

NEWSLETTER PHILIPPINES

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“I am grateful for those of you who have prayed for us through these three years of work that have brought us to this point. Now we must focus on the need for ministry funding.”

The Full-on Mission of Remote Island Ministries

Glen Knight



We have worked and waited and planned and longed for the day when we sail away from the home port bound for distant and remote places our hearts have imagined. And sitting right here just now, I am beginning to realize that we are very near that departure and those many arrivals. The photo above shows the missionary ship in her element with her wings spread to the wind and her prow running well in a moderate breeze. This edition of Newsletter Philippines features the ship, her crew and those who have lately helped us with shaking down our vessel. Several modifications are being made at present to get us ready for sailing, among those things, the strengthening of our standing and running rigging. I am grateful for friends from the local sailing community

who came aboard the ship on Saturday, May 9th and spent the day putting her through her paces. I am also grateful for those of you who have prayed for us through these three years of work that have brought us to this point.

We must focus now on the need for ministry funding. I have estimated the RIM budget to be approximately \$6,000.00 monthly of which we are receiving \$1,800.00 leaving us lacking \$4,100.00 per month to be on budget. Please pray with us and do what you can to help reach this budget goal. We will sail despite being short of funds. The work is pressing and I will not admit lack of funding as an excuse to not go to the work. But obviously, the need is there and we pray the Lord to supply. Please help if you can!



Ship's Log: Preparation for a Missionary Journey

In all honesty, I have often thought that maritime missionaries in the past would love to have had a ship like RIM Nativa. The missionary journeys of the Apostle Paul would likely have been better weathered within her bulwarks! What the Lord has given us for His work is nothing short of phenomenal and is the sort of thing only God can do. We are humbled and grateful beyond what we can express. The time for our departure is very near at this writing and with diligent hands and sober minds we have set ourselves to the task of getting the ship, her personnel and her cargo ready to go. God willing, we shall depart the Port of Davao on or about June 6th for an eight-month voyage through the Visayas region of the Islands, aiding our churches and others in the area and preaching the gospel of Christ as we conduct missionary surveys for later follow-up.



Helpers and Crew...

Here we are...the crew of the sailing ship RIM Nativa. To my right are Captain William, Safety Officer Justin, First Mate Mark, Engineer Dado, Crewman Titing, Captain Edwin and Crewman Lowie. Missing in this photograph is Crewman Ekyong who was undergoing a required maritime seminar in the city. The Lord has provided us with men who are able seamen and certified for navigating all the waters of the Philippines. William and Edwin have sailed extensively on cargo and fishing vessels in the areas of our voyaging.



Jonathan and Michael from Australia discuss the rigging changes that need to be made. In Jonathan's words, we're at 90% in terms of having a first-class setup.

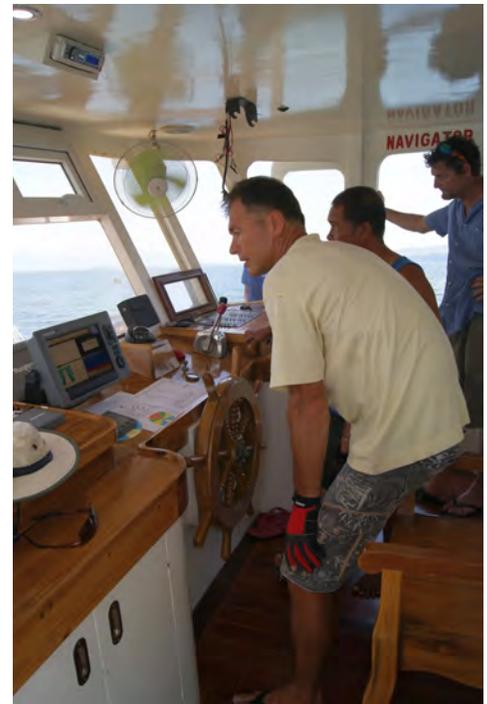
"The Lord has provided us with men who are able seamen and certified for navigating all the waters of the Philippines."



From left to right, Australians James, Michael and Jonathan and ship's Safety Officer Justin from South Africa discuss the rigging changes that Michael has noted in the book that he holds in his hand. We immediately set about strengthening and correcting the cables, the sheets and the blocks that need attention. At this writing we're about two weeks from finishing this job and being ready to sail. I am so thankful for all these folks who came to help us! Most also brought their families.

Nevin from Scotland is seen here giving instruction to our Captain William about pointing the ship at various angles to the wind while James looks on in the doorway. You can see the illustrations Justin created and printed that are taped to the console for easy reference in our training period. Also, note that the radar unit is on as well as the sonar and the wind instrument. Our ship is well equipped with navigation and communication equipment, although in this photograph our VHF radio had been removed and sent to the shop for repair. That has since been completed and returned to the bridge.

