

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Enlarging the ...	1
A New Chapter in...	1
October Mission in...	2
The Completion of...	3
Photo of the Month	
Closing Thoughts— "Sailing onward..."	4

"We have often run to the opportunities laid before us and even in old age, have never doubted what can be when we are completely sold out to God..."



Team and crew members boarding RIM Nativa from the decks of the first missionary boat, Nativa I. The ship is lovely!

Enlarging the Boundaries

by Glen Knight

Her long weather deck reaching forward of the wheelhouse and her mainsail brailled against its boom, the sailing ship RIM Nativa points her bows to the south from our anchorage almost as if to say, 'It's time to go.' And indeed, it is almost that time. It has been three years this coming January 13 since we laid the keel and I can't begin to tell you how much has happened both personally and collectively during that time. No one could have imagined all that would transpire but my confidence in the Lord is unshaken as I know He sees the end of all things from their beginnings. What I can see from here is that God is enlarging the boundaries of His work through our lives. We all have a tendency to only dream of what could be and never really seek it. But still others of us have learned to do more than just dream. We have often run to the opportunities laid before us and even in old age, have never doubted what can be when we are completely sold out to God. It is my absolute joy to see Him enlarging the boundaries to limitless proportions! It is never a question of what we can or cannot do and if I had ever wondered whether or not He could use me and all who are with me, whether of family or friends, the answers are now plain to see. We have labored long and have been faithful. God has blessed through your cooperation and sacrifice, hand in hand with us. And now we see the fruit of mutual efforts. It isn't just in construction of a ship. It is what can now be,



since the ship has been built and pressed into service. We will work while you pray and help us and together, we will glorify Father in Heaven. Thank you, thank you!

A New Chapter in Life's Book

Glen Knight

I learned a long time ago that life is changeable and the hope any of us may have of things always being the same is hope, often disappointed. But when our hope is in the Lord, we discover His graces are many and His mercies are new every day! And I have prayed for and longed after a mate.

I take this opportunity to introduce to you the lady God has sent to fulfill my life and renew hope. In beautiful Cape Town, South Africa, during the month of December, Summer Van Vollenhoven became my wife. I have to tell you, people often take a second look at her name now...Summer Knight! Some even drop the 'K' imagining such a name! For you who know me, please understand that God has sent someone who will labor side by side with me and who will help take care of me in the service of the Lord. My children and grandchildren welcome Summer into our family and into our hearts...PTL!



October Mission in Retrospect



Such a sweet smile so easily shines from this tiny face. Without a doubt, her heart is touched by love and her mind will never forget it. But the greatest love we share with her is Jesus' love and grace!

“Heartfelt appreciation like this keeps us coming back time after time. In fact, we will be voyaging back to this island in late February, 2015 with a team of construction workers...”



The lovely young woman pictured here sought help for her children as well as for her elderly parents. Such needs as what she expressed speak to the hearts of caregivers but her greater need was for Christ. We pray she will respond to the gospel shared.

Looking back over the past few months, I am amazed at the amount of work the Lord has made possible for us to accomplish. Without question, it is His grace that provided the means and the success in the endeavors. Many thanks go to the medical team of Cross Bearing Medical Mission and Pastor Joe Stacks for a great launch of this aspect of our cooperative mission work! The ship proved herself capable, opening the way for greater work soon!



It's all smiles and a high-five here with this young mother, so grateful for the help given her family and the many kindnesses shown in her village. Heartfelt appreciation like this keeps us coming back time after time! In fact, we will be voyaging back to this island in late February 2015 with a team of construction workers intent on continuation of a building project that will provide the pastor of the church a nice little house for his family's home. It will be good to see the people again soon.

Some who work with us during short-term projects are new to the work and some are not. Some are new friends and some are old...like Tony White, pictured here. He is the grandson of a couple whom I served as pastor at Beech Grove Baptist Church, Fordyce, Arkansas...he actually makes me feel old! I have been so happy for Tony to make two trips now to serve with us onboard RIM Nativa and hope he and others like him will always come again!



I have enjoyed the fellowship of so many people throughout the year...people who came to work...and among them, David Sparks of Longview, Texas. Pictured here, David and I discuss some of the plans for the day of labor during the October Medical mission on Balut Island. Another medical project is in the planning stages now that will likely take our team to the western Visayas region in October 2015. More information about this is forthcoming in January!

