

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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And so, it begins...the Work of RIM Nativa

by Glen Knight

“...Her cargo holds were half full of supplies, sufficient for the days we would spend ...”

Her heading was fixed at 180 degrees south out of the Port of Davao. A moderate wind eased her along toward the first of seven waypoints that would bring us to the destination where for the next few days, we would engage work to aid islanders, desperate for the kind of assistance we were bringing. Her cargo holds were half full of supplies, sufficient for the days we would spend, and with the volunteer ministry team from abroad and a limited time for work, we were certain we had laid on sufficient materiel. This was the first outing of its sort since earlier this year when we went on an unfinished vessel to the same destination to help with the work there. That proved successful at the time, however, given the interval of months since then, despite the delays and time away that was necessary, we have completed the ship. She requires additional work which is something that will be continuing from now on. Her design is so versatile that many things can be done to improve her performance at sea as well as her cargo and accommodation space.



The weather decks of RIM Nativa show their beauty with all cargo stowed below and personnel safely aboard on a broad reach of 16 hours.

And so the work of the sailing ship RIM Nativa has begun in earnest. And I am humbled to stand at her bridge and direct her service into the future. Thank you for helping us!



A big search light set high on the bridge of RIM Nativa throws a long beam of light. Such is the gospel!

An important starting point...

Glen Knight

The photo at the right shows Pastor Benjamin Dela Cerna and his wife, Liza and their daughter Paula. It was to their ministry on Balut Island that we lent our assistance together with Cross Bearing Medical Mission of Forest Grove Baptist Church, Taylor, Arkansas USA during the month of October. This mission station is under the sponsorship of Central Baptist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana USA. **REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES** certainly remains a great partner in the ongoing work there. RIM Nativa's next voyage to the island will be in the early part of next year when a construction crew from the sponsoring church comes to continue the work on their church building and parsonage.

I am so thankful for everyone who helps the work here in so very many ways. Without you, this would not be possible!



Cross Bearing Medical Mission & REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES



More than 1,000 people visited this field clinic in a day and a half during the third week of October, 2014. Of these, over 300 professions of faith were witnessed, making this a very successful campaign! Many thanks go to the team from the USA and their counterparts here in the Philippines who are staff members with Remote Island Ministries. The photo to the right shows the front of the building under construction where the new church meets.



The smiling man in the photo above proved to be a great helper during the visit to his village. His assistance will always be remembered. He is a member of the new church here in Mabila.

“More than 1,000 people visited this field clinic in a day and a half during the third week of October 2014...”



Pastor Joe Stacks is the pastor Forest Grove Baptist Church, Taylor, Arkansas USA and Director of Cross Bearing Medical Mission. Here he is pictured with his wife Elizabeth who visited the mission field for the first time this month and Tony White, who came with him earlier this year when the initial survey was made in preparation for this work. Soon another medical mission will be planned for October, 2015 to a different island.

Pastor Brian Caldwell is giving directions to one of the ladies in the field clinic. Notice the black steel drum in the photo. It contains 176 hygiene kits. All together we distributed 1,000 of these kits. Many thanks go to the churches and individuals in the USA who donate supplies necessary for these to be made up. Such will always be a valuable item to give to people in remote places. Many who receive them also receive the gospel message!



. A happy father and a shy little son are seen here. They had come from far up the mountain side to the village at the sea coast to receive medical aid but while there, found something so much more...the gospel of Christ!



The gentleman in the photo here is the grandfather of our host pastor's wife, Liza. He is a B'laan native from the village of Lipol on the western side of this island and a member of our sister church there. Pastor Nelmar Sumatra looks on as John gives instructions for the medications through the interpretation of the local staff nurse. In the background wearing a yellow shirt is one of the village officials who proved to be most helpful to us.

