

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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“We would choose to master and command our situation but that choice ultimately is not ours...it is God’s.”



“Coconut Farmer”

Lanca Village
Photo: Glen Knight

On the horizon...

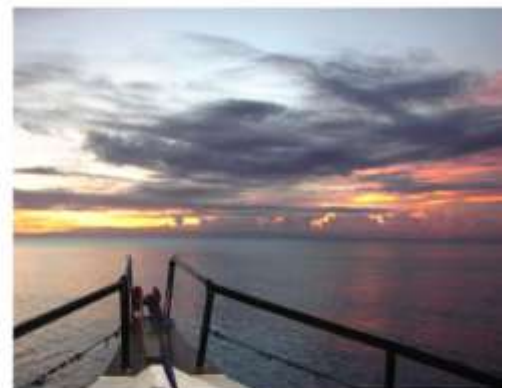
Sailing a boat to places here and there, setting out for destinations sometimes never reached and embracing circumstances fair or otherwise all along the way, seems to be so much the part of life in the world. We make our plans and chart the required courses then hope...indeed, beg that we may follow through.

On the open ocean the typical line of human sight for sea-level objects is not more than twenty-seven nautical miles. The earth's curvature prevents sight beyond that. What lies over the horizon is unknown until visual contact is made and all the while we move toward or away from it in an element so familiar and yet altogether frightening. We would choose to master and command our situation but that choice ultimately is not ours...it is God's. People of faith rest in that fact...

“If I ride the morning wind, and dwell in the farthest parts of the sea, even there shall your hand lead me, and your right hand shall hold me. If I say, Surely the darkness shall cover me; even the night shall be light about me.” (Psalms 139:9-11)

Trusting the Lord for what lies ahead of us is one of the greatest adventures possible! Beyond the horizon, over the hill or just

by Glen Knight



Western Horizon over the Celebes Sea
Photo: Glen Knight

around the curve in the road, lay countless numbers of opportunities for us to make grand discoveries of grace and goodness...and testing. Like the ever-changing surface of the sea and the winds, so unpredictable, life's a mystery to us but the God who made the wind and the waves has his hand on the lives we live. Trust him and sail on!

“The pessimist complains about the wind; the optimist expects it to change; the realist adjusts his sail.”

—William Arthur Ward

Of coconuts and sea islands...

by Glen Knight

The coconut has been called “the tree of heaven” and sometimes even, “the tree of life” and perhaps for good reason. This versatile plant is used for food, drink, medicine, oil, charcoal, fiber, timber, roof thatch, sleeping mats and domestic utensils. There is absolutely nothing wasted when it comes to use of the coconut! The tree doesn't make a big footprint on the earth but its falling nuts can make a dent in your head. It can withstand typhoons and even fires. Most people believe that the coconut trees so dominant in the Asian tropics are the results of coconuts falling into the sea in equatorial South America and drifting thousands of miles westward on

the currents until washing ashore on the sandy beaches of Indonesia and the Philippines. There they took root and there, the people learned to cultivate them even on mountain slopes. The coconut is God's gift to the island people.

The Christian can take a lesson from the coconut— Versatility and usefulness are important; adaptability is essential; toughness to weather storms and a determination to produce fruit no matter where we are; not taking up a lot of space but making an impact on every individual around us as the opportunity arises; being God's gift to men!

Strength for the Laborers Conference 2009

Glen Knight



Pastor Manny Quiazon
Faith Baptist Church, Davao

Since the mid 90's we have been conducting the annual Strength for the Laborers Conference here at the seminary in Davao City. Each year the conference seems to grow a little more in attendance and this year was certainly no exception! The record shows that there were 132 churches represented and something over 200 delegates from among them. Adding in the number of students and staff members we have in the seminary, and the daily attendance was almost 300. The evening attendances swelled to approximately 500!



Matthew Knight
Worship Leader

This year's theme was "Crossroads: Tracing Christ in the Courses of Life" and featured many lecturers from around the Philippines and the United States. Workshops on evangelism were also conducted in the afternoons. A highlight each year during the conference is the distribution of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School literature. Each church represented received a generous share of the materials to take home at the



The PMBS Choir in rehearsal
Photo: Glen Knight

end of the week. Many boxes of materials remain for those who weren't able to attend the conference and can be picked up at the PMBS Compound in Davao City at any time.

Plans are already in the making for the 2010 Conference to be held the last week of February next year.



