

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A long time coming...	1
Great work...	1
Ship's Log: 14 Feb '10	2
Bible study materials...	3
PMBS-AIT Library...	3
Strength for the...	3
"To Hear God's Word" Water color image...	4
What we would do...	

"Before us lay a volcano rising abruptly from the sea, fringed by coral reefs and white sand beaches..."



We congratulate our RIM co-worker, Pastor Nelmar Sumatra and his wife Rezel upon the birth of their third child, baby girl Mizpah on February 11, 2010. Mizpah joins her two brothers, JJ and Robert to make a very happy and blessed family!

A long time coming...

by Glen Knight

It was January 1992 when I first had opportunity to visit Balut Island and yet the journey and the experience of that time are well etched in my memory. The night was long and dark. The passage down the eastern shoreline of Sarangani Bay in the rickety fishing boat was ever so slow. I recall the smell of the nets upon which we sat and the company aboard together with giant fruit bats that seemed to hover overhead, apparently attracted by the vibration of the coughing, sputtering boat engine. Standing off the island until daybreak gave time to observe the situation: Before us lay a volcano rising abruptly from the sea, fringed by coral reefs and white sand beaches. Rain forest covered its peak except for the ancient lava flow now appearing as a giant stone staircase reaching the summit. A vast coconut plantation on the lower slopes of the mountain with perpetual columns of smoke from coco-shell charcoal drums revealed many settlements of people...mostly natives of the B'laan tribe. This visit was planned. Time spent here would be for the sake of introduction and yet eighteen years would pass before returning. Looking back I wonder why it took so long.

I am one who believes all things happen in God's time and according to His purpose. I also believe that God makes things possible to us that otherwise would not be. And returning to



Pastor Boy Tablo and yours truly on Balut Island

Balut Island in February 2010 on the mission voyager **RIM Nativa** was timely and purposeful. The church planted there eighteen years ago remains until today. We have had the joy of training some of their youth in our seminary through recent years. But the time has come to enlarge the mission effort on Balut Island and its neighbor to the east, Sarangani Island. This area has been sighted as one of our primary places of interest during this year and already the Lord is at work in a mighty way! A very good prospect for church planting is open to **RIM** in Port Mavias and other areas on the island. More information is forthcoming.

Great work and happy times...

PMBS-AIT Staff

One cannot imagine that within two and a half hours, the students and staff of Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary unloaded both shipping containers packed full of Sunday School books, Vacation Bible School materials, Bibles by the hundreds, used clothing and shoes, many boxes of hygiene kits, tools and various other mission supplies....but we did it, praise the Lord! We are always amazed at the strength God gives to willing workers.

The unloading is certainly not all the work to be done, however. We set to the task of separating the books and various other supplies almost immediately. When the Conference time comes soon, everything will be ready for distribution. Even before that, the clothing and other things designated for Remote Island Ministries will have been put to use. Thank you all for your help!



Empty containers on our PMBS parking lot always means a difficult job is finished! The Photo shows a lot of tired but happy people after offloading over 1,600 cartons of books and mission supplies by hand, one by one.



One of many teens in the church located in Barangay Lipol, Balut Island. At least three high school grads from here will attend our seminary this coming June!



Fishing is a major industry on Balut Island. A B'laan fisherman mends his nets in preparation for another night on the sea near Lipol village.



A B'laan mother and her two children prepare firewood for cooking.

