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“...RIM Nativa II carries her bell—an indication of our progress toward completion of the sailing ship.”

A proper bell for N2

It’s beauty is fairly obvious and after all, every ship must have a bell. It’s just that way and for centuries they have carried them—some fancy, some not so; some sounding a melodic tone, some giving only a clank. But what of those bells and why? They signal time for crew and passengers. They sound alarm when necessary. They muster all hands on deck. They indicate celebration as well as bereavement. They’re just...necessary. And now, RIM Nativa II carries her bell—an indication of our progress toward completion of the sailing ship. And it was a matter of celebration when on September 24, I set her bell in place on the forward deck. The celebratory ringing of that bell highlighted the payoff of the shipyard contract on our vessel and marked the beginning of our move toward finishing the ship. No doubt, all who sail on RIM Nativa II will hear that beautiful ringing of her bell often and for many a reason, but I will always remember its first ringing and what it meant to me as an answer to prayer. A missionary’s dream has become reality. Thank you all!

Glen Knight



“She looks like a sailing ship now!”

The photo at the right is of RIM Nativa II with the boat rafted along side her at the anchorage off Samal Island, Port of Davao City, Philippines. The picture was taken late in the afternoon of October 1, the day we stepped her masts onto their foundations. While all the rigging was not completed that day, enough of it was in place to give a good picture of what this ship will be once completed.

Inside this issue are photos of the event of October 1 which show a lot of the work and the way we went about it. For all of us who have labored diligently on the ship through the past several months, seeing her masts standing is truly a rewarding experience. By no means are we finished and the need for more hard work and offerings for completion of the project remain. But dear friends, the goal is within reach by the end of this year, so please keep praying and giving as you can. Soon, we will be ready to set sail on this gospel ship! —GK



Moving the project forward...

I will be forever grateful to all the churches and individuals who have given so very much for the development of the new missionary sailing ship. At present, with the contract to the shipyard paid off, thanks in large part to Central MBC, Bastrop, LA, we are able to move the work forward toward completion. That work will be done only as funding is available inasmuch as we build only what we can pay for in any given month. It is difficult for me to estimate the cost to completion. Many things needed aren't immediately available so that I'm left to fabricate or otherwise modify things to adapt them to our needs. I trust the Lord to supply and so often when I'm left scratching my head wondering what to do, I believe He has the plan and my part, mostly, is to wait for that to be revealed! Certainly, the greater part of wonder at what God is doing is to see His hand moving through the process.

With electrical wiring and electronic systems being installed now, what remains is the plumbing for the galley and three heads and the construction of a few interior walls below decks. Aside from these things, a lot of cosmetic work must be done, the painting completed and windows installed. The last thing will be a nice suit of sails custom fitted to the booms and gaffs.

Please keep praying for this work and give as you can. God bless! —gk



“Certainly, the greater part of wonder at what God is doing is to see His hand moving through the process.”

For what reason?

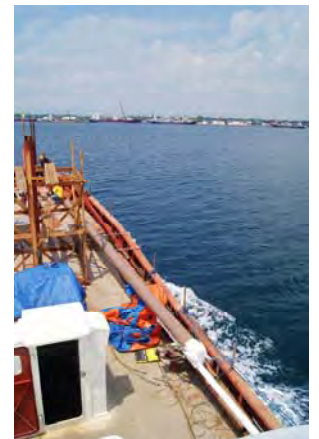
The driftwood that lay dry alongside a primitive cottage on an island in the Gulf of Davao, lately caught my attention as a fit subject for a quick photographic study. But when focused through the camera lens, a small boy stepped into view, who, framed by the bleached limb, suddenly lent an impact that was undeniably meant to be at that moment. Frail and dry in appearance as the driftwood, he epitomizes the need of those like him and gives life to the vision of Remote Island Ministries—“Reaching People on the edge.”

If anyone ever wondered, a sea-going vessel that ships cargo and personnel bringing both help and hope to the countless thousands of people in this region is not only a necessary link to life in our world but more importantly, the vital link to heaven, itself. Take a good look at the little guy in the photograph. You see, he is the reason we build and go, spend and are spent.



The Lord's plan...

The photograph at the right was shot on the morning of October 1, 2013 en route with RIM Nativa II to SASA Wharf, Port of Davao City. Following our failed attempt to set the masts the day prior, the Lord made the way for the work to be done and provided the means and the people in a marvelous way! Our thanks go to Captain Michael Lasa, the Harbor Master of SASA Wharf who accommodated our request above and beyond what we could have anticipated. Captain Lasa is also a brother in Christ who gave not only his professional assistance, but also his heart to our cause. We also acknowledge the kind assistance of Major Namer Lipa of the Philippine Port Authority, SASA Wharf who aided Captain Lasa in facilitating our needs. Furthermore, we appreciate so very much the help given us by Mr. Wilson Leiu, whose wharf and crane were made available at a considerable discount for the day's work. We thank the Lord for His plan and people, just in time!

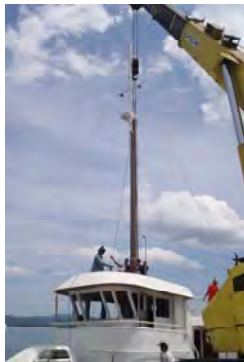


Reaching for our goal...

