

# NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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*There remain the perpetual cries for peace...but peace is so elusive."*



A lovely child...one among many in church who are eager to learn more about Jesus. Thank you for your help in this work!

**"So...we will remain."**

by Glen Knight

The news came early, crackling over the radio waves in the local dialect...yet another incident, one among the many that have punctuated life in Mindanao for more than thirty years. The attack last week on Basilan Island, off the southwestern corner of Mindanao near Zamboanga City, left nineteen soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines lying dead, the result of an intense firefight with the armed insurgency, Abu Sayyaf. The days following have left Filipino families from Davao City to Manila sorrowing the loss of loved ones and the government wallowing once again in a quandary over what to do. On one hand there are calls for all-out war while on the other, calls for negotiation. One excuse for the carnage is the inequity of the government toward the local people. Another is the ever-present clamoring of ideologies that are greatly opposed to one another. Still another is the religious extremism that is so common world-wide. There remain the perpetual cries for peace...but peace is so elusive.

The history of this whole region is one of violent struggle among the people. Invaders from neighboring islands and colonizers from other continents have heaped untold misery upon these otherwise bucolic island cultures. Greed is largely to blame even when the ruse that brought invaders was of a religious nature. Such is the case with all that is false and of this world. The sad irony is that conflict and death here are part of what makes life normal. There never seems to be



any change, otherwise. So why remain? Why invest missionary effort in such an environment? Why risk property and life that can in a moment be taken away? Why, indeed!

In all the world, the only hope for change (sound familiar?) and the only genuine peace that can be found is in Christ. When despair is deep enough to leave people really hopeless, and it is that deep here, there is only Christ. But what if there was no one willing to take the risk? What if there was no one daring enough to face conflict and all that it brings in order that the gospel be proclaimed? What if the souls of men were left to founder on rocks of destruction and eternal loss with no light to show safe passage to the eternal harbor? So...we will remain.

[www.remoteislandministriesph.com](http://www.remoteislandministriesph.com)

**Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary Update**

What a joy it is to return to our field of labor and to the people we love so much! The student population in the seminary is 69 at the close of this first semester, one student having dropped out a few weeks ago. We are so thankful to those of you who have helped us in the seminary since June of this year. Our budget is closer to being met each month and we are hopeful that others will lend necessary support to help us reach full funding soon.

On behalf of the choir Paula expresses her sincere appreciation to Lone Oak MBC of Plant City, FL and to 1ST MBC of Antioch, CA for gifts of music the choir is now preparing for our February Bible conference. Thank you so much!



Students and Staff of PMBS, October 2011



The gate leading into the compound of SAFI Shipyard, Makar Wharf, General Santos City, Philippines.



...A large steel tugboat designed and being constructed in the SAFI yard is one of three current projects underway by the company. MSV Nativia II will be laid up adjacent to this vessel.

## Construction of MSV RIM Nativia II

Glen Knight

Following months of prayer, and pursuing many possible angles for construction of our new motor-sailing vessel, I have decided to build her of steel. Some hardwood lumber will still be used in the deck house and wheel house, as well as bulwark caps and interior trim, however all critical structural aspects of the ship will be steel. I had not anticipated the difficulty of acquiring the long hardwood necessary for quality ship construction and due to government restrictions and red-tape regulations for cutting new timber, to save time and to produce a great boat, steel has become the necessary means of construction. The ship's basic design will remain the same but I believe we will produce a much better, stronger, lighter weight and more durable vessel using steel, and the work will be executed in less time. The cost to completion of the hull will still be within range of what we had anticipated using timbers.



The photo above, shot inside the office of SAFI Shipyard, Inc. is of Marine Engineer Ronnie Bontor, the captain of RIM Nativia, Rex Ancajas, Pastor Emanuel Quiazon of Faith Baptist Church, Davao City (at the back), and yours' truly. Shown here is the initial conference over our ship's design on October 18th.

