

Remote Island Ministries

Jan & Feb
2025

MISSION: INDO-PACIFIC!

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"...It's a mixing bowl of mostly unstable and hardly predictable weather."



A Balinese man in the streets of Denpasar, sits, hoping to sell the little puppy he is holding. People do whatever is necessary to get a bit of money to buy food, and sometimes, cigarettes.

Ship's Log: The Northeastern Indian Ocean

—Glen Knight

No fewer than five storms are now situated south and southwest of our position. Thankfully, they are still at a considerable distance from us so that we aren't too concerned about a direct hit from any of them. What I will tell you is that, the Indian Ocean is as furious as what I've read! Summer's life was spent on the wild coast of South Africa, bound to the east by this unruly body of water. She has told me many tales of the sea from her perspective of growing up in Durban and on the south coast, at the Cape of Good Hope. Significantly, that cape was originally named, The Cape of Storms, which is a designation, well understood through experience. The name was changed to allure early navigators who might sail the passage which otherwise, would have been avoided. Where we are at present, is a convergence zone of weather systems from northern Australia, Antarctica, Africa, Asia, and the South Pacific Ocean. It is a mixing bowl of mostly unstable and hardly predictable weather. But this is just how it is, and the way we've chosen to live and work means we've got to deal with whatever comes and keep the topsides up and the bottom sides, down.

Being laid over in a port, waiting out the weather, gives us the opportunity to do a lot of work that would otherwise go undone. Among those things and aside from ship maintenance, are the personal things we can do for our neighbors in the local community. It is amazing to see the open doors that The Lord makes available to us as we carry on His work. We have two outings planned that are coming up as soon as we have a break in the weather. I can't speak specifically of these at present. A report will be made soon, however that you might rejoice with us. God bless!

—Glen & Summer Knight, Indonesia

"Sea Birds on the Wing"



Early morning fishing, father and young son, trying to catch food for the day.

"Days spent among these men and their families, are precious."



A crewman, working at the mizzen top mast, painting the spreaders, is about 80' in the air.

Ministry Scenes...

The culture of these islands is inextricably tied to the sea. The days begin and end with fishermen and their children, taking to the sea or coming in from it and many know nothing more. The reason is obvious, as the bounty of the ocean provides food for families. On land, the families are subsistence farmers, producing crops that are consumed and traded for other necessary things.

The photo to the right is of two fishermen, leaving their outrigger boat floating in the tide and coming ashore, apparently to buy fuel for the small engine. Days spent among these men and their families, are precious.



A mother and son in one of the villages from a few months ago, allowed us to take their photograph. We are careful about shooting pictures up this close for fear of offending the islanders. In so many ways, they have been exploited through the years by foreigners who are only interested in pictures. The people here were grateful for the Bibles.

A couple with their young daughter operate this small store, which is very typical of island villages. It is a genuine pleasure to share with families such as this one. Not only did they accept a Bible and some children's Bible story books for their own use, they asked to have additional copies to give to their family.



All along the way on any voyage, we find opportunities to share with people we meet. Here at a village pier, once again, our ship was the main attraction. That is a good thing, however we must be careful to keep a good perspective as to our purpose among these islanders.

"The number of earthquakes in this region is alarming. Almost every day, we awaken to news of another quake and some are quite strong and very near. We pray daily for safety for a variety of reasons, this being one of them. Our position is at the southern end of what is known as "Robinson's Arc" and is the most seismically active region of the world."

Around the ship...

Replacing our ground tackle is proving to be more of a task than when we originally bought the chain and anchors years ago in the Philippines. But, we are on the right track and have located and purchased the anchor, pictured here on the right. The chain has been ordered—190 meters of it!



In the process of replacing our solar energy electrical system, the young technician in the photo here is smiling, confident of his work. The big battery banks can be seen in this photo also. These are 200A lithium-ion batteries x 7.

It took some time, but I finally found a proper hydraulic crane technician here in the city. Work such as this cannot be done in the remote areas. For many months, both of our deck cranes have been out of service, affecting a lot of things we would typically be able to do.



The photos here are of our new friend, Bayu, the lead crane technician who removed the cranes and has taken them to his shop for complete overhaul. This work is not cheap but is absolutely necessary for the safe and effective operation of the ship. Both cranes will be returned within two weeks from this writing and prayerfully, will be back in service again.

Inasmuch as the cranes are American made, no spare parts are available in Indonesia and shipping them here from the USA is not an option. Necessity therefore, dictates that parts for the units will be copied in a local machine shop. Electrical components can be substituted by similar products here in Indonesia. This process is fairly typical of most repairs made.



Bringing equipment aboard NATIVA from the city, is usually a big job. I am thankful for these men who help me with so much work on the ship. Here, they are bringing up part of the new solar electric.



It was time in February to once again, bunker diesel fuel for the ship. The tanker here has become very familiar to us!

"I never questioned my father when he taught me to do something. Somehow, I figured at my young age that he knew what he was doing and it became very apparent to me as we went along, that he wanted to pass his knowledge on to me. I have missed him sorely since he left us for heaven in 1982. But what he taught me in such a short time has lasted for my whole life. Sometimes at night when I sleep, I dream of his hands working and me watching. Perhaps he's still teaching me." —glen knight

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"Rain, rain..."

I feel like a kid waiting to go outside if the rain will ever stop. It will, in another month. In the meantime, rain gear is the order!

...Reaching people on the edge!

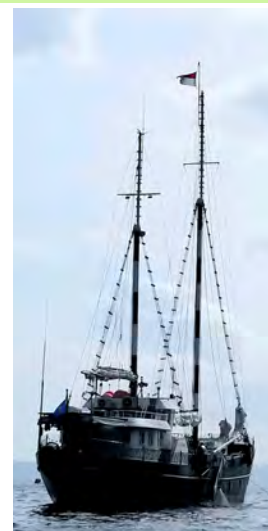


Closing thoughts: "Seakeeping..."

—Glen Knight

Stability, strength, maneuverability, and endurance, are the four qualities that determine a ship's "seakeeping." These are factors both of engineering and construction. Basically, they determine whether a vessel is seaworthy or not. We have put NATIVA through enough sea conditions over these eleven years of our sailing to know she is an able ship. And by God's grace, we will carry on. In a very real sense, our seakeeping ability is equal to that of the ship. I reckon you could say, we're an even match!

Thank you all for your help through the years. These simple words seem far too little to express our appreciation. Without our Dear Lord and you, our dear friends, we could not go on. We hope to see some of you this summer!



"We often wish for good weather. But then, I suppose one has to define what is good in terms of weather and that depends on who is defining it. Good to most would mean fair weather—neither hot nor cold; too wet or too dry. The old sailors were known to have said that there is no such thing as good or bad weather—just different kinds. I reckon they were right." -gk