“I watched him come and I watched him go...returning, I presume to wherever he'd come from and with nothing more as he left than what he brought along to start with. This was a man who seemed strange to me for he sat and he watched in a way that made him stand out among the crowd of onlookers and people waiting patiently for whatever was desired. He refused my gestures of kindness. He seemed as a barbing of ill will for whatever reason but the one thing I have learned through experience passed, is to look potential threat in the eye until it blinks.” —Memoirs of a Missionary, GK

...a demonstration of the love of God in Christ Jesus!



Doctor Fernandez is seen here with Pastor Joe. He is the government doctor who is stationed at Balut Island and goes there once per month for about a week. He is typically overwhelmed but sees only few patients during the week he is there. His staff seemed very glad for our presence especially since we brought a supply of medicine that is seldom seen in such quantity in this remote place. Pastor Brian looks on in the background. The drum holds more than 200 hygiene kits.

The photo to the right shows Haliegh Wood and Nene Dela Cerna working at the station where they were assigned. In the background you can see Elizabeth Stacks and Tony White busy with their work as well. The setup inside the unfinished church building of Mabila Baptist Church, was very nice as you can see. Literally hundreds of people crowded inside at one point to escape the hot sunshine on this remote island. What a joy it is to serve people in this way!



This happy little lark kept me amused with his antics during the second day of our mission. He seems healthy physically. One wonders if his bubbly personality may one day be used of the Lord to reach his people with the gospel? I will pray...

“Literally hundreds of people crowded inside at one point to escape the hot sunshine on this remote island. What a joy it is to serve people in this way!”



John Picket is seen in the photo to the left, working with one of the local nurses. Many children were brought to the field clinic for check-ups and vitamins that were given by the hundreds of bottles. Some of the children had fevers and others had injuries. None were turned away. If you can imagine thousands more just like these who need help, then you’ve just begun to understand the importance of this work.

The medical attention given during our short visit to the island is only a small part of the greater need. In this outpost of the southern Philippines, there are thousands of people crying for help physically but the greater need is, and always will be that which is in the heart. The photo to the right reveals a part of the focus of our concern over these people...that they may know the love of God that can be found in the salvation story. All who passed our way heard the gospel message.



Eyes of wonder look out from the frail body of a child who’d come with her mother for care given by strangers near her island home.

“We speak not of religion. There is religion and plenty, of all sorts and in every place, even those that are most distant and remote. It is not more religion that is needed among the masses of mankind. But what is needed is a relationship with our Maker. And such a relationship it is that lasts forever since it is founded upon faith in Christ. Of this, we speak.” —Memoirs of a Missionary, G.K.

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Her sails bent to the wind, RIM Nativa is as functional as she is lovely. This is a purpose-built gospel ship...

...Reaching people on the edge!



The missionary sailing ship RIM Nativa lays in her home port only one week prior to departure on what would prove to be an important mission and one that would test her sea keeping ability as well as her comfort for crew and ministry teams. The horizon truly awaits this vessel...PTL!

Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

It's not about the voyage. It's not about the beautiful seas and islands. It isn't about time spent sailing a big ship somewhere in tropical waters of the world. Although all these things are almost dream-like to most of us, the fact is, they are only a part of a greater purpose—for you see, the mission is all about Jesus! It is a simple matter of taking good things to people in need and sharing the best of all things good in the love of God. It's about doing what is necessary to go as led by the Spirit of God. It's about giving what is demanded of life, of wealth and of every fiber of being for the sake of others...and doing it over and over again. Among those to whom we offer ourselves, some don't appreciate and others don't approve and frankly, there are many who just don't care. But for every heart that is truly touched by the love of Christ, the sacrifice is worthy!



"The observant worker will always know when it's time to leave. He will see the space given for service narrowing to a door that will eventually close and then he will depart. And such a departure is usually with a good feeling inside the heart, that one did the best possible in the time allotted. It has been my experience in the past to discover that what seemed to be a disappointment is in reality, a blessing. For horizons in service to others are much broader than what often appear and remaining in one place too long will result in setting an unmovable anchor." —Glen Knight