

# NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

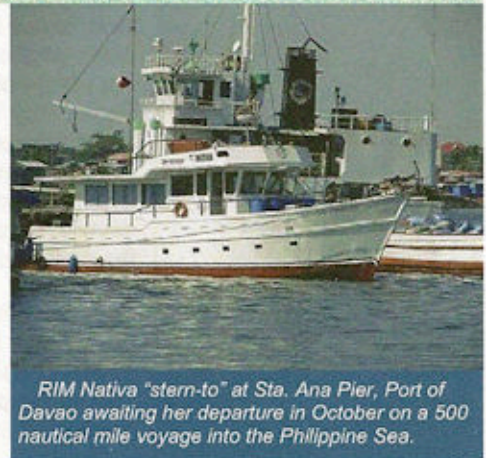
INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Things that matter...	1
Sarangani Island...	1
...Survey Continued	2
Water Well for Bethany	3
PMBS-AIT Library	3
The Call to Preach	3
Featured Photo: Balut Island Closing a Circle...	4

## Things that matter...

by Glen Knight

You are like I am...I'm sure of it. The fact is that we are mostly all the same. We often place importance on some relatively unimportant things and we seem to have a great deal of difficulty figuring out what **really** matters. I started thinking about this the other day during a conversation with a friend about cell phones. Remember when we didn't have them? What would we do without them now? The thing is that communication is more important than the type of phone we use. The same is true with time which is more important than the kind of watch we wear. Consider our words. They're more than a particular language. They are revelations of inner being and life principle. On and on the examples could go. In the Christian sense and with a view toward our commitment to serving the Lord do we see the



RIM Nativa "stern-to" at Sta. Ana Pier, Port of Davao awaiting her departure in October on a 500 nautical mile voyage into the Philippine Sea.

things that matter? For example, the time we give in service matters little without the proper motive. Money we may give for ministry is not as important as the purpose for the giving. Gifts and talents we display to bless other people are not nearly as important as the blessing they receive in the name of the Lord. What matters most is not that which relates to me and mine but that which is relative to Jesus in our world. I fear that sometimes we put ourselves front and center of what is important. That place belongs only to Christ. The prophet John the Baptist got it right about himself when he said of Jesus, "...He must increase, but I must decrease." (John 3:30). The things that matter are the things of Christ, by Him, for Him and through Him.

Our world has devolved into a skeptical, cynical and fearful condition where man has become his own helpless god. If there has ever been a time when missionaries for the things that matter are needed, it is now.

*"For what is the array of the strongest ropes, the tallest spars and the stoutest canvas against the mighty breath of the Infinite, but thistle stalks, cobwebs and gossamer?"*

—Joseph Conrad

*"What matters most is not that which relates to me and mine but that which is relative to Jesus in our world."*



**"Careful Inquiry"**

A Sangil Muslim child listens and watches...

Photo: Glen Knight

## Sarangani Island Survey...

by Glen Knight

The October voyage of RIM Nativa began with a survey of Sarangani Island, fourteen hours out from the Port of Davao. The overnight crossing of Davao Gulf passed without incident and with good weather and sea condition. One of our goals during this leg of the voyage was to find a suitable anchorage at Sarangani Island as this will serve during 2010 as a way-point for voyaging farther south and west. We dropped anchor in the deep lagoon at Patuco, Sarangani and found the place suitable for our purposes. Three villages situated around the lagoon appear to be open to the gospel as we conducted brief ministry among them.

(continued on Page 2)



Typical houses among the Sangil in the village of Manaboy, Sarangani Island.



