

# NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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Notes from a voyage: March 2012 (Part 2)

Glen Knight

The negotiations didn't seem very promising. Too many people, mostly women were clamoring in a dialect unfamiliar to me but it was the body language and the agitated appearance of the man I'd come to speak with that gave the distinct impression that this would not go well. That we were marooned on a distant island without an engine to navigate placed the crew of *Nativa* and the mission team of Remote Island Ministries in what needless to say was an uncomfortable position. Not more than twelve feet from where I sat a man was awkwardly pouring gasoline from a large drum into liter-sized coke bottles, stifling fumes filling the seaside room where we sat in a circle as our agitated host smoked one cigarette after another, smashing the smoldering butts on the floor where oil and gasoline stains had made the concrete slick and stinking. Drums of fuel, ropes, stacks of indistinguishable stuff covered with plastic tarpaulin that filled adjacent rooms and young men with machetes standing in dark recesses of the compound left little doubt...we'd stepped into a pirate's lair but this was the man whose boat at the end of the pier was the only one that could tow our crippled *Nativa* to the Port of General Santos City. Would he consent and at what price? There are times when a decision is made to do something that I would not ordinarily do. This was one of those times but negotiations having failed, despite our offerings, we excused ourselves politely and cautiously left the compound.

By late evening our decision to depart and make for the Port of General Santos City under *Nativa's* limited power had been made. Casting off we eased through the narrow inlet and out into the wide strait between the two islands that opened to the sea northward toward mainland Mindanao. The time on the clock showed 11:45 PM. A bright nighttime sky glistened with millions of stars as the full moon of March rose over the eastern horizon. The wonder of the sea and the sky above would otherwise make problems vanish...but not now. It proves the paradoxical reality of so many things in our world. But people of faith trust the Lord in all circumstances. We had come to this island to do work that honors God and helps fellow man. It was by grace that that work had been done. Time and again the faithfulness of the Lord has been proven over these many years of ministry in the Philippines. God simply does not fail His people! That fact gives courage to carry on. In the distance aft of *Nativa*, the faint form of an approaching vessel began to emerge from the dark, closing slowly astern of our vessel then along side to starboard. The boat with which we'd tried to negotiate a tow passed a line to our vessel which was made fast to the forward post, paying out some 300 feet of line then coming taut with *Nativa* at its end. For the next five hours the vessel graciously brought us to safety, dropping *Nativa* just off the shore of SAFI Shipyard before day-break. There is, after all, some honor among all men...even pirates. I have no doubt that the Lord touched the deep recesses of a man's heart and brought that honor forth to give aid when it was in his power to do so. You see, sometimes even unbelievers bless the people of God and this time as so often in the past, we live and we serve to bless people in His name.

*"The wonder of the sea and the sky above would otherwise make problems vanish...but not now."*



The new church house as it stands now at Port Maveas, Balut Island, Southern Philippines. This was the work that was done in March, 2012 when our boat engine failed.

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

The Coming School Year at PMBS-AIT

It's hard to imagine but it's almost time for classes to begin again at Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary. Paula has selected the music for the coming year and already our faculty and staff are gearing up for what promises to be a tremendous year in the seminary. Work has begun on our 2013 Bible conference the theme of which is "Into All the World" We look forward to classes beginning the second week of June, 2012. Thank you for your support!



## In Memory of Pastor Bob Spears

PMBS-AIT Staff



Pastor Michael Reese of Promise Land Baptist Church, Hamburg, AR seated with two of our Sangil Muslim friends on Balut Island.



Karen Reese poses with some of the kids of Port Maveas, Balut Island. It's great to have such helpers! This photo and the one above, courtesy of the Reeses.



One of the VBS classes on Balut Island under the leadership of RIM staff member, Marilou Polison. This is the first VBS at our new church site!



The VBS Team of Faith Baptist Church, Davao City. Pastor Manny Quiazon, (front row, right). Director Pinky Quiazon, (front row, center.)

We learned in a very short time to love Pastor Bob Spears of Mission Home Baptist Church, Wewoka, Oklahoma as he joined us for our 2012 Strength for the Laborers Bible Conference in Davao City, Philippines this past February. His messages during the conference and his kindness and gentle spirit were great blessings to all who attended the meeting. Pastor Bob went home to be with the Lord only days after returning to his home in Oklahoma. On behalf of the faculty and students of PMBS-AIT as well as Missionary Pastor Willie Puerin, his family and congregation, we extend our deepest sympathy to Cassie and the children as well as to the brethren of Mission Home Baptist Church. May God give peace to all. The photo of Bob at the right was taken on March 3 aboard the mission boat, *Nativa* during a day-long outing to Talikud Island, Gulf of Davao.



## PMBS-AIT Commencement 2012

Another graduating class at the Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary received their diplomas and awards on Friday, March 30, 2012. The theme of the commencement was, appropriately, "So Send I You." The speaker for this year's program was faculty member, Pastor Noel Bader. The photo at the right is of the twelve graduates presenting their special song during the evening exercises. Many thanks go to all of you who are helping us with your offerings for the seminary. Our new year begins in June.



