

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

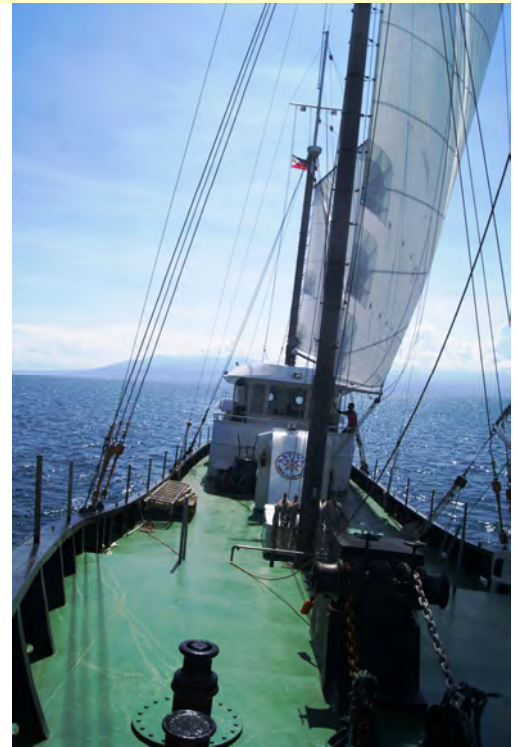
RIM Nativa...under sail	1
"Heave ho!"	1
Strength for the...	2
Year End at PMBS	2
Scenes from the...	3
The Children...	3
Photo of the Month	
Closing Thoughts...	4

RIM Nativa... Under sail!

by Glen Knight

"The imagination of people running to greet us and the joy of loving them with the salvation story would never fade."

She heeled gently to port as the breeze freshened, her sails obeying the wind with not a sound to be heard but the passing sea beneath and the fluttering flag above. The bright afternoon sun bathed her decks in tropical warmth as the water all around glistened with millions of diamond-like flashes and the feeling that had been dreamt of for months settled over me...that feeling of freedom—the knowledge that what we rode upon was a “go-anywhere” vessel, purpose-built for the gospel of Jesus Christ. Well do I remember having to bypass islands on the horizon that we couldn’t reach despite the desire to do so for the simple reason that we hadn’t enough fuel onboard our former vessel. The imagination of people running to greet us and the joy of loving them with the salvation story would never fade. And a commitment made more than three years ago to do whatever is necessary to go there...to preach there...to love, no matter the cost, is now fulfilled as this ship bends her tall sails to the wind and presses her prow in directions of God’s guidance. How can we ever adequately express our thanksgiving to all who have given that this vision might become reality? Surely we cannot, so we simply say, “thank you” and prove our hearts by our commitment to work. And now—we shall sail!



The new sailing ship, RIM Nativa crossing the Gulf of Davao during sail training on Saturday, March 22, 2014. Heading: East by northeast; Wind: Southerly, 5.2 knots; Speed: 4 knots, steady; Two thumbs up! Photo: G. Knight

"Heave ho...we've work to do!"

She was envisioned for work and therefore, was built to work...RIM Nativa began her service with several tons of cargo and thirty-two souls aboard bound for Balut Island in the northern Celebes Sea. Her ministry thus begun, will stretch in ever enlarging circles within the Asia Pacific region. Our priority will always be the preaching of the cross of Christ and our efforts, that of planting churches, though many means will be employed in achievement of this goal.

Our maritime ministry will entail much hard labor and untold man-hours but all who take part will discover life-changing opportunities of service in Jesus' name!



Men aboard RIM Nativa loading cargo and equipment for the voyage to Balut Island. Pastor Britt Dupree of Central Baptist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana hauls on the line as we swing sacks of cement onto the ship.



Paula's suited up in her life jacket during our safety briefing onboard RIM Nativa before leaving port. A 19-hour reach lay ahead.



Worship Pastor Brad Rountree of New Liberty Baptist Church, Garland, TX singing during the concert on Wednesday evening of the Bible conference.

“Feedback from so many of the delegates was very good as the music lifted and encouraged all our hearts.”

Strength for the Laborers Conference 2014

Our 2014 Strength for the Laborers Bible Conference was a great success with delegates representing over 100 churches from throughout the Philippines in attendance. All our staff and students of PMBS-AIT have once again, done an outstanding job hosting all the guests and the activities of the conference. The Conference choir was comprised of all our staff and students as well as numerous alumni and members of the Davao area churches, 125 voices strong!



A very unique part of the musical this year was the addition of the children’s chorus, some of whom you can see in the photo to the left. The musical presentation was “Experiencing God” and what a tremendous job the choir did to glorify our Lord! Under Paula’s direction (photo above) the entire program lasted for just over one hour. Feedback from so many of the delegates was very good as the music lifted and encouraged all our hearts!



Our guest speakers this year included: Pastor Michael Reese and his wife Karen from Arkansas; Allen and Geri Mauldin from California; Pastor Wayne Stringer and his wife Novis from Texas; Pastor Mark Clements and Pastor Brad Rountree from Texas. Also present and sharing their work were Pastor Bill Johnson and his wife Rita and Sandra Crawford, all from Arkansas. Plans will begin almost immediately for next year’s conference. Watch for information!



This beautiful plaque hand-carved by our dear friend, Mike Philpot, Oregon, USA was presented for installation on the ship. It reads, “In His Service, Nativa II.”

