

Remote Island Ministries

Nov & Dec
2023

MISSION: INDO-PACIFIC!

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"We have plotted our courses to the southwest about 800 nautical miles..."



RIM NATIVA, Suli Bay,
Ambon Island, December
2023.

Ship's Log: Suli Bay, Ambon Island, Indonesia

—Glen Knight

Suli Bay is a nice, wide and shallow anchorage for part of the year, and as that good part is here now, we remain anchored in thirty-seven feet of water with good bottom holding. It's a peaceful place and near the homes of three of our crewmen. Here, we have good opportunities to share with the people around the bay and to do some important work on the ship. But the season will change again in a few weeks and this anchorage will not be commodious for NATIVA to remain.

We have plotted our courses to the southwest about 800 nautical miles to the Lesser Sunda Islands and Nusa Tenggara, with stops along the way, making contact with people on the islands near our course line. Our hope is to begin this long voyage soon after Christmas, but as with all our plans, this too, is subject to change.

Summer and I made an emergency trip to Tennessee during November to be with our family as my stepbrother, Kerry Stofel passed away. We appreciate the prayers of those of you who knew we were traveling, as well as the kind words of condolence. We were able to catch up with our daughter, Juli while there, and at length, she decided to return home to the ship with us. Her return was an option she had reserved last spring when she left to go and work for the summer. It's good to have her home again and working on the ship.

We've had some crew changes that became necessary for various reasons, mostly associated with men desiring to move on. This is common and has always been a challenge to us. Sometimes it seems just as we've trained men for a job, they don't stay and we're back to the basics of training again. We need wisdom and patience. Thank you for praying for us and helping in the ministry as we sail the seas for Jesus!

—Glen, Summer & Juli Knight



Ministry Scenes from Nov & Dec



This is Rian and one of his daughters, whom we met at the beach where we land our tender craft when going into the city. Rian is holding up two mosquito nets we donated to his family. His wife and other child are in the background on the beach.

"It was a special joy to meet and share with a young man from France, Maximilian..."



"Mama Tin" has become a good friend of ours, together with her family. She runs a stall on the beach in Suli where she sells fruits, fruit shakes and a special kind of mixed fruit dish that is really good. We're enjoying our time spent with her and her family and have found them receptive to our ministry, even giving us a place for prayer and Bible distribution. In the photo below, you can see Mama Tin's husband, Ochto. He too is a sweet new friend.

The beach area here is a good place to share with a variety of people, both local and foreign, who come and go.



Ochto, always has a warm smile and greeting each time we come ashore and never fails to ask how he might help us. I think The Lord is opening a window of opportunity here through him and his family and numerous others who have begun to see us as helpers.

We have our well drilling machine here on the ship, brought from our warehouse in the Philippines and the storage unit in Palau. We may soon have an opportunity to use it near Suli to drill a water well. The photo at the lower left, shows our crew with the machine set up on the ship so we could service the engines.

It was a special joy to meet Maximilian and share The Word with this young man from France one night recently at Mama Tin's and Ochto's fruit stand on the beach. This is how many contacts are made as we spoke together of The Lord and our mutual need of trusting Him in the journey of life. Max was receptive to the word and as we prayed together, he seemed to be touched by Christian love and kindness. He has moved on now, but I gave him our contact information so that somewhere down the way, he might reach out to us. We are grateful for this unique ministry God has given us and the people we meet from all over the world. Thank you for your part in helping us!



"To be ready at any moment to show kindness through a smile, or to lend a hand to lift a heavy load; to speak a word of comfort or so share a bit of money to buy food; to give something and not that which was unwanted but something useful and of value that someone else may have it—these are the things that God may use to turn someone to Himself." —Being a missionary

Repairs, a Replacement...and Pirates!

We have always known that remaining too long in any port, gives too much opportunity for mischievous young men to attempt boarding our ship. This was the case three times during November as NATIVA lay in Tulehu Port, Ambon, during our emergency trip to the States. The photo at the right shows the first time when an incident occurred. You can see the young man standing in our small tender. He was attempting to steal anything laying loose and was looking for the gasoline tank, which he didn't find.



Meet our newest crewman, Hendrick Lekahena of Suli, Ambon Island, Indonesia. Hendrick is a certified captain with many years of experience on fishing boats and sea tugs. He began his service on December 2, 2023.



Returning to the ship a few days later, more young men boarded. This is piracy. The photo at the left shows all three of them in the tender and one had an empty whisky bottle which I believe he was attempting to fill with gasoline, possibly to make a fire bomb.

There were two other altercations which the crew reported to me that left the men shaken and afraid. As soon as we returned to NATIVA, we loaded fuel and sailed away from Tulehu Port. The situation with the Middle East war right now is giving rise to much tension in our region of the Indo-Pacific. We are very aware that some daring delinquents could create problems just to make a statement.

I learned a long time ago in my father's shop, that being able to do whatever needs doing is a valuable thing. He taught me well and mostly by example.

The photo to the right shows our Isuzu diesel engine that powers the portside generator on NATIVA. It is the generator that operates the anchor windlass and at present, is disabled. We are busy sourcing parts in Jakarta for a total overhaul of this engine. Our plans last month were to reach the Lesser Sunda Islands by this time but with this necessary work on hand, that plan is on hold. This generator needs replacing but I haven't the funding to do so. Therefore, we will patch it up again and try to get more use out of it. I know how to do the work. But I also know when it's not feasible to try. For now, I'll try again!



"The situation with the Middle East war right now is giving rise to much tension in our region of the Indo-Pacific."



"My father was not a preacher, nor a pastor and certainly not a sea captain. He was a welder, a machinist, an electrician and a plumber. And being such, he knew, perhaps without giving thought to it, just the sort of training his son would need for specialized ministry in The Master's Kingdom. I have often thought that in his short life, he gave me more than a lifetime of knowledge and skill. I hope to have not disappointed him." —The making of a Missionary, from Memoirs of a Missionary, glen knight

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My stepbrother Kerry and his wife Jamie Stofel of Lobelville, Tennessee. You knew Kerry if you ever ate at Hott's BBQ.

...Reaching people on the edge!



"Sunrise Serenity"

A fisherman trolling for his morning catch on Suli Bay, Banda Sea, is captured in this peaceful sunrise scene. This man has become friendly with us.

Closing thoughts: Nine Years of Sailing...

—Glen Knight

Summer and I have celebrated nine years of sailing together. We were married on December 4, 2014 in Cape Town, South Africa. She is a brave soul to have taken me on with my commitment to serving The Lord on the oceans of the world. Without her, my life on the sea would be a lonely effort. With her, life here has been and remains, a joyous adventure! I am thankful for the partner The Lord has given me for this stage of my life. She is more than a helper. She is very much a part of our reaching the lost and abandoned on remote islands of the Indo-Pacific region.

Thank you all for your prayers for us as we continue serving together to reach people on the edge!



"He was usually awake through odd hours of the night, cooking the meat that made them a living. His being awake, gave time to chat with me, as I was on the far side of the world and it was daytime. We became close through those conversations. I miss him already. Rest peacefully, my brother." —Remembering Kerry, gk