

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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“We are directed to a people whom we know only upon arrival at their shores. We are moved along, compelled in compassion and Love. And God alone knows the way forward.”



Juli has grown up on our boats in the service of the Lord out here among these islands. She is now 15 years old...time is flying!

The Way Forward

Glen Knight

Brooding clouds flew high over the masts of RIM Nativa in March as threats of severe weather were voiced upon strong northerly winds but the sea, flowing out with the wind bore no particular discomfort. Such is not usual in a squall like this and for the moment we counted the blessing from God since it is typically otherwise and the chop and the swells rise to the point of breaking out our anchor and setting the ship adrift. But she held strong this time so that the scene could be watched as it unfolded before us. Living aboard the ship gives ample opportunity to learn the ways of a vessel on the sea. As important as that is however, the thing of greater importance is to learn the ways of God. And it isn't necessary but again, it seems to be advantageous that living so close to the forces of nature, having no protective hedge about us, we have a view, front and center of the amazing things of God in our world! And I will admit to you, that scene is more amazing than what words can describe.

I am called to preach the gospel. We are directed to a people whom we know only upon arrival at their shores. We are moved along, compelled in compassion and love. And God, alone knows the way forward. For us the charts lay open on the table and the ship's company bear ready hands to the wheel, the lines and her boats. It's onward and forward with hearts and minds able



and eager for all that lies ahead. The compass we fetch is with prayer and the guidance of the Holy Spirit as Divine Wind upon the sails.

Ship's Log: Easter Sunday, April 5, 2015

We are at the very moment of this writing at a place called Tagpopongan, eastern Samal Island. Our arrival here for the first time yesterday was with great excitement and a warm welcome by the local villagers. We have come to celebrate Resurrection Day with the people at daybreak, which we did at 4:00 AM! Friends along the way are easily made and welcomes cheer our hearts. We have given copies of the Bible in Visayan language and plenty of loving handshakes and embraces confirm the appreciation of the people. As with many places like this, when the time comes for us to depart, it is with some sense of sadness but we are sure to return, the people imploring us, "Balik, balik!" (Come back, come back!) But other villages on other islands await and we must sail to them as we have here. It is with thankful hearts to the Lord and to so many of you that we move onward, knowing of your love and prayers for this ministry. The months ahead will find us sailing Visayas.



PMBS-AIT School Year Ends



Two of the crewmen of the sailing ship, Lowie and Ekyong, climbing the mizzen mast servicing the rope blocks at the top.

Please pray with us for an increase in the enrollment of students for the coming semester beginning the second week of June. —gk



Apolonario, a local fisherman at our anchorage can be found every day tending his nets, earning a meager living from the tidal basin.

The annual Strength for the Laborers Conference was conducted in late February. The theme was “Embracing the Greatness of God’s Help.” The seminary choir is pictured here presenting the concert on Wednesday night of the meeting under direction of Pastor Lony Babelonio. The evening of music was enjoyed by more than two hundred people. Great job everyone!



The school year came to a close on March 27 with the annual commencement exercises. Ten students finished their educations at the seminary, seven of them earning the Bachelor of Theology degree and three, the Associate of Christian Education. All ten of the students also received the Associate of Christian Music diploma.

A new school year will begin by the second week of June. Enrollment has been declining through the past five years. We pray that this trend will reverse itself in the coming year. The present year ended with 37 students.

Perhaps the children pictured to the right will one day come to the Philippine Missionary Baptist Seminary for their Christian education following high school. They are a few of the kids in Mabila on Balut Island. In the past, the school has had many students from the village of Lipol on this island. Please pray with us for the pastors of the churches of Balut Island as they lead their people, in particular, Pastor Boy Tablo and Pastor Ben Dela Cerna. I am thankful through the years to have had the opportunity of laboring among these people even before Remote Island Ministries began. Today, Central Baptist Church, Bastrop, Louisiana USA leads the effort under Pastor Britt Dupree. They’re in need of our prayers for wisdom in going forward with their sponsorship of the church in Mabila. The next page shows work that is ongoing at the church site. Land was purchased by Remote Island Ministries and the beginning stage of the building was carried out with the aid of Steve Collins, Hamburg, Arkansas and RIM workers here.



