

Remote Island Ministries

Jan & Feb
2024

MISSION: INDO-PACIFIC!

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*"No longer is it
an easy task to
be different
from the world."*



Manggis Bay at sunrise.
The sail was 25 nautical
miles for this day.

Ship's Log: 8.71S—115.24E Serangan Island

—Glen Knight

ONE OF THE THINGS we were taught when I was a child growing up in a small delta church in Arkansas, is that the Christian is supposed to be "different." It wasn't debatable and neither did it seem difficult to accept since most of the folks around me were, in some measure, Christians. In those days, my world was small. It didn't range farther away from that delta home than my maternal grand parent's home in Tennessee. There too, the folks encountered were really no different from those I knew back in Arkansas. We prayed to God. We went to church on Sundays and Wednesdays and had copies of the Bible near at hand to support our beliefs and to correct our mistakes. Life for me was simple. In early adult life, that didn't change. Even in college, there were the same kinds of people—often in fact, the very same people—with whom I'd grown up and churches like that one at home on the delta, were readily available for me to attend in leu of going home on weekends. Being different from the world wasn't difficult since, after all, Christians were in the majority. Times have changed.

NO LONGER is it an easy task to be different from the world. And it isn't that there are no professing Christians around us. To the contrary, one may often inquire of others as to their beliefs and find that most still confess an attachment to Christianity. The problem is that the "differences" between the Christian and the non-Christian aren't so apparent. Our speech, our habits, appearances, attitudes and our activities seem more aligned with the non-Christian world than with the Christian. And there is the fact that most of us aren't leaders, but rather, we're followers, prone to follow examples that aren't good. For instance, some say now that the Christian should be like all others; that being different is repulsive. We need to seriously question that idea.

GOD HAS ALWAYS had a desire for His people to be different. Study the Scriptures. Being here in this place, for me, underscores the need to be a different sort of people—not people full of pride and contempt for others, but the kind of salt and light of which Jesus spoke for the sake of those around us, no matter who they are or from where they've come.

—Glen & Summer Knight, Remote Island Ministries





A Balinese fisherman who lays his nets every evening alongside our ship, returns each morning to harvest his catch. He lifts his nets and takes them home for repair, then returns to set them out again. The lights from our ship at night, attract the fish that he catches.

"...we pray daily, to be a blessing of light to them."



The type of ministry we have engaged, offers many opportunities to meet people from all over the world, and many of them are sailors. It was good lately to reunite with friends, Vernon and Marie and their new baby, Elijah!

Ministry Scenes for January/February

A Balinese family visited the ship the other day as you can see in this photo. The people are gentle and kind, typically very poor and yet not begging as in so many other places we've sailed. We were able to share the storybooks that speak of valuable life lessons and spiritual matters as the father of the three children, thanked us repeatedly for our kindness. These storybooks are in Bahasa language and although not the heart language of these people, it is understood and commonly spoken. The children said they could read them easily. I have looked for similar books in Balinese but haven't found them yet. The search will continue.



The Hindu god, Shiva, known in Balinese as, "Siwa-Sadasiwa-Paramasiwa", is considered to be the creator, maintainer and destroyer. Hindu philosophy is complex, to say the least, and I don't think I can break it down in simple terms. Indeed, despite having studied it in the past, I'm challenged to grasp even the simplest aspects of it, now that we're literally emersed in the culture. It is interesting that Shiva is a part of what is held as a divine trinity, together with Brahma and Vishnu. The photo to the left is of Shiva and forms an altar where daily offerings are placed to honor the god and pray for peace. The Balinese are 89.9% Hindu. We are making many friends among these humble people and pray daily, to be a blessing of light to them.

Religions are numerous in this crossroads of the world. There is this syncretistic atmosphere where the acceptance of everything is made easy by incorporating it all into odd belief systems—a sort of being everything but nothing in particular. Prov 14:12

The photo at the right is of the large Catholic church in Kuta City, Denpasar.



"Icons of religious devotion are many. The trinkets and varying colors of clothing that bedeck both the images as well as the devotees, are significant, each having a meaning and purpose. As I observe the spectacle, I am forced to also see that within what is considered, "Christian", there are icons and symbols as well, that are viewed by non-Christian sects as not much different from their own." —gk

Maintenance is never-ending...