**"Sangil Girl"**

Village of Manaboy  
Sarangani Island



Our friend Claude LeNeindre  
Onboard *Nativa*, October 2009



**"The Green Hat"**

A carpenter poses for a photo at  
Lavigan Anchorage, October 2009  
Photo: Glen Knight

## Sarangani Island Survey

(Continued from Page 1)

Most of the people of this Island are of natives of Mindanao in particular, the B'laan Tribe. Through the years it has been our joy to work with these lovely people on mainland Mindanao in Malapatan, Lasang, General Santos City and Palomolok. The island adjacent to Sarangani is Balut Island, also a location of many B'laans and a place where a church has been planted in the village of Lipol under the leadership of Pastor Boy Tablo. Finding people of the same tribe is heartening as we know them to be mild-mannered and receptive of the gospel message. Additionally, we have had several B'laan students in our seminary in the past and currently. One of these young



Houses of the Sangil people, the village of Manaboy, north shore of Sarangani Island.

students, Sheryl Malida the daughter of a long time friend of mine, accompanied us on this voyage to aid in translation and encourage the people to accept us as well-meaning visitors. Professions of faith were made during the evening worship activities among the people in the villages of Patuco and Camahual. Follow-up ministry will be conducted in these locations in January.

Two years ago I first read about a people group from Indonesia that had migrated into the Philippines. The **Sangil** are native to Sangir Besar Island of Indonesia, situated in the Celebes Sea south of Mindanao. The migration of this tribal group occurred during the Dutch rule of the islands then known as the Dutch East Indies. Finding these people is an answer to prayer inasmuch as we had been longing to make contact with them since first learning their story. Marginalized by the Philippine government and neglected by the Indonesian, this Muslim group has been reduced to small numbers. We found three villages of the Sangil: *Manaboy*, *Ubas* and *Dada*. According to our survey, there are approximately 400 households and something around 2,000 people among the three villages. The village leaders were hospitable toward us and of course, very inquisitive. They answered our questions and we did likewise as we began building a bridge of friendship. Poverty is critical among the Sangil in these villages. Ignorance due to lack of proper education is a contributing factor. They are fishermen and subsistence farmers. Medical facilities are non-existent. These are people worthy of our careful attention, not due only to their physical distress but mostly, because there has not been any Christian missionary attention given them. ***This is a good opportunity for Remote Island Ministries to do what we do best... reach people on the edge!***

**FAST FORWARD 2010...** Upon our return to the Sangil people in January we will deliver clothing, garden seeds, medicine, mosquito nets, water filters, carpentry tools, materials for boat construction and repair, language and mathematics books and most vital of all, The Proclaimer Audio Bibles.

Work among these people must be slow and deliberate. The door is open to us for returning and sharing our love but it will be with careful observation. They are Muslim and as such are feared by most of their neighbors. That fear has created animosity through the years. We are praying that the Lord will give us courage in the face of such great need among the Sangil.



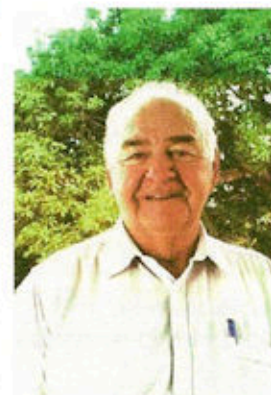
RIM Staffer, Pastor Randy Emban speaks with Sangil children in the village of Manaboy.

## A Water well for Bethany...

Glen Knight

There has long been a need for a water well at the village of Bethany, our first *Remote Island Ministries* outpost in Cape San Augustin, southeastern Philippines. In addition to spiritual ministry our desire for these brethren has been to aid in the improvement of their living conditions. First on the list is drilling a water well. Their water source in the area has been a crude well some distance away from the village. This well typically is contaminated with animal waste, various insect larvae, crabs and snails. Drilling a well in the middle of the village will do much to improve the health condition of everyone there. The cost of this project including all materials and labor for a 60' bore will be around \$800.00. Our plan is to drill this well in January as the Lord provides the funding. Please keep this project as a matter of prayer concern and if you want to help, designate an offering to "Bethany Water Well."

