

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Making a difference...	1
VBS Season for RIM	1
Commencement '09	2
PMBS & Skippy...	3
Encountering "Apa"	3
Photo of the Month	4
Setting an example...	4

"Real love is interactive...It rises in compassion to do what can be done, making a difference in a thousand ways."



"Preparing to Voyage"
 M/Y Nativa
 Sta Ana Pier
 Davao City Philippines
 Photo: Glen Knight

Making a difference...

by Glen Knight

Watching the smiles on tiny faces as new clothes are given and seeing the approving expressions of parents at the pleasure of their children is certainly a part of our joy in serving the Lord. With reference to what it means to really practice faith, Jesus spoke of giving food to the hungry, water to the thirsty, shelter to the destitute, clothing to those who had none and caring for people in sickness or bondage. So important is this that the Lord said, "Inasmuch as you have done it to one of my little ones, you have done it unto me." (Matthew 25:40) No one would doubt the greater importance of sharing the gospel verbally but the practical aspect of it is discovered through giving. Real love is interactive. It sees others and feels their circumstances. It rises in compassion to do what can be done, making a difference in a thousand ways.

We cannot expect to make a great difference in our world through religious rhetoric. People who have heard all the arguments become hardened to them. Those who have never heard find no meaning in them. The fact is, if our ministry is to be significant, we have to give. But again there is a balance to be discovered. The gifts of food, clothing and shelter are only part of what is needed. **The greater gift is of self!** Jesus set that example for us as can be plainly seen through his charitable acts and ultimately, by his sacrifice on the cross. His statement regarding taking our cross and following him is an obvious reference to the same in our lives. Giving what is of greatest value to express genuine love to our world compels us to give ourselves. Compas-



"Little clothes...big difference!"

Photo: Matt Knight

sionate hearts, gentle smiles, open hands and kind words communicate the language of faith most clearly.

Thanks to so many of you who help each month with Remote Island Ministries we're able to continue giving to those in need. Together, we are all making a difference in hundreds of lives. Deeds of compassion open doors of the heart to hear the wonderful gospel of Jesus Christ!

"Men in a ship are always looking up, and men ashore generally, looking down."

—John Masefield

VBS Season for Remote Island Ministries

by Glen Knight

Reports are good from the Vacation Bible School projects on Samal and Talikud Islands, Gulf of Davao. Conducted simultaneously, the Bandera Mission averaged 70 in attendance, Atabay Mission, 64 and Linosutan Mission, 132. A total of 81 professions of faith were reported...Praise the Lord!

RIM Nativa left port at midnight on Sunday, May 17 bound for Cape San Augustin and a week of VBS in the villages of Bethany, Impog and Lanka. We anticipate good reports from these projects as well. The Filipino staff of Remote Island Ministries and the pastor and workers of Faith Baptist Church are very capable in conducting Vacation Bible School. God has blessed His work with well trained and eager laborers.



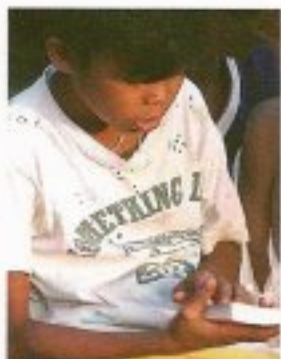
The VBS children of Bandera Mission
 Samal Island



"Contemplation"

A Manobo boy listens to the Word of God.

Photo: Glen Knight



"A Treasure in Hand"

A child with his first Bible, given, February 09.

Photo: Glen Knight



"Time Out"

A coconut farmer takes time to listen to God's Word.

Photo: Glen Knight

PMBS COMMENCEMENT 2009

Glen Knight

The twenty-first commencement of Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary-Asia Institute of Theology was conducted on Friday evening, March 27 in the sanctuary of Faith Baptist Church of Davao City. Eight young men received the Bachelor of Theology degree while several other students were awarded the Bible Diploma and the Associate of Christian Music Diploma. The commencement speaker was Pastor Alan Abais of Bangkal Missionary Baptist Church of Davao, a former graduate of the seminary. The Dean of Students, Pastor Emmanuel Quiazon of Faith Baptist Church, Davao City presented the graduates. The Assistant Director of the seminary, Pastor Nelmar Sumatra received the candidates for graduation and conferred upon them their respective degrees on behalf of the school and the sponsoring church, Victory Baptist of Sherwood, Arkansas, USA. The seminary's Registrar, Donna Munez recognized various achievements of the graduates and presented their awards. Many parents of the students from around Mindanao and Visayas were in attendance.

The 2009/2010 academic year begins the second week of June. Many returning students and incoming new students need financial assistance. A small offering each month to help meet the students' needs would be a great mission contribution!



