

REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES

Missionaries Glen, Paula & Juli Knight

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"...To say that the vessel is needed, is eclipsed only by her timely deployment."



Young men of the 4th year class of PMBS-AIT spend Mondays volunteering their labor. Here they are helping with painting preparation.

A reason to celebrate!

Glen Knight

The first two months of the new year are pivotal in the continuing construction of the missionary sailing ship, RIM Nativa II. The photos in this issue show progress toward completion and with each passing day through January and February, we're doing the best we can to see that she's ready to sail soon! Paula and Juli are featured in the picture to the right on the day we bunkered fuel at SASA Wharf. The ship is now laden with 6,000 liters of diesel. While much work remains below decks, topside, she's receiving her final finishing at this writing. Watch our Face Book pages for updates!



The ship's sails are ready to be installed, however, some rigging changes are being made and a little touch-up painting is being done prior to permanently attaching her sails. On a windy day in January, while laying in our anchorage, Engineer Jan Van Doorn and RIM Team Member, Johmar, attempted to put up the Foresail #2. The effort was only partially successful as the wind gusts from the north peaked at more than 30 knots and I stopped their operation for fear of one or both being swept overboard. We will have a day soon enough that will be just right for this work. It's really difficult for all of us to be patient but we're trying! The photo below shows a little of how beautiful the vessel will be under sail.

On January 13th we marked two full years in construction of the sailing ship. While this seems to be a long time, that is offset by the fact that we have built her month-by-month as we had funds available. Now, moving closer to our completion, we have a ship that will be fully debt free when commissioned. We can hardly express our thanks to so many of you who have helped with this project. Thank you for your prayers and contributions and for your interest in the work. Your encouragement has helped push us onward to the goal of deploying a gospel sailing vessel for our world by March of this year. Among the very first of our tasks will be to minister in the Visayas Region among the suffering victims of typhoon Haiyan. To say that the vessel is needed is eclipsed only by her timely deployment. We hope you enjoy reading our report...God bless!



Preparing for Conference 2014

There are certainly many facets of ministry here in Davao City. The construction of a missionary sailing ship, monumental though it may seem, compares little to the building of the lives of young men and women being shaped and trained for spiritual ministry. That is the grass-roots effort of our mission. The photos on this page feature these students and staff members of the Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary-Asia Institute of Theology. To the right, Paula is working hard with the seminary choir during one of the recent rehearsals in preparation for our annual Strength for the Laborers Conference hosted here at the seminary and Faith Baptist Church. The musical, "Experiencing God" will be featured on Wednesday evening, March 5 during the conference. Many guest speakers from the United States will be serving the conference this year, including Brad Rountree of New Liberty Baptist Church, Garland, Texas who will be a featured soloist in the musical and throughout the week.



Other speakers include, Pastor Mark Clements, New Liberty Baptist Church, Garland, TX; Pastor Micheal Reese and his wife Karen of Promise Land Baptist, Hamburg, AR; Pastor Wayne Stringer and his wife Novis of Philippine Mission Development; and Alan & Geri Mauldin of Antioch, California.



"The construction of a missionary sailing ship, monumental though it may seem, compares little to the building of the lives of young men and women being shaped and trained for spiritual ministry."

We anticipate delegates from approximately 200 churches from around the Philippines in attendance this year. With each passing year the conference grows a little larger and space in our seminary compound becomes crowded...but that's a good problem to have! We pray that the meeting this year will be as great an encouragement among all who attend as was last year's meeting.



A very special part of the musical presentation this year will be the Davao Area Missionary Baptist Children's Choir. Look closely at the photo to the left and you will see many of these children standing in front of the adults in the choir. Most of their parents are alumni of PMBS-AIT and members of the area churches who have joined the seminary choir. The seminarians in the choir form the nucleus but so very many of the former choir members and others who just love singing for the Lord have come along to help in this year's musical. Needless to say, this thrills all our hearts, especially Paula's!

The photo to the right shows our seminary students relaxing on the evening following the unloading of our first three shipping containers that arrived here at the school on February 13. You will notice the logo on the shirts: "I am not ashamed of the gospel." These shirts are gifts of our sponsoring church, Victory Baptist, Sherwood, Arkansas. The colors of the shirts designate the year levels of the students.

Photos on the following page highlight some of the activity of our work from earlier that day as we unloaded the three forty-foot containers. It took us exactly one hour each to strip the containers!