If you need more information about this project, email me: glenandpaula@hotmail.com



Our friend Allen Ashbacher spent two years in Davao City serving as a volunteer school teacher at Faith Academy. During his time in the Philippines, he became a welcomed partner in ministry at Faith Baptist Church and in Remote Island Ministries. This past summer Allen went to be with the Lord from his home in Florida. He leaves his wife, Betty, a brother and so many friends, not the least of whom are those of us who loved him in the Philippines.

## PMBS-AIT LIBRARY...

The Seminary Staff

The Seminary Library remains a valuable asset to the ministry training of all our students and any pastor who visits the school. We are most thankful for the books that have been donated through the years many of which were given from the personal library of Pastor Paul Magness, the seminary's founder. In our seminary staff meeting during October, we voted to designate our library as **The Pastor Paul D. Magness Memorial Library**. We intend to spruce up the library, conference room and computer lab with new paint as well as new tables and chairs in advance of our dedication service to be held during the annual Strength for the Laborers Conference in February. This will be a fitting tribute to the man whose vision and labor in large part have resulted in the success of the Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary.

## The call to preach...

RIM Staff

Obviously there are many things that can be done for people we meet along the journey of life. Some need the encouragement of friendship. Others need the comfort of understanding. Some need a compassionate touch. The hungry need food; the naked need clothing. On and on the consideration of human need goes. Living close to reality with eyes wide open, it isn't difficult to perceive the situation of those around us.

At the end of the day we must understand the greatest of all needs. The apostle made it plain: "How, then, shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher?" (Romans 10:14)

God has, in His infinite wisdom, called us to preach the gospel in this world. There is no higher calling. There is no greater task. There is no more urgent a time than now. The souls of mankind...more than seven-billion strong, are longing to hear the simple message of God's love. Whether in a city of millions or a village of tens...people need to hear.



Sharing the gospel with adults and children in the village of Patuco, Sarangani I.

Photo: Marelou Polison

"God has, in His infinite wisdom, called us to preach the gospel in this world. There is no higher calling. There is no greater task. There is no more urgent a time than now."



"Quiet Time"

RIM Staffer, Mixmie Mingao taking time for study onboard the mission vessel RIM Nativa

"And after he had seen the vision, immediately we endeavored to go into Macedonia, assuredly gathering that the Lord had called us to preach the gospel unto them." Acts 16:10

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A child in Patuco learns a song about Jesus. This village holds much promise for planting a church.

## ...Reaching people on the edge!



The fumaroles of nearby Balut Island, an active volcano adjacent to Sarangani Island are plainly seen in the early morning light. The October voyage of **RIM Nativa** surveyed the area for gospel ministry during 2010.  
Photo: Glen Knight

### Closing a circle...

Glen Knight

The completion of our October/November voyaging season with the team and crew of *Remote Island Ministries* closed a voyaging loop of more than 500 nautical miles and further proved what our missionary vessel *RIM Nativa* can do among these islands. Needless to say, we are very excited about the plans for 2010! On this voyage we steamed within sight of Miangas Island, one of the northernmost of the Indonesian archipelago. It is our desire to visit this island and add it to our ports of call for the regular missionary journeys of *Remote Island Ministries*. Farther south from Sarangani is an Indonesian territory known locally as *The Seven Islands*. Ultimately, as God gives opportunity we will penetrate these as well.

There are tens of thousands of people in all this area who have not heard the gospel and so few missionaries who are willing to go to them. Pray with us in this burden of ministry and please help us as we're **...reaching people on the edge!**



*Remote Island Ministries* M/Y *Nativa* ...resting at anchor in a beautiful lagoon at Sarangani Island, our waypoint for more distant voyaging. The village of Patuco is located here.

*"They shall lift up their voice, they shall sing for the majesty of the Lord, they shall cry aloud from the sea. Wherefore, glorify the Lord in the fires, even the name of the Lord God of Israel in the isles of the sea."*  
Isaiah 24:14-15