over 600 feet of rope and are using it to anchor the ship. We have the port side anchor still intact, however, the chain is not as long as it needs to be for anchoring in deep water. I am shopping here in Indonesia for replacement chain and a new anchor. Those will probably have to be sourced in Batam in the western edge of the country, near Singapore.

Our travel through these two months also took us to Ternate, which is probably the most Islamic city in Indonesia. The photo to the right is of the waterfront. We spent several days here and Summer and I spent a night in the city, which was an interesting experience.



The photo to the left is a nighttime view of Ternate with the active and storied volcano, Mt. Gamalama in the background. The history of this island-city and that of its nearby neighbor, Tidore, is incredibly interesting. They were key factors in the spice trade of past centuries.



"How to help people is a frequently asked question when adjusting thinking and adapting to new and often, strange cultures. It takes time to figure and time to gain the confidence needed to make an attempt. Then, too, it takes earning the trust of those, one is trying to understand and help. Essentially, the task is tedious and usually frustrating, not to mention, time consuming."



Buying diesel fuel for the ship is necessary each month. The man in the photo here is a supplier in Likupang Harbor...and a new friend!

"...for now, we have rigged our heavy, storm kedge anchor with chain and over 600 feet of rope..."



Men along the pier in Tulehu, helping to get our huge roll of rope out to the ship. These men are real helpers...for a price!

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A man and his dog,
playing on the beach in
Suli Bay. This will be our
area of ministry.

...Reaching people on the edge!



"Approaching Ternate"

After sailing two days across the Molucca Sea in strong wind and ocean swell, we are approaching Ternate as seen in this photo. The volcano is active.

Closing thoughts: Finding Ways and Means

—Glen Knight

Mission work is an effort of "ways and means." What I'm saying is that we often must become very creative in how we go about accomplishing our tasks. It isn't as easy as one might think. An island that lies well north of our intended direction and thus, is out of reach for the present, has been reached through a helper, shown here in the photo. This Christian brother is from that island and happened to meet with us at the port. We were able to equip him with Bibles and children's literature and help to send him on his way back home. He is a local pastor with a church and a small school. This assistance will help him continue the ministry among his people. We multiply effort by dividing responsibility...and resources. This is what I'm talking about!



"I see places to go and my heart invariably, reaches out to people I see along the way. There is a constant nagging in my mind as to the spiritual needs of the people. Their physical needs are all too obvious. And without being especially careful, I find that that becomes the only focus." —gk