

REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES—Philippines

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INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Pointing Out-bound	1
Visit Our Website!	1
Strength for the Laborers	1
Cargo Containers Arrive	2
The Ship's Progress	3
A final Word	4

“Someone wrote to me the other day of Noah’s Ark—how that it was built for the saving of the world and in a sense, it was said, this sailing vessel is much the same.”



Paula has worked diligently together with the assistance of Pastor Lony Bebelonio in preparation of the music for the Bible conference. The concert on Wednesday night is entitled: “Into All the World.” God will be glorified and His people, encouraged!

Pointing Out-bound

Glen Knight

To me, there seems something symbolic about setting the bowsprit on our missionary sailing ship, RIM Nativa II. Aside from its utilitarian purpose, it is a pointer...a sight, as it were, to guide us from where we are to where we need to be in the service of our Lord. Two days ago we set that bowsprit. We set it straight. We fixed it strong. The men working on the ship wondered at my decision to get that job done before day’s ending and without doubt, no one in our company of laborers could quite figure it. But I knew why. The day of work that began, quite honestly in discouragement, ended with determination, not just to get a job done but to get it done—with purpose. You see, I needed a direction.

Someone wrote to me the other day of Noah’s Ark—how that it was built for the saving of the world and in a sense, it was said, this sailing vessel is much the same. Ah, but it is far too small for taking onboard the volume of supply and personnel—human and animal, such as did Noah. But what she will carry is the soul-saving message of the gospel for our world and in that sense, RIM Nativa II is an “ark” for modern times. And now, she presents her bowsprit—strong and pointing...outbound.



It is true that sometimes, we lose our direction but not in ways that one might think. We open ourselves to diversion and tangent thinking that take us off course from our true north. Take for example, this ship-building project which for almost two years has occupied so much of our effort. Planning, financing and execution of the work seem to have largely distracted me from the “why” aspect of the whole thing. I needed—no, I suffered for lack of that bowsprit—that pointer that reminds me of our direction...a direction which God has chosen and set before us and for this reason, we must finish...we will finish this ship and press her into service. You see, oddly, it isn’t about the ship—but it’s about the people in places where only this ship can sail—people who need Jesus.

www.remoteislandministriesph.com

Strength for the Laborers Conference

As the time of our annual Strength for the Laborers Conference nears, our students are working hard preparing not only the music but also the seminary buildings. We’re anticipating a record crowd of delegates from throughout the Philippines in the meeting this year. The staff and students of PMBS-AIT are phenomenal in the way they host all our visitors each year. The conference is entitled: “Into All the World: Embracing our World-wide Mission.” Watch for reports soon!



Cargo Containers Arrive!

Glen Knight



Following a good day's work at PMBS-AIT, Paula and the staff ladies treated us all to a great hamburger supper, complete with all the "fixins", as you can see in the photo above. Pictured are Paula, Nene, Josephine and Rea. Mark is standing behind Rea.

At daybreak on January 29th we opened the doors of the second container that was sent to us from Hamburg, Arkansas last December 9th. The two 40' units both arrived at PMBS-AIT in the evening of the 28th but only one was stripped at that time, saving the other for early morning. All contents were removed safely and stacked in designated locations in and around our buildings. The photo at the right shows Pastor Nelmar Sumatra and me discussing the removal of the first item...the delicate solar power system to



"Many thanks go to Calvary Baptist Church, Hamburg, Arkansas and Brother Joel Meredith, Director of World-wide Literature and Missionary Supply for their diligent work."



be installed on RIM Nativa II. It was taken out carefully and secured inside the building, having made the journey intact from Miami, Florida to Davao City by way of Hamburg, Arkansas! The picture at the left shows the beautiful Vulcan commercial kitchen range given our school by Timberlakes Baptist Church, Woodlands, Texas. This range replaces the old one we have used in the seminary kitchen for several years. WOW, thanks TLBC!!

Unloading containers is an annual event around here. Through the years with the help of so many back there in the USA, we have been able to import twenty-six units. Many thanks go to Calvary Baptist Church, Hamburg, Arkansas and Brother Joel Meredith, Director of World-wide Literature and Missionary Supply for their diligent work. We thank all the churches and individuals across America who support this ministry and of course, the Baptist Sunday School Committee for



Hundreds of boxes of literature and supplies are stacked inside our offices and in every other spare room around the seminary. We praise the Lord for such a bountiful supply!



their generous donation of the press overrun Sunday School, BTC and VBS materials.



The photo to the left shows medical supplies donated to us by St. Michael's Hospital, Texarkana, Texas. The drums contain hundreds of hygiene kits put together by so many churches in the United States. All these things are to be used soon in our relief efforts through Remote Island Ministries. Many thanks also go to our good friend in Texarkana, Dr. Leland Dodd for his help with the medical supply.