*“High in the mountains are vast fields of rice, corn, banana, pineapple and coffee plantations, and villages where hundreds of thousands of people live, thriving mostly off the land.”*



Children of Bukidnon Province, high in the mountains of central Mindanao. Photo: Glen Knight

## A Special Mission in October

Glen Knight

It was a special mission to which we were called over one weekend in October as an overland journey was undertaken from Davao City, five hours into the interior of central Mindanao. The mountainous province of Bukidnon lies in the very heart of the Island with its astonishing landscape, immense forests and natural rivers. High in the mountains are vast fields of rice, corn, banana, pineapple and coffee plantations, and villages where hundreds of thousands of people live, thriving mostly off the land. This is an area that produces and exports to other parts of the Philippines, the food that literally feeds the nation. Here too, is an area where churches have sprung up, proclaiming the saving gospel of Jesus Christ!

It was my joy to visit during the month with two of our former students, now married and serving Hope Baptist Church under the sponsorship of Hyde Park Baptist Church of West Monroe, Louisiana, USA. Pastor Carlo Panes and his wife Irene are building a good work among the farmers in the rural area near the



city of Malabalay. This rich area presents a great opportunity for building an indigenous church inasmuch as the people all manage farms and agro-industry businesses. There is a need to purchase about 400 square meters of land for a permanent church building and to erect a simple facility in concrete and steel. The photo above is of Pastor and Mrs. Panes and me taken during the visit. Please pray for the mission and its sponsoring church as the work moves forward.

*The flat land of the coastal plain gradually gave way to the rolling foothills of the central cordillera of the island which soon rose to almost unbelievable heights, rocky crags fingering upward through the clouds from densely forested canopies below and the road winding its way up and down in a dizzying figure. This is interior Mindanao...a land so unique and so beautiful and so familiar. —G. Knight*

# Caterpillar Propulsion for *MSV Nativa II*

Glen Knight

As reported in our last *Newsletter Philippines*, we had located a marine transmission for the Caterpillar engine that is to be installed in our new mission vessel, *MSV Nativa II*. The engine itself was located and donated free of charge to Remote Island Ministries by the brethren of Holly Creek Baptist Church, Dierks, Arkansas. Thanks to advice from our good friend Phillip Henley of Monticello, Arkansas, we made contact with Sewart Supply Company of Morgan City, Louisiana and a deal was struck on a Twin-Disc hydraulic, high-speed reduction gear. The owner of the company asked me to bring the engine to their shop in Morgan City during the week of September 5th and we agreed that the 8th would be the day. The photos on this page show the progress of installing the gear from start to finish. In answer to our prayers, the transmission fits like a glove on our CAT engine and all checked out beautifully...PTL!



The photo above shows the ring-gear being bolted onto the engine's flywheel by Glen, one of the mechanics at Sewart Supply.

The photo to the left, shows the men completing the installation of the transmission, a job that took hardly more than one hour, start to finish! Here is yet another indication from the Lord of His blessing upon the new schooner project. As I have so often thought, we should never be surprised at what God does, but we will surely always be amazed!

At the end of the day, when it was time to settle up with Sewart Supply on the cost of the reduction gear, quoted to me by the company owner, Al Adams at \$5,000.00, Mr. Adams simply said, "There's no charge for the sake of your ministry. We agreed among ourselves to donate the unit, labor and all."

I stand amazed...again. Al did ask for one thing and I want to pass this on to all of you who read this newsletter: "Please pray for us.," he said. And so, I am asking all of you to offer up a special prayer for Al and Shelly Adams and for all the staff and crew of Sewart Supply.



Good friends were made in a moment over a great cause...construction of a motor-sailing schooner in the Philippines...the *MSV Nativa II*. The men featured with me in the photo to the right are the staff and crew of Sewart Supply Company, Morgan City, Louisiana. I want to personally express my appreciation to these men and their boss, Mr. Al Adams for their kind and gracious gift to Remote Island Ministries. This gift is as seed sown in far-away places of the western Pacific that will reap an abundant harvest in time to come.

Our new propulsion system for the schooner is now in the warehouse of World-wide Literature and Missionary Supply, Hamburg, Arkansas, awaiting shipment to the Philippines by the first week of December 2011. Please continue praying for us as we gather more items necessary for the project.



Mr. Al Adams of Sewart Supply poses for a photo with our engine prior to preparing it for the new reduction gear.