Having had the month of September fixed as the target date for building our masts and setting them in place, we labored and continued praying that the Lord would honor our desire. Through the month the work forged ahead and with the help of many men, it was completed so on the 30th of the month, we were ready to step them onto their foundations. We moved the vessel to Sta. Ana Pier during the afternoon but as darkness closed upon us that day, weather and the lack of adequate crane services prevented us from setting them. We prayed then that the following day, October 1st, might be the day God had given us.



“God led us to the people He had prepared in advance.”



Early that morning, making contact with the Philippine Port Authority at SASA Wharf, Port of Davao, Engineer Jan Van Doorn and I knew right away that the best opportunity we would have for doing the work that day would be there. God led us to the people He had prepared in advance. A good feeling of confidence came over me, knowing this work was to be accomplished in the best of ways possible and with the margin of safety that was necessary. The photos above and to the left show the crane lifting the one-ton mizzen mast of RIM Nativa II while Marty Beach of California prepared to weld it into place. Standing aft of the mast in the orange shirt is Pastor Russell Bailey helping to sight the plumb. At the side on the quay Jan sighted the alignment with the mast's foundation.

Most of us have had dreams of things long desired. In our minds we can see, as though they already are, things that we hope will be. I well remember standing on the forepeak of our boat Nativa four years ago this month, wishing we had the ability to harness the wind in our pursuit of lost souls among these islands. But to do so would mean a different kind of vessel to be provided for the work. It would have to be heavy and strong with tons of cargo space and living accommodations for many team members. It would require a lot of work and untold resources to get the job done of building such a vessel. To have seen from then until now, with all the sacrifice and toil of so many people and to have been prayed over for so long from all parts of the world, then to finally stand while massive poles rise to the sky that will carry the powerful sails of RIM Nativa II, is to be utterly amazed and humbled at what God has done! The photo at the right shows the mizzen mast of the cargo ketch, Nativa II and while those familiar with mast design and construction know the transverse structure is called a “spreader” still there is to our sight, a cross standing in the air atop the vessel's deckhouse. This ship carries the message of the Cross of Christ!



Setting the main mast followed immediately after completing the work on the mizzen mast. This mast rises more than eighty feet above the deck level of the ship so with the telescopic crane extended to its maximum height, the work of lifting the pole began. God had given us an absolutely glorious day for doing our work with calm sea conditions and only slight winds...just enough to keep us cool in the tropical heat! The young crane operator, Nonoy did an outstanding job of handling his machine and our masts. Again, it was the Lord who had directed the day and the people who would have a part in this memorable work. Once the mast was set and aligned the welding began as others secured the stays.

“God had given us an absolutely glorious day for doing our work with calm sea conditions and only slight winds...just enough to keep us cool in the tropical heat!”

With the welding continuing by Pastor Nelmar Sumatra and Marty Beach, as can be seen in the photo to the right, I was able to relax and praise the Lord for what He had done that day! The work is not finished, however and only a short time for rest had come. At this writing we have gathered materials necessary for a new work week and are anticipating the arrival soon of David Sparks, Longview, Texas and Brad Bonnette of Houston, Texas both of whom have volunteered their time and expertise to help in the work. Many thanks go to all from both here in Davao and from abroad who helped on the project in September. And to all who have given offerings so generously to pay for the supplies and services necessary to getting the job done, THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH! Please watch my FB page for updates.



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"Reaching people on the edge!"



The missionary sailing ship, RIM Nativa II lies at her anchorage together with the original boat Nativa. This image was shot late in the afternoon of October 1, 2013, the day we stepped the masts. Our ship has taken on a completely different look now and the addition of booms, gaffs and running rigging will change her appearance even more. She will be a powerful sailing ship very soon!

A FINAL WORD...

*I can hardly express the gratitude I feel toward fellow Christians who rise time after time to aid the work of the Lord in this distant place. To leave families, churches, school and jobs behind for days of hard labor in an unfamiliar climate and culture is a tremendous sacrifice. I am sure that given leisurely alternatives some would not choose that, however, many **would** choose the sacrifice. It all comes down to where the heart is. I state confidently that all who give of themselves to the Lord's work without reservation will reap eternal benefit and lives they have touched along the way will one day be a part of heavenly reward. At this writing, we have said goodbye to the men pictured at the right and at the same time are looking forward to the arrival of two more men from Texas. PTL for all who spend and are spent for Jesus!*

Glen Knight



(R to L) Pastor Russell Bailey, Ryan Bailey, Marty Beach & Cole Howard of California. Great guys...great work!

"The sound was amazing, even frightful for those aboard who had not before heard such, as the southwesterly squall approached. Up until now, the ship had behaved as any other might under the stress of a gale, but now, with large masts and cables standing ninety feet above the water, her first encounter with contrary seas and high winds left an inexperienced crew scrambling for fear of anchors breaking out and the vessel drifting. For the space of half an hour, nerves tensed and eyes watched the chains while straining for a view of the shoreline that could be seen intermittently through sheets of rainfall. A quick lesson from a new experience—the dynamics of life aboard a sailing ship vary greatly from what we have known before and the margin of time to prepare for storm conditions is far narrower than with a powered vessel. These will be things that make men from boys; things that test commitment; things that prove resolve." Oct. 4, 2013 -gk