“Coming again to this place I was reminded of earlier times...years ago in fact when personally, I had first made landfall on this island. It was then, much the same as it is now for time does little to change things and people in places that seem frozen in the past. Only faces familiar then are sometime absent now and without asking, I understand the reasons for absence. You see, people die here just like they die in other places anywhere else in the world and I understand death. But to me what's more important is to understand life and it's because of living that we come again and again to places like this one. And I know that those living here or anywhere for that matter, need a good reason for living and when facing death, need confidence to walk that path as well. And I will walk the same.” —Memoirs of a Missionary, GK

The Completion of the Ship

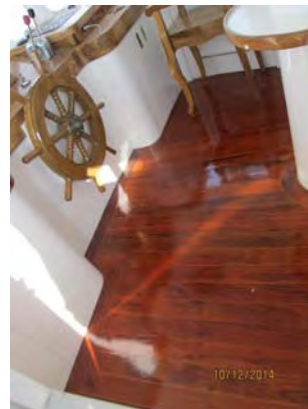
Glen Knight



The stairs shown in the photo at the far left rise to the bridge rail which can be seen in the other two pictures. The hardwood decking is now completely finished and so lovely. RIM Nativa bears a classic appearance and is a glory to God, just as she should be!



The bridge of the sailing ship presents a confident working atmosphere on-board. It is well appointed with proper equipment, controls and communications devices. And aside from that, it is beautiful and comfortable!



The ship's galley is finished as you can see in these photos. It is well furnished and easily used to prepare the onboard meals for our family as well as the crew and additional guests we take on at any given time during voyages. I have purposely tried to make the ship functional and comfortable as a home and a ministry platform for long-term mission work. Considering all things, the ship is perhaps second to none in her appointments and abilities.



The photos here show Juli's room in the aft accommodation hold. It is now finished and ready for her to occupy in January. She has two guest beds in her quarters which we aptly call the Mermaid's cabin!

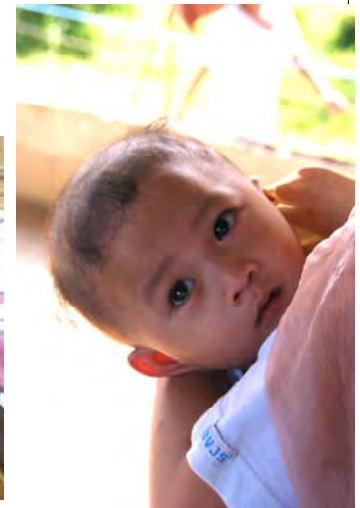


"It will take one year to build.'...so I was told but what the man who spoke those words didn't know was that I had my doubts. Hope against hope, I had thought to be able to complete the work in less time than perhaps two years but alas, the time has stretched into three years...thirty-six months exactly and never mind asking about the budget. But as anyone knows who has ever undertaken such a task, you count the time and weigh the cost only when finished." —Memoirs...G.K.



A tiny child peers curiously at the camera, shy and almost ready to bolt away but held near by her mother in hopes of simple treatment of an infection inside her little nose.

"I have purposely tried to make the ship functional and comfortable as a home and a ministry platform for long-term mission work..."



Children of all sizes and ages need tender care that can be found during any single voyage of RIM Nativa. This baby in his mother's arms is a good example.

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The Photo here speaks very clearly of the needs of children and their families in remote places of Oceanic Asia. We prayerfully seek them...

...Reaching people on the edge!



With the world famous Table Mountain, Cape Town, South Africa as a back drop, Summer and I are pictured together with Juli on the evening of our wedding, December 6, 2014. We are moving on from here with our lives and work in the Philippines, happy and blessed by the Lord!

Closing Thought: Sailing onward...

Glen Knight

When has one gone far enough and when has work sufficient for the time been completed? Where are there places left to which the gospel hasn't gone and among what people are there those remaining who desire to hear but have not heard? Are there such places? I was queried by a man not long ago who demanded of me to know of 'remote' places among these islands. He cited what seemed to him a farce that anyone should refer to any place these days as being 'remote.' I wasn't put off by his naive observations but answered him with a question of his own experience. Where were the places he had gone? And among what people had he dwelled? It had only been within his limited circles that he had had significant experience. I have known personally and for many years, that only those willing to venture beyond understanding are the ones who need not ask such questions...for they know.



"Her powerful sails bent to the wind, her massive hull heeled slightly to starboard with no sound but that of the breeze dividing among the sails and lifting her bows, her flag flapping smartly and the sea parting, passing beneath her keels and meeting again as a neatly formed wake, RIM Nativa pressed onward and a feeling of deep contentment overtook me—a sort of feeling that pleases and consoles and at the same time, tempers for what lies ahead. Work had been accomplished, consistent with God's blessing and our commitment. And a happy soul I am!" —gk