

Newsletter Philippines

Missionaries Glen, Paula & Juli Knight

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

"Red Sail"	1
Visit Our Website!	1
Semester's end...	1
"Permit little children..."	2
Choir Night at PMBS...	2
The Ship's Progress	3
Photo: PMBS-AIT Choir	4
A Final Word	4

"The Christian servant needs the same sort of focus...for time, like the tide passes quickly."



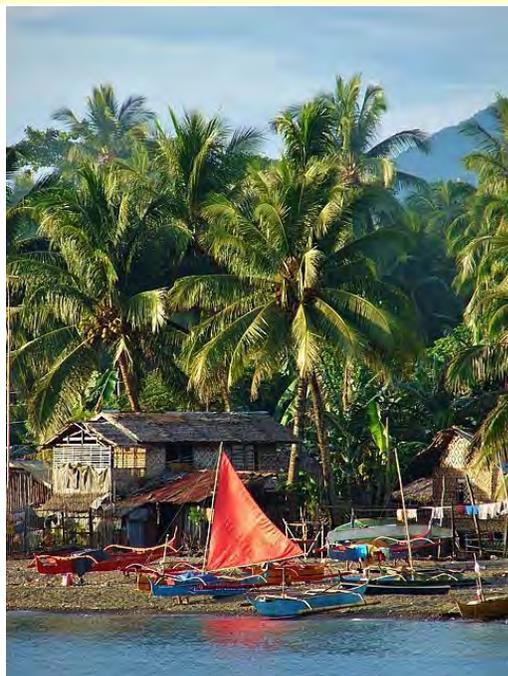
The bridge of our missionary service boat, **RIM Nativa** gleams in the afternoon sunlight off Mindanao, the Philippines. She's never been in more beautiful form! We are bound for the Cape soon!

"Red Sail"—Thoughts from a photo...

Glen Knight

"I'm awakened by the sound of the coconut palms clapping their leaves together in the wind like so many hundreds of people clapping their hands making me wonder what the tumult is all about. The deep green of the lush jungle around and the bright blue of the sea reflecting the same from the early morning sky above give considerable pause to sleepy eyes. And the sail—that bright red sail which would be typically brailed against its mast, is set as though ready for the wind gusts to sweep the tiny craft away and yet there is no water beneath its keel. But the tide is rising and a second look reveals the boatman lying in his vessel...waiting. His preparation is complete. His plans are made. And he waits patiently for the sea and the wind to sweep him out to distant reefs where the catch awaits his careful eyes and skillful hands. He is above all other things...a fisherman. And he is ready to fish." (Memoirs—gk)

How much like him are we as Christian servants? Our world is to us what the reef is to the fisherman—the place for casting nets. Ours is a gospel net meant for gathering the souls of mankind for Christ. But as with the fisherman, we will cast no "net" without preparation. Silently he sets about his task, seldom talking but working diligently, eyes on the horizon, delft hands casting and retrieving his net. The Christian servant needs the



same sort of focus, not talking so much of what he's going to do but doing it with compassion and truth and a sense of urgency for time, like the tide, passes quickly. As in the photo, so also with life...one vessel is ready while the majority lay unprepared; one fisherman has his heart set on the task while the others slumber and wait; and only one will catch fish.

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Semester's end at PMBS-AIT

It's hard to imagine but the first semester of the current school year at our seminary has come to an end. At this time we're looking toward semester final examinations next week and then the school will recess for two weeks. The new semester begins the third week of October. The photo at the right shows some of our men taking time during library hours in the evening, studying their lessons and preparing their weekend work among the churches here in the Davao City area.





Seaman-in-training for ship's engineer, Junmark Accion shown here outside our seminary offices. Junmark is a graduate of PMBS and a part-time employee of the seminary. RIM has undertaken his cost of education in a three-year seaman's course here at AGRO Maritime College. It is necessary to have certified personnel on our new missionary ship and I want men of God!

"..pictures like these pull at our hearts but to be touched is only part of the need..."



"Simonetta" peers from the side of a house during one of the children's Bible studies conducted by student workers on Saturdays. Photo: Juli Knight

"Permit little children to come..."

Glen Knight

There is hardly anything more tender and moving than the face of a child—hungry or satisfied, happy or sad, care-free or in pain—nothing can produce empathy more quickly. We often imagine our children being as these that we see here every day. The "what if" questions are never far from our minds: What if I were as they when I was a child? What if my kids were as these—mostly barefoot and scantily clothed, living in shanties and foraging for food or panhandling in the streets? What if my little ones had no safe



place to play and skittered back and forth from their temporary houses erected only inches from passing vehicles? What if my children had never learned to sing songs about Jesus or if they had never had an opportunity to listen to the stories of love and grace so familiar to me? And, what if no one cared?

Yes, pictures like these pull at our hearts but to be touched is only part of the need. The rest is a story we will write, ourselves, in one way or another. Consider it, please.