Keeping the ship seaworthy and reasonably comfortable is a matter of great effort. There are very few days that pass without something having to be done in this regard. The maintenance is always fitted around days of ministry. The photo to the right shows us doing some cutting, fitting and welding on the bulwark shell plating in the bow. I am thankful for a good crew that works faithfully, doing whatever needs to be done. I am the only welder at present, however the men all have a desire to learn to weld and I'm more than willing to teach them! At this writing, the forecastle of the ship is being painted. NATIVA is now 12 years old and work of this sort is necessary. I hope to haul her out soon for bottom cleaning and painting.



The crewmen painting the forecastle bulwarks and bowsprit after all the welding was finished.



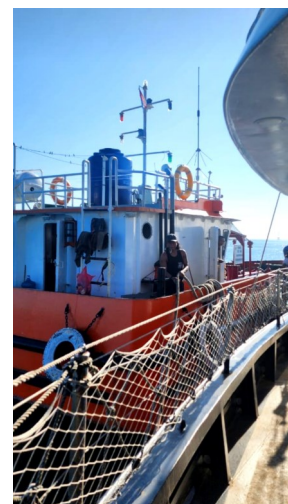
The photo at the left shows the forecastle finished with all welding repairs done and completely repainted. This work is continuing now in the midship area where we are cutting away some rusted plating and welding in the new. Painting will follow within a few days.

"Pray with us that we never have to use it."

One of the things we hope to never have to use is this life raft that can be seen in its capsule to the right. This raft is a fully enclosed, self-inflating unit with a capacity of 16 persons. It is complete with drinking water, emergency rations, strobe light, flares and simple tools. We have our EPIRB for rescue tracking as well as our satellite phone for communication. The capsule is shown here on its new, hinged deployment rack which we've built in the last few days. To deploy it, we can now simply flip it overboard. Pray with us that we never need to use it. Rejoice with us that we have it!



I had written in the last newsletter that we were having generator difficulties. That has now been resolved with the overhaul of the portside unit and other work that we've accomplished on the starboard unit. PTL!



Bunkering fuel oil is a monthly necessity here now. ..500 gallons today.

"Working around difficulties and often, outright failures of equipment and systems, is something those who live at sea learn to do very well. Sometimes, it's a matter of emergency and at other times, not, when one can step back and assess the options, then plan a strategy of resolution. Life aboard a ship at sea tests the will of any individual and in our case, where we have chosen to sail the seas for the gospel's sake, ours is a test of commitment as well. It's a matter of loving what we do and keeping our eyes on the prize set before us." —gk

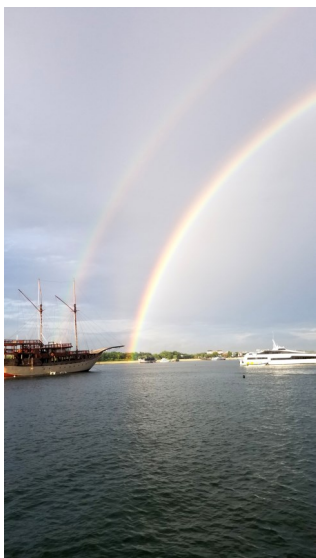
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Double Rainbow
Benoa Port, Denpasar

...Reaching people on the edge!



Labuan Bajo Anchorage

This beautiful anchorage which is a part of the Sunda Islands, is near Komodo Island, of the Komodo Island Dragon fame. It was a layover spot on our long journey to Western Nusa Tenggara in January. Here we were able to resupply, rest and share with many people we met in the town. This is a place where we may return in time to come.

Closing thoughts: The Wheel of the Ship

—Glen Knight

Taking the wheel of NATIVA and steering her across many oceans, is an experience I had never actually dreamed of in much younger years. But then, life is generally more that what we imagined at first, especially when it is lived in faith. We have sailed in eleven oceans during our ten years of life aboard the ship. Perhaps there will be more as time goes on.

Consider that the ship's wheel is a tool that is used to point the vessel in any particular direction. It is coupled with so many other parts of the ship that it may achieve its intended purpose. But there must be an intelligent being to control that wheel. And in our case, there is The Almighty Who leads in His direction as we steer the ship in obedience to His command.



"The divisions of the people as to their opinion of Christ in His time, are the same and more so, regarding Him in our day. I have not lived in a time or place where such divisions are greater than here and now. It is a challenge to face in gospel ministry that so far, is unlike any ever encountered in my thirty-one years of missionary service. If I could, I would recall the strength of my youth."

—The Work of a Missionary, glen knight