Barangay Lipol, Balut Island

The Ship's Log: 14 Feb 2010

The Philippine Sea

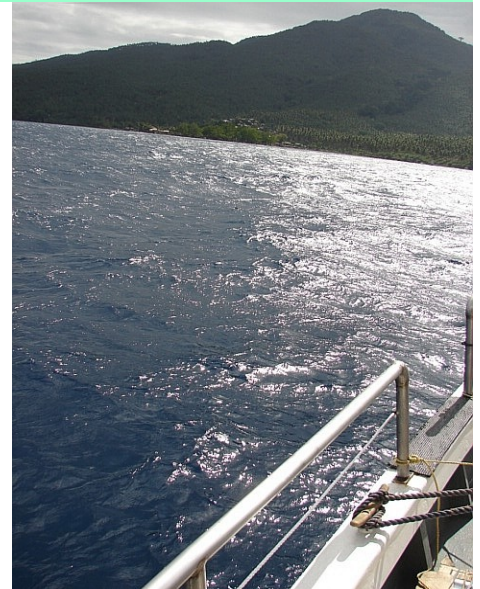
Glen Knight

Dolphins danced through **Nativa's** bow wake, appearing suddenly like ghosts from the deep then disappearing as quickly leaving all hands on deck searching for another sighting. But what they signaled to us was so much more important than the "Kodak moment" we attempted to grab...we were near our long desired destination! The silvery sea of early morning in the southern Philippines lay before us revealing treacherous currents at the western edge of Balut Island. Approaching the village we hoped for shelter from the strong wind that had battered **Nativa** throughout the past sixteen hours. The work of landing safely took priority with the crew while thoughts of dry land replaced the misery of sea-sickness for many of the team members. Honestly the pitch and roll of a vessel plowing the sea through utter darkness can sometimes make a body question any purpose...such was the night just spent. But the scramble to get ashore on this Sunday morning and the anticipation of sharing Christ with the villagers removed all doubt as to **Nativa's** purpose. There is no sacrifice so great that it cannot be made for the sake of preaching Jesus in our world.

The days to follow proved the merit of the voyage. Aside from many hours spent sharing God's Word with the entire village, the ministry team of **RIM Nativa** delivered Bibles by the hundreds, Sunday School and VBS supplies, seven "Proclaimers" (the audio Bible), clothing and shoes, and 110 corrugated GI panels for roofing the new church house. On Monday the work began installing the roof and with that complete, a great worship celebration began on Tuesday. Souls were saved as God's Word

"There is no sacrifice so great that it cannot be made for the sake of preaching Jesus in our world."

There are eight settlements on Balut Island. There are no roads. All transport among the villages is by sea. There are no interconnected communication or electrical services. But the island bears an important spot in history as the northern terminus of the historic "Wallace Line"—an area studied in the mid 19th Century by the Englishman Alfred Russel Wallace. It was he who developed the earliest theories of plate tectonics (continental drift) while living in this area where the flora and fauna of the East literally meet the same of the West without blending species. The Wallace Line can be traced from Balut Island south-west to the Sunda Straits between Java and Sumatra Islands, Indonesia. Here the deepest oceans and the most seismically active region of the world can be found. In this place, part of the famed Spice Islands, people of the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Africa, Arabia, Europe and the Americas have for centuries blended cultures creating a true melting pot of race, language and religion. We have friends here and have found a great opportunity of



The approach to Barangay Lipol, Balut Island, Philippine Sea, Sunday morning 14 Feb 2010.

was preached throughout the morning. Pastor Miguel "Boy" Tablo and the entire church were encouraged as a commitment was made to open new evangelistic and church planting efforts among the other villages on Balut Island. The work of **Remote Island Ministries** moved on from Barangay Lipol to the poblacion of Port Mavias, the principal settlement of Balut Island in the afternoon of 16 Feb.



Remote Island Ministries team, 19 Feb 2010
Port of Davao, Davao City RP

continued ministry. The Mayor of Port Mavias greeted us at the pier with a glad welcome and promised his personal assistance should we return. In God's time **Nativa** and her company will return.

Bible study materials in abundance...

PMBS-AIT Literature Committee

As expected, hundreds of cartons of Bible study materials were given out free of charge to church delegates who attended the annual Strength for the Laborers Conference here in Davao City during February. Our seminary students and other staff members really did a fine job of preparation. Without their dedicated labor this job would be a near impossibility.

A lot of material remains for others to pick up now that the conference has ended. This literature distribution is based on a first-come-first-serve basis and is free for the taking. We cannot ship materials around the Islands, however because funds are limited. Typically all Sunday School and VBS materials are liquidated by the end of October to make space for new shipments.



Delegates to the conference selecting their cartons of Sunday School and Vacation Bible School materials for the churches.



PMBS Students help with the important job of preparing Bible study materials for distribution. This is for VBS.

PMBS-AIT Library...