Pastor Robert Phillips
Parkway BC, Longview, TX



Paula Knight & Mike Maxwell
During the Conference Banquet



Pastors Tim Montgomery
And David Webb



Pastor Tim Montgomery
Heritage BC, Texarkana, TX



PMBS Choir during the concert on
Wednesday evening



The delegates enjoying the evening
Singing and evangelistic preaching

Building project...*Bethany Mission*

by Glen Knight

Continued development of the Remote Island Ministry outpost at Cape San Agustin, southern Philippines has been a matter of concern for us during the past several weeks. Having planted a church in **Bethany** last year and with a full-time pastor on hand to cultivate the work spiritually, we felt it necessary to improve the village chapel. Fifty-five sacks of cement and seventy lengths of reinforcement bar were delivered to the site on *Nativa*. Thanks to several volunteers from the Philippines and United States, sufficient manpower was provided to pour a concrete floor and stage inside the chapel and a concrete floor for the small parsonage adjacent to it. Additional cement has been allotted as well for manufacturing the hollow blocks that are needed for the walls of the chapel.

Volunteers from the United States included Billy Pearson from Harmony Baptist Church, Prattville, Arkansas as well as Pastor Michael Reese and Bobby Shockley of Promise Land Baptist Church, Hamburg, Arkansas. Working also with us in Bethany during February were Pastors Tim Montgomery and David Webb both from Texas. Tim and David enjoyed being a part of *Project Pitoy* as we gave clothing to the whole



Pastor Michael Reese & Bobby Shockley

village and conducted worship activities together with our Filipino co-workers in Remote Island Ministries.

One of our great concerns for Bethany is the need for food among the people. What is needed most of all is rice. The average cost of a sack in this remote area is approximately \$37.00 for a 110 lb sack. A family of five or six can eat for a month from one sack. Starvation is common in such places where wages are low and sometimes non-existent. *Nativa* makes a monthly voyage to this place to bring supplies.



Billy Pearson
helping with the lay-out for the floor



Pastor Nelmar Sumatra
setting the reinforcement steel for the floor



Dozens of cartons of used clothing for "Project Pitoy" being sorted on *Nativa*

Onboard with "Project Pitoy"

By Glen Knight

Thanks to the many contributions of churches and individuals across the United States, *Project Pitoy* has become an enormous success with distribution of clothing to remote island villages of the southern Philippines! During the early part of February we loaded cartons of clothing and shoes on the mission vessel *Nativa* and put to sea in another ministry of compassion. What a joy it is to see the faces of children and adults when good clothing is given free of charge! *Project Pitoy* will continue to serve the needs of our many friends in remote places through the months ahead.

A fair amount of clothing remains in the warehouse to be shipped overseas at a later time this year. If you have supported this part of our ministry, please accept our heartfelt gratitude on behalf of the hundreds of people whose lives are being touched by this basic human need. Such an avenue of ministry is opening doors for the gospel where before there was no opportunity. Please continue to pray with us and for the people reached through Remote Island Ministries...thanks!



RIM co-worker **Rea Rosales** sizing up the children of Bethany for clothing

"I find the great thing in this world is not so much where we stand, as in what direction we are moving; to reach the port of heaven, we must sail sometimes with the wind and sometimes against it—but we must sail, and not drift, nor lie at anchor."

—Oliver Wendell Holmes

Pastor Tim Montgomery helping with the clothing distribution in Bethany

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"Nativa"
Flying the Texas flag
Celebes Sea
Photo: Glen Knight

...Reaching people on the edge.!



A picture worth a thousand words... a Manobo child receiving clothing in a remote island village thanks to *Project Pitoy*, February 2009.

Photo: Glen Knight

Pioneers in ministry for Mindanao, Philippines

Glen Knight

Beginning in 1979 while serving County Avenue Baptist Church, Texarkana, Arkansas, Pastor Paul Magness initiated ministry in the southern Philippines. Through the aid of many Filipino pastors this ministry would reach most all the provinces of the Island and encompass over 3,000 persons. The Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary in Davao City was established under his leadership during the mid 1980's. While serving as Chairman of the standing Missionary Committee of the American Baptist Association Pastor Magness proved himself a friend to missionaries and their families serving throughout the Americas and around the world. Through his counsel this missionary answered the call of God to labor in the southern Philippines.

Even today Pastor and Mrs. Magness remain faithful to the Lord and actively engaged in ministry through Heritage Baptist Church of Texarkana, Texas. Still close to their hearts is the work begun in the Philippines so long ago. Thanks to his tireless effort and generous support the ministry continues to expand and glorify the Lord!



Pastor & Mrs. Paul D. Magness
At home in Texarkana, Arkansas

"Ideals are like stars. You will not succeed in touching them with your hands, but like the seafaring man on the ocean desert of waters, you choose them as your guides, and following them, you reach your destination."

—Carl Schurz