The Current Faculty and Support Staff Of PMBS-AIT



The 2009 Graduates and Student Choir Of PMBS-AIT

PMBS & SKIPPY...

by Glen Knight

Thanks to Allen Thomas, Victory Baptist Church and Skippy Peanut Butter Company, our seminary has been given a very large shipment of fresh peanut butter, both the smooth and my favorite, super chunk! I mentioned this in a newsletter earlier this year but here is a photo of how this great food is being put to use. In the seminary as well as during our Remote Island Ministry voyages, Skippy is a very important part of our daily fare. During the seven VBS projects over the past two months, it has also been used as snack food for hundreds of children in the villages. We still have a large quantity of Skippy on the loading dock in Arkansas ready to be shipped this fall. Thanks once again to Allen and to the management of Skippy for this wonderful contribution to the work!



PMBS Students preparing peanut butter sandwiches
Photo: Rhea Rosales

Encountering "Apa"

by Glen Knight

The sound was alarming, so much so that I turned from my work with a start thinking to discover a horrible tragedy. There at the end of the pier, heavy rainclouds brooding and a slight squall settling across the quay, a young boy stood roaring as loudly as any animal I'd heard. Hands cupped to his mouth, wide-eyed, frizzled hair and ragged clothes...roaring yet again as a boat let go its dock lines. It seemed that he'd been left behind, now adding animation to his sound with the boat motoring farther away. My move toward the big signal horn of *Nativa* was quickly checked by a crewman: "Pastor, the child just wants them to wave." Indeed, as the people aboard the departing vessel began to wave, the boy contentedly waved in return then spun about scampering across the old concrete pier to whatever amusement might await. He is Apa—a deaf mute who makes his home at the pier in the Port of Davao City, Philippines. His name is not really a name. "Apa" just means, no talk. No one knows his name or his origin. He just appeared. Some say he's not Filipino...that facial characteristics rather favor Indonesian but no matter, my heart broke over another tragic circumstance on the heap of sadness so often encountered in this part of the world. Days that followed passed with a new challenge: Help a young boy who speaks no one's language and hears no sound, understand the language of heaven and know God's love.



The boy they call "Apa"
On the pier, Port of Davao

A drawing pad and pencils, crayons and a set of coloring pages taken from a Sunday School book, a little time and a lot of patience were the tools immediately employed to help communicate with Apa. The weeks following have given many opportunities to aid this little guy but the task is far from finished. His plight is not unique. Although circumstances vary and infirmities alarm, the greater need is always that of Christ in the heart. It is this challenge that excites and compels us onward in the work of Remote Island Ministries.



Pastor Nelmar Sumatra
Preaching at a
Remote Island Mission



RIM Staffer, Don-don
Teaching a remote Sunday
School class.

A busy summer stateside...

It's hard to imagine that the year is almost half finished as we face the summer months. From the first of June through August we will be traveling among many churches across the US. Our plans include attending the ABA messenger assembly in Springfield, MO. It will be good to be able to visit with many pastors while at the meeting. We will have an exhibit booth during the meeting for Remote Island Ministries. Our co-workers, Mike and Angela Maxwell of Hillcrest Baptist Church, Acworth, GA will be working with us in the exhibit answering questions and providing information about the work.

I plan to return to the field the first week of September. Paula will remain in the States until February 2010. We appreciate your prayers on behalf of her parents, in particular, her dad, Pastor Paul Magness.

Many of you are aware of the work we've been doing to acquire our daughter's emigrant visa and American citizenship. The process has been long and frustrating, however we may be in the final stages of that effort. Juliana has been entering the United States as a visitor however that status is no longer acceptable with changes in immigration law. Juli's travel has been limited due to restrictions placed on her by our government. As unfair as it seems, we have to abide by the law and until her emigrant visa is completed and we can apply for her citizenship, she can't travel back to the Philippines with us. Please pray with us that this issue will be brought to its conclusion in a favorable way for our family. Thanks. —Glen

"If you can't repair it, maybe it shouldn't be onboard."

—Lin & Larry Pardy



RIM staffers
Mixmie and Rhea
With dinner for *Nativa*!



RIM Staffer Marelou
witnessing to women and children
in a remote village.

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...Reaching people on the edge!



*"All hands on deck...heave ho!"
 Nativa weighing anchor off Cape San Augustin.*

Photo: Glen Knight

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*"Nativa Underway"
 Portside
 Gulf of Davao
 Photo: Glen Knight*

Setting an example...

Glen Knight

I've always thought that the best examples of doing anything were demonstrated hands-on. Recalling years of growing up in a welding shop in southeast Arkansas, my late father practiced this very principle. He taught my brother and me how to work...not by talking, as he was a man of few words, but by doing what he wanted us to do so we could understand. He never stood over our shoulders to see that we did our work but instead he trusted us to just do it because we knew it was right. Memories like that really stick. I can't help but think about him every time there's a job to be done.

My father's principle of training is successful. There's no substitute for taking tools in hand and learning to use them effectively while watching someone else. The mentor will likely be stronger and more skilled but the apprentice will learn to match and even exceed his labor in time.

What is true of physical labor is equally true of spiritual. There is a call to each of us, whether leaders or followers, to mark our time by the best we have to give.



*"Little Worker"
 Photo: Glen Knight*

"Verily, verily, I say unto you, He that believeth on me, the works that I do shall he do also; and greater works than these shall he do, because I go unto my Father."

—Jesus Christ (From John 14:12)