“Through the years I have seen the ups and downs of this work and the plentiful as well as the lean months that are usual and have come to be expected. It is in times when the trend is upward that I’ve personally done more work with a view toward what will surely come with the downs and in the lean months that the hand has not slacked by admission of difficulty or small supply for there is the proven knowledge that this is a work that is not a man’s. It is of God and for Him and through Him.” *Memoirs of a Missionary, —gk*

Project Balut Island: Mabilla Mission Construction



The sun appears to be the welder's arc in this photo shot at midday during our March voyage to Balut Island. In the photo are Nelmar Sumatra (top) Britt Dupree (just down from the top), John Crosswell and Mark Ingram. The men were building the structure for the church parsonage. Work continued on this project through the week we were on the island. The roof was put on it prior to our departure. Now the concrete blocks will be laid and plastered, windows and doors installed and soon it can be occupied. The house is small but built in such a way as to have a sleeping loft overhead that increases its size considerably. Remote Island Ministries and the sailing ship RIM Nativa have provided the logistics support for this ongoing work. This is an important aspect of our work. I am grateful to the Lord and to all who have aided us in this ministry. We are moving into Eastern Visayas in May.

The photo at the right shows the 800 square meter lot and the two buildings presently under construction at Mabilla, Balut Island. The larger structure is the church house and when completed will seat around 125 people. The smaller of the structures is the pastor's residence. These buildings are being built strongly and can be used for a long time with little maintenance. The sponsoring church has provided a good Kubota generator for producing electricity to the compound. When completed, a decorative concrete wall will enclose the buildings. The view from the church is extraordinary as from this hillside, one can see the broad expanse of the southern Philippine Sea as it opens to the Celebes Sea. In a very real sense, this place is a lighthouse to all the area. Pray for the ongoing work here, please.



Our RIM Team is pictured here laying the concrete blocks in the end wall of the church building. Others of the team are working on the pad that will anchor the generator to the ground where it will eventually be installed. By the end of the week this wall and it's adjacent side walls were completed.

"In the work of the Lord it takes all sorts of people...some highly skilled and others with hardly any skill at all. Some of them are strong and some aren't. And among them are both male and female, young and not so young. But no matter, the common threads among them will always be a love for God and open hearts and hands to their fellows, no matter the color or language. And the barriers that usually divide, fall beneath the weight of love and kindness and gentleness." —gk



Loading the ship at Sasa Wharf a few days prior to our March voyage attracted a lot of attention from among the dock workers, as usual.

"I am grateful to the Lord and to all who have aided us in this ministry. We are moving into Eastern Visayas in May."



This little boy's tears were stayed with a nice cookie and some loving care. He is one of the children in the church.

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RIM Nativa from astern on a late afternoon in March. Her home port, "DAVAO."

...Reaching people on the edge!



The 2015 Graduating Class of PMBS-AIT (photo: Juli Knight)

Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

It has been a year now since Paula went home to be with the Lord. Time has passed so quickly. The photo here shows the place where we laid her to rest, in the cemetery near our school in Davao. A gifted and loving wife, mother and grandmother, faithful missionary and friend to hundreds of people, were but a few of the roles she filled in life. We miss her and always will. But we know she is with the Lord and with other of our family members who've gone before us. The writing on the stone are the words from a song, "We will remember the works of your hands..." and certainly we shall not forget.

On Saturday, April 11 at 6:30 AM, a few friends gathered with Juli and me here at the cemetery to remember Paula and pray for our family as we move forward in the work to which she gave her life. God has blessed us beyond measure and we are forever grateful. Thank you for your prayers and loving kindness for all our family.



"Recalling the past is something most of us would do if it were possible and anyone who says he would not change anything is not being truthful for there certainly are things we would do differently given the chance. But this is something we cannot do inasmuch as times that are passed are indeed, passed. It is like the momentary track on the sea left by the wake of a ship. It lasts for ever so brief a time until it disappears in the wash of the ocean's current. Better by far then it is to face the present with a determination to do well and the future with hope, daily renewed." —glen knight