PMBS-AIT Staff

As reported in earlier newsletters, the PMBS-AIT library has been renamed in memory of Pastor Paul Magness, the founding pastor of the school back in the mid-80s. Thanks to contributions made from the Sunday School class that Pastor Magness last taught at Heritage Baptist Church, Texarkana, Texas, as well as other individuals, the library was given a complete face-life and furnished with new tables and chairs. The end result is really pleasing, creating an atmosphere that is warm and welcoming for all who desire to enter and study. Additional books from Pastor Magness' library in Arkansas were placed in the seminary library making it one of the most complete of its kind on the island of Mindanao. We deeply appreciate the Magness family for their contribution of these books and for lending Pastor Magness to us through the years.



Paula Magness Knight cuts the ribbon opening the newly remodeled library at the seminary, renamed in memory of her father, The Pastor Paul David Magness Memorial Library.

"Typically all Sunday School and VBS materials are liquidated by the end of October to make space for new shipments."



PMBS Staff member Pinky Quiazon leading the VBS sorting and collating prior to the conference.

Strength for the Laborers Conference...

PMBS-AIT Staff

Every year during February, Faith Baptist Church and Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary of Davao City, Philippines sponsor the Strength for the Laborers Conference. We have just completed our fourteenth conference...wow, where has the time gone? It is our joy to host speakers and guests from throughout the Philippines and America during the conference. This year there were 139 churches in the Philippines represented and delegates numbering more than 300. From the United States our speakers included Pastor Michael Reese and Tre Emory both of Promise Land Baptist Church, Hamburg, Arkansas. Additional speakers were Missionary Pastor Bienvenido Abay, Jr., Bacalod City, Philippines, Pastor Abner Tuazon, Angeles City, Philippines, Pastor Keith Bogador, Davao City, Philippines, Pastor Emmanuel Quiazon, Davao City, Philippines as well as Missionaries Mike Maxwell and Glen Knight of Remote Island Ministries, Davao City, Philippines. A full report on the conference will be given in the next Newsletter.



Pastor Michael Reese has a little fun while preaching...you go Bro!



RIM Staffer Mike Maxwell and Joe Estep of Acworth, GA on Talikud Island, Sunday morning, 7 February 2010.

"If you cannot arrive in daylight, then stand off well clear, all night, and wait until dawn. After all, that's one of the things God made boats for—to wait in."

—Tristan Jones

Remote Island Ministries

A Ministry of
 Victory Baptist Church
 515 Sherwood Ave.
 Sherwood, AR 72120
 USA

Stateside Address:
REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES
 Glen Knight
 3402 Richmond Road
 Texarkana, TX 75503
 USA

Phone: 903-791-9992
 Cell Phone: 903-293-8589

Philippine Address:
REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES
 Glen Knight
 P.O. Box 81140
 PMBS Compound, Marfori Hts.
 Davao City, 8000
 Philippines

Tel/FAX (011-63) 82-224-5591

Email me:
glenandpaula@hotmail.com



RIM Nativa Sunday morning in February off Talikud Island, Linosutan Mission, Southern Philippines.

Photo: Glen Knight

...Reaching people on the edge!



"To Hear God's Word"

Women and children listen carefully to their Bible lesson. Watercolor image by Glen Knight

What we would do...

By Glen Knight

Barnaba listened carefully as the moments passed. Soon it would be time to board the boat and off we would go to places far beyond the pier that she calls home. Sometimes things happen so quickly that we almost miss one of the greatest purposes of any day. All had made the short skiff ride out to Nativa anchored in the harbor while I sat on the quay awaiting my turn. Children gathered...only a few and all begging for money but among them one in particular who addressed me as "pastor" asked for nothing but a smile and a kind word. Quickly I thought of the Cebuano Bible tucked away in my backpack. Hungry stomachs and searching eyes compelled me to read, "Kay gihigugma sa Dios ang kalibutan" "For God so loved the world..." you know the rest of the verse. Eagerly the kids pressed more closely to hear the words of God in their dialect...precious words for precious little souls. I hadn't noticed the crewmen having returned to fetch me to the boat until she said, "Pastor, ang mga tawo dinhi sa banca." It was time to go but somehow my heart longed to stay...just a moment longer. I will return soon.



"Barnaba"

One of many kids at Sta. Ana Pier

"...The truth is that I already know as much as I need to know. The day will come when I will die. So the only matter of consequence before me is what I will do with my allotted time. I can remain on shore, paralyzed with fear, or I can raise my sails and dip and soar in the breeze."
 —Richard Bode