Year’s End at PMBS-AIT

It’s hard to imagine but the 2013-14 school year here at Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary has already come to a close. Our commencement exercises were conducted on Friday, March 28th. Fifteen students completed their studies with eight men receiving the Bachelor of Theology Degree and seven ladies receiving the Associate of Christian Education and Associate of Christian Music Degrees. The photo to the right shows the graduates and our school staff. The new year begins in June.



“Every year they come. They are the students who make their ways to Davao City and to our seminary that they might learn—that they might exercise themselves in Bible training and ministry practice—that they might return to their homes or to other places, sometimes far away, and there, share what they have known to their world, of the wonder of God’s grace.” —G. Knight, Memoirs...



Work on Balut Island is shown here in this photo. In the foreground is the water well drilling rig with the men working. The building is in the background with ongoing work inside on the floor.

Scenes From the Maiden Voyage...

Glen Knight

With her foresails bent on, RIM Nativa presses through the northern Celebes Sea toward Balut Island, early in the morning of March 10, 2014. Her main sail lowered and the mizzen sail up, we made 5.7 knots steady in light winds. For this voyage, despite having all our sails in place, we used the engine for the most part due to the inexperience of our crew. Learning to sail is usually not done on a vessel of this size! So, we're going at our work slowly knowing that in time we will gain the experience necessary to handle her in any sea.

The crossing from the Port of Davao to Balut Island took us nearly 20 hours, about three hours less time than when we use the smaller boat, Nativa I. I believe once we become accustomed to sailing this big ship we can close that time to about 16 hours, that depending on the wind, of course.



Our team of workers from the Philippines and the USA. The group of men had loaded the cargo truck with equipment and supplies headed for the ship at the pier for our work on Balut Island.



At the end of the voyage to Balut Island we found that the pier could not accommodate our draft so RIM Nativa was anchored out in the bay and our teams were shuttled to and from the pier and the work site. Thanks to the local boats, we were able to make the short runs with our cargo and personnel without difficulty. Evenings spent aboard the ship were pleasant with light breezes and beautiful night skies.



At SASA Wharf the supplies are being loaded onto the ship. Brother Phillip McCready is helping to load 50 sacks of cement from the truck to the ship and into the aft cargo hold.

The photo at the right shows our team members offloading the well drilling rig from the ship onto the small cargo boat. The rig was set up and an attempt to drill a water well was made at the new church site, however it wasn't successful as the water table is apparently deeper in that area than what our rig would drill. Brother Steve Collins of Promise Land Baptist Church, Hamburg, AR used the opportunity to teach our RIM Staff how to operate the drill. In the following days, they went on to drill a very successful well in Compostella Valley near the home of our assistant RIM Director, Pastor Nelmar Sumatra. Another well was drilled nearer Davao City but a stronger pump will be needed to lift the water. The machine works beautifully! Thanks again to all who gave money to purchase the rig and especially Good Shepherd MBC, Shepherd, TX!



"Thanks to the local boats, we were able to make the short runs to and from the ship with our cargo and personnel without difficulty."



Look carefully at the group of men in the photo to the left and you're likely to recognize some of the faces! Here all the team is loaded into the small cargo boat along side RIM Nativa as they head for the shore on the first day of work. Pastor Britt Dupree led the men tirelessly over the following three days to accomplish the tasks. All worked hard and all did a fantastic job for the glory of the Lord!



Pastor Robert Harris of our sending church, Victory Baptist Church, Sherwood, AR aboard RIM Nativa during the maiden voyage...an overnight crossing into the Celebes Sea.

"The children are always there...brown and beautiful, black, eager eyes and shy smiles and you just cannot resist returning a wide grin when you've caught their eye. One cannot imagine doing anything short of the very best possible that they may know the love of God in Jesus Christ." —G. Knight, *Memoirs of a Missionary*



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Pastor Britt Dupree of Central Baptist Church, Bastrop, LA aboard RIM Nativa bound for Balut Island, March 10, 2014.

...Reaching people on the edge!



Sunrise over Sarangani Island, Philippines. The photo shows the quay of Port Maveas, Balut Island with the missionary sailing ship RIM Nativa at anchor in the distance. March 11, 2014. Photo: Glen Knight

Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

Paula read the words: "It is an honor today to officially name this vessel RIM NATIVA for the glory of God and the gospel of Jesus Christ. May God bless her work and all who ever sail with her." And with those words, the new missionary sailing ship began her service on Friday, March 7, 2014, twenty-six months from the time we laid her keel. The following day was spent loading her with necessary cargo and personal effects and on Sunday, March 9 we set sail from the Port of Davao to Balut Island in the northern Celebes Sea. This exceedingly happy weekend would soon challenge our family with Paula's severe illness and near death. God is merciful to have preserved her life despite having to evacuate her on the ship from the island to the Port of General Santos City and the nearest hospital. The team of workers led by Pastor Britt Dupree and the RIM Staff led by Pastors Nelmar Sumatra and Robert Harris carried the work on to completion by week's end.



"I watched day after day, her suffering, her wasting. There seemed to be little to do but remain close and to comfort and yet, that perhaps was the best. Our partnership in ministry had held strong through the years. It must continue to do the same. There is in all things, a redeeming circumstance. It may be hard to realize and long in coming by way of understanding, but patience and persistence and time will always help."
—Glen Knight, *Memoirs of a Missionary*