## Vacation Bible School Season

The 2012 VBS season got under way with the first of several schools being held at Faith Baptist Church, Davao City. Average attendance for the week was 211 with high attendance of 275. Pastor Manny recorded 14 professions of faith among the students!

Another week of VBS was conducted under the leadership of Pastor Nelmar Sumatra and our RIM team at Port Maveas, Balut Island. Remaining at this writing is the VBS for Bethany, Cape San Augustine under our RIM team's leadership.



The photo above shows children at Faith during their week of Vacation Bible School.

*A large portion of our task today is to prepare a people for tomorrow. Sowing into young lives all the love, understanding, compassion and knowledge we have to offer will show itself worthy in time to come and a nation for God will rise on a firm foundation that cannot be seen except by faith.*

—Glen Knight

# The Ship's Progress: May 2012

Glen Knight

Eighteen weeks into construction of the missionary sailing ship *MSV/RIM Nativa II* we're nearing completion of the hull plating. The projected date for completion of this work is July 18th. Word from the shipyard manager is that the work is ahead of schedule and with fifty-four days remaining in that time frame, we will surely be finished early. The photo at the right shows the portside forward view of the ship with the bow section almost closed. Both the port and starboard sides are being plated together.



The main deck as well as the secondary deck below are nearing completion. Bulwarks are set up as you can see in this picture to the left. The view is facing the bow, showing the raised forecastle section. Twin hatches will be opened soon into the area below the raised deck to give access to the forward dry cargo hold. A beautiful bowsprit will soon be set in place to accommodate the three large headsails we will carry forward. The forward mast will be set just aft of the forecastle.



The photo at the right shows the portside aft section where the last of the hull framing is being done. The stern-step seen below the men is where the propeller shaft and rudder will soon be set. Once that work is completed by late May, we will be ready to install the Caterpillar Marine engine and Twin-Disc transmission provided for the ship by Holly Creek Baptist Church, Dierks, AR and Sewart Supply Company, Morgan City, LA. The keel of the ship will be filled with concrete when finished to add ballast.



We are at a place in construction where large payments on the progress billing of the shipyard necessarily have to be made. If you have given to the work, thank you so much! If you haven't and desire to do so, please consider the need now. The full amount required by contract will have to be paid before we leave the yard with the vessel. Offerings for the project can be made to Victory Baptist Church, 515 Sherwood Ave, Sherwood, AR 72120. Please designate— "Nativa II." Thank you!



*"In my mind I see their faces. Their names are not common despite the familiarity we may have with the likes of "Juan" or "Angelica" or "Jose" for you see, the Lord knows them as individuals, separate and distinct as to personality and yet all the same as to need. And to reach them with the gospel...that my friend is the task...that is God's command for us. The opportunity of all opportunities awaits."*  
—gk



The building construction on Balut Island (pictured above) is to be replicated during May and June for Hope Baptist Church in interior Mindanao sponsored by Hyde Park Baptist Church, West Monroe, LA. The photo below shows the fabrication stage on their building by our RIM team under Pastor Nelmar Sumatra's leadership. This is the seventh church building of this sort we have built so far.



*A beautiful bowsprit will soon be set in place to accommodate the three large headsails we will carry forward.*



A machinist at SAFI Shipyard in General Santos City, Philippines checks the alignment on one of the sections of propeller shafting that will be installed in the sailing ship *RIM Nativa II*. Propulsion component fabrication and installation are ongoing through the month of May.

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Paula poses with a child who received a gift box from New Liberty Baptist Church, Garland, TX. Thirty-nine boxes were sent!

*...Reaching people on the edge!*

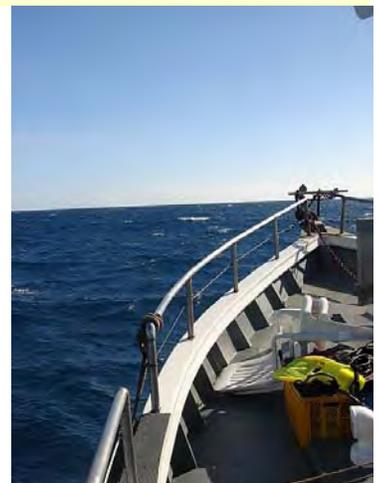


The Faculty and Staff along with our 2012 graduates of the Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary-Asia Institute of Theology pose for the photo at the end of our 2012 Commencement at the school in Davao City, Philippines. Congratulations to all!

**A Final word...**

Glen Knight

Moving work forward over the months to come is at the same time, exciting and challenging. One can see by reading this newsletter that many things are happening among us and that there are many very qualified and eager helpers in the work. In fact, the things that are done through the seminary and Remote Island Ministries would not be possible except for the dedicated workers God has provided. Equally important are all of you who help each month with your prayers and financial support of the work. A man asked me recently how much of the funding provided actually benefited the work itself. My answer... 100% of the offerings given goes directly into the work. Nothing is taken for use otherwise. On our horizon there are many opportunities to change lives for eternity. Thanks for helping us!



*"The time will come when I will not be with you...but the Lord will be always. The work we do together today will be your encouragement when you take my place. The ship we build, you will one day command and the waters we sail and the islands and people we reach will be part of the chart and the course you will continue to follow. Pay attention today and be brave. Tomorrow comes sooner than you may think."*  
 —gk