

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Shipping out...	1
Bethany Project	1
While they are young...	2
PMBS-AIT	2
Supplies for the...	3
Project Proclaimer...	3
RIM Evangelism...	4

Special Interest...

- Partners in Ministry 2009
Page. 4

"One may talk much of what he will do but needn't talk at all of what he is doing...."



"Child of Faith"
Bethany Project
Photo: Glen Knight

Shipping out...

by Glen Knight

She sits, heaving slowly against the lines that hold her...awaiting the moment of departure with a restlessness not unlike an animal, longing to be free once again. Soon...very soon she will be.

Anyone who has ever geared up for ocean passages certainly knows the anticipation associated with departure. The vessel to be laden with supplies...fuel, water, food, materiel of every sort...sits at the pier while men and women load her. Hours...sometimes days can pass making ready, checking and double checking lists, testing systems and inevitably making repairs. Charts are arranged with waypoints clearly marked. Voyage plans are posted with the port office and coast guard; port fees are paid and clearance given for departure. As the time passes drawing nearer for casting off, so many questions arise: *Did we forget something? Will the weather hold? What about the sea condition? What to do with that pump that works in fits and spurts and will the other two pumps be enough should it fail? Is the crew ready. Did we choose the right purpose for the voyage?* The questions can be almost unending.

The time comes for departure usually in a flurry of final preparation, and with a deep sigh of patient relief the vessel is loosed, the anchor hauled. She glides free of the pier, her engine throbbing at idle moving slowly at first, farther and farther from the land that once held her. They say there's a character that a wooden boat possesses...she's a composite of living, breathing and growing things. I believe it for she speaks



RIM NATIVA, Port of Davao, Sta. Ana Pier
January 2009

every time we set her free to move for God's purpose upon the wonderful sea that He has made toward destinations He has chosen.

But what if we never shipped out? What if the weather was never "right" or the boat never "ready"? Perhaps the height of negligence would be revealed in our failure to go when it's time; in our failure to work while it is *today*. One may talk much of what he *will* do but needn't talk at all of what he is *doing*. The evidence will be clear enough. Without a doubt the time is right for God's people to be fully engaged in the work of the Lord. Clarity of purpose and strength of commitment are mandatory. Ahoy mate...ship out!

Bethany Project

by Glen Knight

We look for confirmation in things we do and attempt to chart progress over time. I remember as a child making marks at head-level with a pencil on the back of my bedroom door. I wanted to "see" my growth which usually seemed so slow. But looking back over a period of time I would be amazed at how tall I'd become. Marking progress is good inasmuch as we can only know where we are by understanding where we've been.

Mike and I have had the joy of working at Bethany together with our ministry teams and crew through the month of January. It's amazing to us to see their growth! Of course we look for

signs of physical growth...improvements in living conditions, growth of the children, etc. But it's the spiritual growth that is the most amazing thing. That's the confirmation we seek to determine the value of the work. People are responding to the Word of God through the ministry of Pastor Randy Emban and the use of *The Proclaimer*.

Work that is planned for Bethany over the next several months will no doubt prove to be a good investment. We're watching the Lord do some amazing things there and are humbled to be a part of the whole process!



Fancy hats? Nelmar and Mike with bags of rice for delivery to the village of Dala, January 2009.

"Reaching the young in such a state is an important mission..."



"Nativa: January Sunset"

Photo: Glen Knight



"Bethany Child"

Photo: Glen Knight

While they are young...

A troubling thing throughout the years of our labor here in the Philippines is the number of children who fall victim to the cycle of poverty so common in this region of the world. Kids from rural areas often come to the cities together with their parents searching for work and at length, end up in the streets begging, hawking trinkets or digging through garbage for anything salvageable. Many girls and boys alike experience prostitution beginning at age 12. Pedophilic predators from all over the world descend, engaging many of them in child pornography and perversion of every sort. Childhood innocence quickly vanishes in the face of hard realities and kids learn things even adults should never learn. The problem is maddening. Hunger, drugs and slow, painful death are so often the results. Reaching the young in such a state is an important mission. In large part this is a necessary aspect of our church's work in the city. Interdiction, however is the other half of the solution and it is this that is such a vital aspect of **Remote Island Ministries**.

"And of some have compassion, making a difference: and others save with fear, pulling them out of the fire; hating even the garment spotted by the flesh." (Jude 22-23)

Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary-AIT

The second semester of the 2008-09 school year is now nearly half completed with the end of January. Two months remain for students and faculty to complete assignments for the year. Personal ministries among the students take them into the city and offshore to neighboring islands beyond Mindanao for hands-on training, so vital to full-time ministry in the future.

Anticipation is building toward the 2009 Strength for the Laborers Conference hosted by PMBS-AIT and Faith Baptist Church of Davao City. We have a tremendous program and a very good slate of speakers for the February 23-27 Conference. Word from around the Islands indicates that a large group of workers from throughout the nation will attend this year. Our theme is: "Crossroads: Tracing Christ in the Courses of Life."

We are so thankful for those who help with the ministry of our seminary on a monthly basis and for our sponsoring church, Victory Baptist Church, Sherwood, Arkansas. Thank you also for your prayers.

by Glen Knight



"Listen my children..."

Photo: Glen Knight

It is at the village level that we meet so many children in places where innocence has not been violated and we can teach them values they truly need for life. Songs about Jesus and stories of God's love last a lifetime, giving hope that will not only save the soul but may well also save a life. Ministry teams working through **RIM** have unsurpassed opportunities of evangelism and discipleship among children of the western Pacific and Jude's commandment becomes reality!