Choir Night at PMBS-AIT

Glen Knight

A few of the PMBS-AIT guys pose for a relaxed photo following choir rehearsal on a Monday evening here recently. The seminary choir continues preparing the musical "Into All The World" for presentation during our upcoming Bible Conference in February 2013. Many hours of rehearsal will go into this concert as you can imagine.

The Bible conference will feature twenty-two messages over the three-day meeting plus the concert on Wednesday night of that week. The dates for the meeting are February 25 through March 1, 2013. The conference theme is "Embracing Our World-wide Mission." The conference speakers include: Pastor Robert & Sherri Harris, Victory MBC; Larry & Pat Clements, Editor-in-Chief ABA SS Publi-



cations; Pastor Jim Crain, Calvary MBC, Minden, LA; Pastor Jeff Leuellen, Hyde Park MBC, West Monroe, LA; Pastor Mike Maxwell, Hillcrest MBC, Acworth, GA and Bryan Sellers, Secretary-Treasurer of ABA Missions. Matt Knight will lead the worship.

"Oh, see if you will, the things that I have seen thousands of times over. Touch, if you can, the calloused hands worn by work and weariness or the fevered body drawn up within the dirty blanket. Smell the stench of smoke or rotteness or death. Hear joyful sounds of children at play or the wail of a mother whose baby has died—and you will begin to know what it is to be a 'missionary.'" —gk

The Ship's Progress: September 2012

Construction progress on our missionary sailing ship MSV/RIM Nativa II has slowed during September, in part because things we are working on now are slow by nature and also in part because of the rainy season that is in full tilt here in the southern Philippines. The photo at the right was shot on Wednesday, September 19th. There has been a lot of what we call here, "retouch" to bring the work up to the standard that is required for this vessel. Almost three weeks of work have been necessary for this! As of



Here is a view of the vessel aft showing the finished hull. All retouch work has been done and she is now ready for final primer painting within this month.



this writing, Thursday, September 20th, that part of the work has been accomplished and I have given the nod to continue developing the ship. That three-week delay however, cost us valuable time.

(We are reminded of [James 1:2-4!](#))

Work on the superstructure cannot be seen in these photos, but it has begun. Within one week, the modular sections of the superstructure will begin to be set into place. I will post FB updates on that.

Watch for weekly updates of the ship's progress on my Facebook page!

Below decks in the forward accommodation hold, are pictured (left to right) Captain Rex Ancajas, Engineer Dennis Torres and Pastor Nelmar Sumatra. This area is a large space where four rooms and a ship's head will be built. It will accommodate up to sixteen people. There are two more accommodation spaces on board as well in the aft section of the vessel. Our total personnel capacity will be forty-four people. Beneath the cabin sole seen here are fresh water tanks with 4,000 gallons capacity.



Inside the machine shop of SAFI Shipyard, I am holding the propeller. The shafting is laying to my right.



On the main deck looking aft you can get an idea of the length of the ship. The men in the foreground are standing aft of the fore-peak by about fifteen feet. The men in the center are just behind the center of the ship. The bridge deck will rise about where those men are standing. All this forward section will be open cargo deck. The large forward mast will rise just in front of the men in the foreground. The sail boom will swing about seven feet above this section of the deck.



Our Caterpillar engine is sitting on the engine bed inside the ship. It will be installed once the vessel is moved to the slipway of the shipyard in November.

"The sea is bad" he said with a timorous voice. "Yes, it is" I replied, "But Mike, we have a strong boat. She will weather." The wind blowing foam off the wave tops at the crest of the swells belied any attempt at mollifying the circumstance. Rain fell horizontally...or so it seemed. What we could see was just water all around and angry looking, and our tiny dry space inside the boat. So we looked ahead—and above. "Memoirs of a Missionary" —gk

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A fisherman on the pier baiting his lines, hoping to catch his evening meal.

...Reaching people on the edge!



During one of our recent Monday evening choir rehearsals, Paula puts the choir through their paces in preparation of the Bible Conference musical, **"Into All The World"** to be presented in concert on Wednesday evening, February 27, 2013.

A Final word...

Glen Knight

Every day children play along the pier. No matter where it is found, the kids are always there. They swim and fish and forage for what can be had of the flotsam and jetsam typical of any of the worlds oceans. Apparent sadness is seldom seen in their beautiful faces. Their rollicking games seem to defy hardship but hardship there is and plenty of it. Can you imagine the difference that is made in simple matters of relief? A gift of soap, toothpaste and toothbrush, a comb or hair brush will give at the moment, a glimmer of hope. A mosquito net, a shirt, pants and a pair of shoes—all help to communicate the message of love. Thank you for helping us do that! And most of all, thank you for helping us share with them the saving gospel of Jesus Christ!



"The little man dropped his line off the pier and into the brackish water near the river's edge just where it opens to the sea beyond. The fish he was catching—only two or three inches in length—seemed as hungry as he for no sooner had he dropped his hook beneath the surface would the tiny creatures below have snapped onto it. I am reminded of the longing souls of men and women throughout the world who are thus hungry for hearing God's Word." "Memoirs..." —gk