Containers Arrive in Davao

Finally, after a long two months and a seemingly endless series of delays, the first three of our four shipping containers arrived here at the Port of Davao on February 11th aboard the feeder vessel MCC SINGAPORE from Hong Kong. With more than the usual excitement we received them, cleared the Bureau of Customs and the Port Authority, paid all the duties and VAT and hired three tractors to deliver the cargo vans to our seminary compound. The process took three days to complete. Pictured at the right are the three units secured on the parking lot of PMBS-AIT, late in the evening of February 13. Following a good night of rest, the seminary students and staff began unloading at 4:00 AM on the 14th. We were joined by other men of the Davao Area Men's Fellowship by about 7:00 AM.



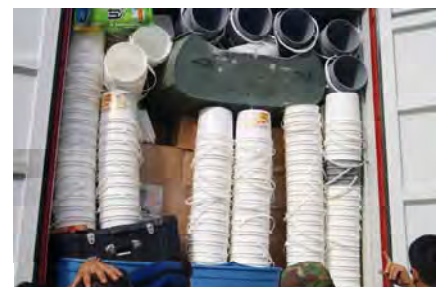
The average time for unloading a forty-footer here, using our time-tested methods of stripping cargo, (fancy way of saying, "hand-over-hand") is only one hour per unit. When these containers were loaded at the warehouse in Hamburg, Arkansas last December 5, it took more time than that per unit using a fork-lift! The picture to the left shows some of the men shouldering up the first cartons of Sunday School literature from the first container we stripped. Happy faces give the true picture of loving hearts among young men and women who put all they have into the service of our Lord!

As the work proceeded, you can see those big orange-colored boxes coming off the container. These are the survival kits from "DR STRATEGIES" of Dallas, Texas. They contain enough supplies to sustain a family of six with all essentials necessary after having lost their home to calamity. We will be mobilizing some of these soon into the disaster area of Eastern to Central Visayas. We hope to keep many also for later use. Our desire is to have supplies such as these on hand when the next disaster occurs so that our reaction time is reduced to only hours rather than months.



The photo to the left shows some of the ceramic water filters provided by the Texas Baptist Men which we shipped in our containers. These are now safely locked away in our compound, ready for distribution at any time. Many of these will be claimed by others who have contact with TBM and with Water Wishes while the bulk of them will remain with Remote Island Ministries for our distribution in March and April. Once again however, we hope to retain a good supply for future use with the same notion in mind that our mobilizing into pending disaster areas will be immediate.

We desire to be on the front line of gospel evangelism and humanitarian aid and with the March deployment of the missionary sailing ship, RIM NATIVA II cargo such as what you see here as well as medical first-aid supplies and personnel will be in place. The photo to the right shows some of the many hundreds of five-gallon buckets and lids we were able to secure stateside for shipping here. Thanks to so many of our partner churches, several thousand hygiene kits were also assembled and shipped, ready for use. You may also notice in the picture, the stern of a "new" aluminum skiff for N2.



"One never knows the distance until it is traveled. One never understands the difficulty until it is suffered. One never sees the depths without taking the plunge. And one never grasps the glory of the heights who never climbed as far as possible. Therefore, go and do all that can be done and with all dispatch and in the going and the doing, never forget who you are and whose, you are." —glen knight

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REMOTE ISLAND MINISTRIES

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The sailing ship, RIM Nativa II lays at anchor for another month, undergoing final fitting out of vital systems. Facing south as if ready to sail away, the sun setting beyond the Davao skyline, we are reminded that soon enough she will depart for more challenging seas and a lifetime of work.

A FINAL WORD...

I must admit to the necessity of strong men and women in the service of the Lord. And, I have known many thorough more than four decades of ministry who have given themselves sacrificially that the work of the Lord may be accomplished, no matter its nature. One remarked to me lately that the work is hard and so it is but that is precisely what is needed. The sweat, blisters and aching muscles remind us a little of what Jesus endured for our world to be redeemed. When He calls disciples he most often leads through difficult and hard days to temper them. The difficulty faced today in a present task is always preparatory to what lies ahead. To prove faithful in simple but challenging work is to be found worthy of greater things but never should any believe that the way gets easier beyond the horizon that meets today's eyes. It is typically the case as well that strenuous labor is vital to shaping proper attitudes in service. In a world accustomed to all things "ready made" servants need to learn that nothing really worthwhile comes without planning, improvising, sacrificing and pushing ahead.

Glen Knight



"Does it matter who takes credit for things done, especially in the service of the Lord? No. Indeed, some are touted as being great, who never really earned the status. And those who most likely truly are the great ones, will never suffer the acclaim and justly so for among us there is but one who is great...and he, the greatest of them all, made of himself no reputation. What difference does it make that we have served if in our service, we have done so to create for ourselves a name? Those who are legendary are just that...legendary. Those whose lives are inscribed in the record of heaven are likely to be nameless and faceless persons of time. God knows the difference. It matters not at all that no one else knows." —g. knight