First-year students in class, PMBS, January 2009

We will have eight fourth-year students to graduate in March. These young men are eagerly searching God's will for continued ministry in places around the Philippines. I rejoice that two of them have indicated a desire to labor full-time with **Remote Island Ministries!** In the weeks to come we should be able to get our bearings on their particular desires and assist them in achieving their goals. The Lord is opening up many opportunities for all who faithfully follow Him!

Supplies for the mission...

Brother Joel Meredith and all his helpers have done it again! A forty-foot ocean freight container packed at the warehouse of **World-wide Literature and Missionary Supplies in Hamburg, Arkansas** made port here in Davao City on January 29th, loaded with supplies for the mission. Included in this shipment were more than 900 boxes of literature and Bibles, random supplies for Remote Island Ministries, a whole lot of peanut butter as well as clothing for **"Project Pitoy."** On hand to help unload this container were two men, (aside from Mike and me) who helped to load it in Hamburg, AR. Brother Michael Reese and Bobby Shockley both of Promise Land Baptist Church, Hamburg, had the rare privilege of working the shipment on both ends. Bobby said he liked the Hamburg end of it better, and with good reason! Each piece is offloaded here by hand and carried down a long flight of stairs to our warehouse in the seminary compound. Interestingly, we unloaded it in just under 3 hours thanks to the dedicated help of our students and faculty of PMBS.

Now that our supplies are on hand, the work begins. During the Strength for the Laborers Conference, much of the Bible study materials will be distributed as pastors and workers place orders and take materials home. Following this, April and May are the months for VBS during which time these materials will be taken and used. Other things such as tools and equipment for RIM boats and projects will be installed or delivered to remote sites where



More than one ton of peanut butter arrived for use in the mission...thank you Allen Thomas, Victory Baptist Church!

ministry is ongoing. And peanut butter? We will never starve as long as there's a good supply of Skippy and banana trees growing all over these islands!

We anticipate **"Project Pitoy"** being a great success during the weeks ahead. Many thanks go to all of you who have helped make this part of the mission possible. There were so many boxes of clothing sent that we divided the load and reserved part of it for the next shipment later this year! I will be writing more about this in the upcoming Newsletters. God bless!



The 2009 Container shipment arrived in Davao on January 29th.



Clothing for "Project Pitoy" being prepared by our RIM Team in the Conference Room of PMBS.



"Sunday School Boy"
Bethany Project
Photo: Glen Knight

Project Proclaimer...A testimony from RIM Pastor Randy Emban

"The revelation of God through the radio Proclaimer tells what we know that God is love. Because of his great love he has revealed his word through the Proclaimer. No one can measure the power of God. It is one of his ways in reaching the lost and unsaved people. The radio Proclaimer is so effective to be used for the ministry especially when we talk about evangelism. For many it's better to have a Proclaimer than the Bible because they cannot really know how to read and understand effectively the Bible. (due to illiteracy)

As a part of God's ministry, I'm thankful that you have brought me this Proclaimer. Many are asking me where they can get because they wanted to have one of their own.

I've recently been in purok 6, Batasan Makilala, North Cotabato with the Proclaimer. That place doesn't have electricity and when I came to the house of my brother I saw a lot of people. Then I began to tell them about Jesus Christ by using the Proclaimer direct to the book of Matthew 26-27 and they were very eager to listen about the crucifixion of Christ. They understand well what Christ did for the salvation of the human race and how he suffered on the cross. By God's grace there are seven souls who received Christ as personal savior. THANKS FOR THE PROCLAIMER...GOD BLESS!"



"The Tawo sa Kalinaw"

(The Man of Peace)

"Eking" of Project Proclaimer

Bethany Project,
Remote Island Ministries

Photo: Glen Knight



The Proclaimer is an audio New Testament produced in 311 languages of the world. We use the Cebuano dialect.

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"Red Sail at Sunrise"
Celebes Sea, Philippines
Photo: Glen Knight

...Reaching people on the edge!

Partners in ministry for January 09...

It has been our joy to share ministry through much of January with Brother Billy Pearson of Prattville, Arkansas. This is Billy's first visit to the Philippines and needless to say, he's enjoyed every moment of it! It's not difficult to be overwhelmed at the magnitude of the work both in Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary and Remote Island Ministries.

Billy ventured out with us on two voyages in January and helped make initial contact with the people of Dala, a remote village near Cape San Augustin. He also assisted the ministry of Faith Baptist Church of Davao in evangelistic visitation in the areas around the church near Kawayanan.

Also visiting from Promise Land Baptist Church of Hamburg, Arkansas were Pastor Michael Reese and Bobby Shockley. Promise Land assists the ministry of our young pastor, Rubel Albino of Island Garden Baptist Church, Babak, Samal as well as aiding **Remote Island Ministries** with generous monthly offerings to keep us sailing!



Pastor Michael Reese, Pastor Rubel Albino &
Bobby Shockley
(left to right)



Billy Pearson & Mike Maxwell onboard *Nativa*
Port of Davao



*What a fine catch!
Come on...put it back in the bowl...
Our gold fish can get big out here!*

Photo: Glen Knight

Remote Island Evangelism...a great prayer need at Impog

Preaching the gospel is always a challenging engagement but it is especially so when it is done among people who never or hardly ever hear it. Our evangelism night in Impog during January was coupled with a film-showing and music by our RIM Team. This village continues to be troubled by drunkenness among the adults and teenagers and for the first time, our preaching was met with considerable mockery. Except for the many children in this place, we might well shake off the dust of our feet against them. Please pray for Impog.