The Twin-Disc hydraulic reduction gear (marine transmission) provided by Sewart Supply, Morgan City, Louisiana.

"...I am asking all of you to offer up a special prayer for Al and Shelly Adams and for all the staff and crew of Sewart Supply Company."



*It is God who brings people and things together, necessary for the accomplishment of His work. Before we put in our minds that which is needed, He has, in infinite wisdom and gracious manner, provided it and while we imagine that which could be, He has seen it as though it already is. What He asks of us are faith and faithfulness and thanksgiving.* —Glen Knight

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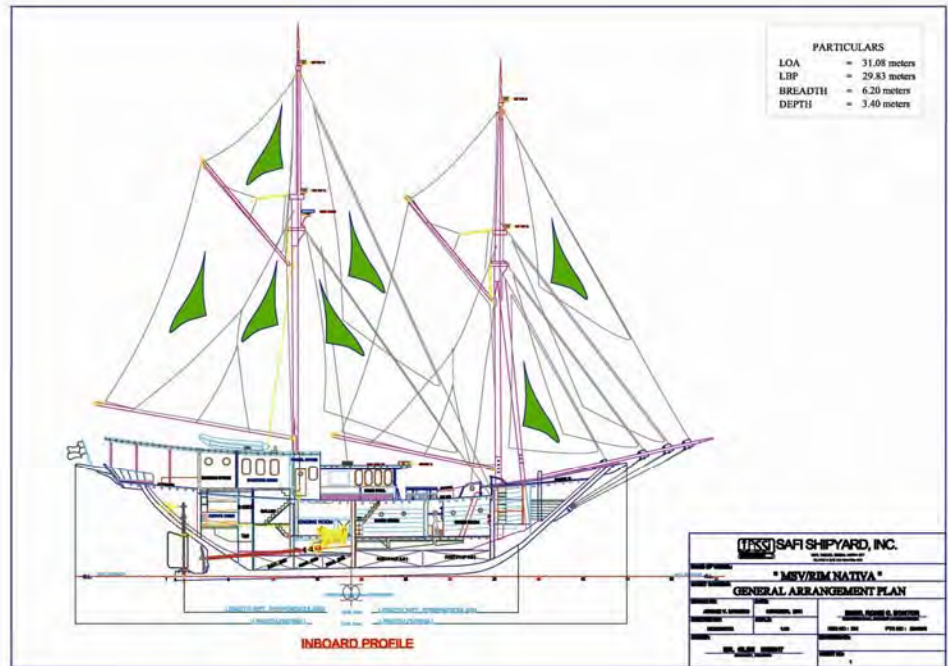
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The Russian sail-training vessel *Pallada*, Port of Vladivostok, Russia, visiting the Port of San Francisco, August 2011. She has sailed more than 520,000 nautical miles and can reach speeds of up to 18 knots.

*...Reaching people on the edge!*



The naval architect's final draft of the inboard profile of *MSV/ RIM Nativa*. As God permits, we will contract the construction job to SAFI Shipyard, Inc., General Santos City, Philippines. Our vision for this mission vessel will soon become reality!

**A Final word...**

Glen Knight

The busy summer of 2011 in the States has come to an end for Paula, Juli and me. As we look back over the months past, we're grateful for God's grace in our travels that have taken us literally from the Atlantic to the Pacific coasts. To all the churches and families who have hosted our visits, we simply say...thank you! Words can hardly express our feelings of love and gratitude to so many across our great nation.

The time to return to our field of labor is approaching very quickly now. We will be preparing the shipping containers during November with plans of sending them off by the first week of December. My trip back to the Philippines for the month of October was in preparation for the arrival of the containers and for the start-up of our new schooner project.



The photo above is of the three of us in Monterey, California. Many thanks go to our numerous friends in the state for their help while visiting among the churches there.

*"Will you still go?" she asked. "Yes." I said. "But what if you don't come back?" she begged. "I will come back." ... "But what if you don't?" ... "Then we will meet again in heaven." and we cried and prayed together as in a thousand times before. —G. Knight, Memoirs of a Missionary*