"Are you tired?" he asked, seeing obvious signs of fatigue. "Yes, perhaps more than you know, but the weariness is of a good sort for it comes from accomplishment...from having done something more than playing games or sitting up when one should have slept. It is the kind of tiredness that comes with the satisfaction that the day God had given had been well used." —G. Knight, Memoirs...

The Ship's Progress: February 2013



The photo to the right shows her portside stern. Primer painting of the deck structure is underway in this picture. You will notice as well what appears to be five vertical lines at the fantail. This indicates additional welding we required the shipyard to accomplish on the stiffeners in the steering gear room. All the windows and doors for the deck structure have been fabricated and were ready for installation here, however we also required x-bracing to be welded into place to prevent twist.

In early February our ship was placed in the dry dock slipway at SAFI Shipyard for finishing out and painting. The photo at the left shows that process ongoing with work underway on the anchor eyes in her bows. Many additional things are being done here that are not visible to the camera, among which are the sea cocks installation for the drive engine cooling system, the bilge water discharge and the sonar transducer mount in the forward section of the ship. The hull is in full primer paint.



RIM Nativa's bows are shown in the photo to the left. Here is a close-up view of the anchor cone-type eyes we had the yard manufacture for the chocks. The man on the scaffolding is welding the heavy bobstay bracket into place that will support the underside of the bowsprit. Additional brackets will be welded to the port and starboard side bulwarks for the lateral stays of the bowsprit. The brackets along each side of the ship that will carry the standing rigging have also been added.



With her hull painted, anchors in place and the bowsprit set, RIM Nativa II is beginning to look like the sailing ship she is meant to be. The photo to the right shows her port bow along the quay after launching on February 10th, 2013. Sadly, however, her hull painting is far less than adequate and the water line isn't painted correctly. I find myself in the difficult position of having to convince the manager of the shipyard to haul her back into dry dock to correct the work. We are delayed...again.



The old USN surplus anchor winlass we purchased last year in Manila has been given new life as it now sits atop its base on the forecastle of RIM Nativa II. It is driven by a new 10hp electric motor and once again its gypsies draw big anchor chains. "Heave ho!" (All it needs now is paint...)

"With her hull painted, anchors in place and the bowsprit set, RIM Nativa II is beginning to look like the sailing ship she is meant to be."



Our Dutch friend of 18 years, Marine Engineer Jan Van Doorn has become a valuable counselor during the past month. PTL for Jan's help!

"Timing is everything. It is true. And timing is often such as cannot be commanded nor orchestrated. For example, the rising and flowing tides, consistent though they be invariably work for or against the aspect of the ship and her crew when combined with favorable or unfavorable winds. Our lives are subject to God's timing and all its variables and through faith, we learn patience and we gain wisdom." —G. Knight, Memoirs...

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MINISTRIES**
Philippines

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Paula and some of the ladies of PMBS-AIT "swim" in a sea of flip-flops...600 pairs given by the ladies of Lobelville Methodist Church Lobelville, Tennessee!

...Reaching people on the edge!



Once again, after a lot of hard work our students and some of the staff of PMBS-AIT pose for a photo with an empty, forty-foot cargo van. This effort is always a tremendous work both state-side and here in Davao and without the help of so many people on both shores of the Pacific Ocean, it wouldn't be possible. Thank you everyone for your service to the Lord!

A Final word... Glen Knight

Almost in a flash, the things we had lugged all the way from America to Davao City and then into the boat to be delivered onshore of a distant island, vanished from before us. Excited hands grappled at the boxes that were hauled onto heads and bounded off down the hillside to the nearby village leaving me to wonder if the true purpose of our gifts would ever be realized. Oh, but it isn't our first time to do this...no, it is a repeat of often accomplished endeavor...the little porters, as they are, delivering all the boxes intact to the waiting villagers in the tiny chapel below. And all do wait, but not only for the contents to be revealed—that's just a part of their anticipation. The real goodness of our coming is in the love, the renewed fellowship, the prayers, singing and declaration of God's Word among them, for this, you see, is the work of Remote Island Ministries and this is good work! Thank you for supporting and praying for us.



"How can you measure in terms of value, the things that are given into the Lord's work? If such were of mere currency it could easily be counted and the sum given in plain fact and figure. But the thing is, much of what is given to the work is not of a monetary nature. Rather it is of the heart, generated from vision and desire deeply rooted in love and inspiration. Being such, its value cannot be fixed by earthly standards—rather, it is the heavenly." —G. Knight, Memoirs...