Our day of sail training was absolutely beautiful and gloriously hot with moderate wind. We had great food and fellowship and learned a lot. We plan another outing such as this once all our tweaks have been completed and we'll see how she goes by then. We made 5.7 knots in a southerly breeze of 16 knots. All aboard were pleased with the vessel's performance on Saturday, May 9, 2015.



The crew of RIM Nativa stand ready at the sheets awaiting the instruction of our visiting sailing masters. Our men learn fast and are strong. The visitors remarked at the good attitudes of our crewmen and their aptitude to sail. I am pleased!

"How would anyone ever imagine that God would move in such wonderful ways to provide for the people of our world? In the Bible we may read of miracles and be completely fascinated but as well, it's in the common things that we know His graceful provision. And upon the sea such as these are not difficult to find. Wind for your sails and ocean currents that trace the highways of the deep. Fish for your table, a sunrise and a sunset and innumerable stars that punctuate the night sky...these and more show the wonder of all that God is and what He alone does. And to know of His calling to us for reaching the unreachable people of our world with His message is beyond amazing." —Memoirs...

The reasons for our voyaging...

Thousands of children on hundreds of islands need to hear the message of Jesus Christ and to have opportunities to grow in healthy environments. Clean water, good food, proper clothing and shoes...all these are important things and are the reasons we sail these oceans. God has given us the means to reach them at will and the desire to go as far as we can at the soonest time possible! That time is upon us. Through the past three years we have been working to complete the ministry platform that will serve to aid people in remote places. Mission surveys, gospel preaching and humanitarian assistance are all a part of Remote Island Ministries. Assisting churches in the areas where we voyage will also be key to our ministry objectives while helping to plant churches in places where there are none. RIM is a missions logistics ministry and the sailing ship MSV RIM Nativa is a cargo vessel, capable of carrying 50 tons of materiel.



The men here are discussing the need to add additional running backstays on both the main and mizzen masts. We will also add a boomvang on the mainsail boom.



The kinds of cargo we carry include fishing supplies, hardware, rescue and survival equipment and rice. But among all the things that are accommodated onboard, copies of the Bible and Bible study materials are certainly the most important. We believe that supplying aid to people begins by sharing our faith with them and showing them how they can have an eternal relationship with God. Their lives are simple as you can see but so are ours and on that equal basis, we know we can help make great differences among them. Our voyage beginning in June will take us along the eastern coast of Mindanao out into the Pacific Ocean and arcing back toward Suriago City and northward to Dinagat Island before reaching across Leyte Gulf to Tacloban City. From there as we continue and depending on the weather, we plan to pass by Samar and into the Visayan Sea through San Juanico Strait, working our way toward northern Negros Island. Another option for us is to work our way southward from Leyte toward Camiguin Island and then up toward Bohol, Cebu and Camotes Islands.

“We believe that supplying aid to people begins by sharing our faith with them and showing them how they can have an eternal relationship with God.”

The ship’s voyages will be recorded through periodic postings along our way and the work done will be documented for you to see. Our October medical mission with Cross Bearing Medical Ministries and Pastor Joe Stacks is being planned for Molocaboc Island...a tiny islet off the north shore of Negros Island. If you Google the area, you will find the island and you can also see the places of which I’ve spoken here. We hope to spend the balance of this year on mission in all this region. Your help is needed now for us to sail. Please consider it!



Australians, Lee and Michael aboard the ship helping us make necessary adjustments and just enjoying a day of sailing! Thanks, mates!

“I watched the coastline as it came into view and began to realize what countless others had no doubt observed as well...the rocky shoreline and the mountains rising in the hinterland of the island and how the sun cast long shadows in the late afternoon that seemed to stripe the island in colors of green and blue and orange. There were the cooking fires of tiny huts scattered about within sight and others still out of sight behind the mangrove trees and bamboo. But I see this differently from others, for here is a field of souls.” —Memoirs...

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...Reaching people on the edge!



RIM Nativa off the north end of Samal Island, Gulf of Davao on a day of sail training in advance of our June departure from Port Davao on an eight-month tour of duty through the Visayas region of the Philippines. She sails well. Her stability is remarkable!

Closing thoughts...

Glen Knight

Moving on is never easy and with a missionary family it seems that's always the case. Leaving familiar things and people behind and venturing into what most people would consider to be the 'unknown' is a little unsettling but after a while it becomes a thing anticipated and actually adds to the excitement of the journey. Ours is a journey unique to most and one that brings with it much joy...in the words of my daughter just now, "...every girl's dream!" but of course she might be just a bit sarcastic! And yet here we are and oh, how God has blessed! We are not sad for the past although we shall not forget. But we embrace the future with our hope in the Lord and hand in hand with our family here on the ship and heart to heart with our loved ones in America and South Africa, we are once again...moving on! As a family, we ask for your prayers. And as missionaries, we promise you our diligent work with brave hearts and strong hands over the seas for the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ!



"She asked me, Daddy, do you remember when I was a little girl and I laughed so loudly? I answered, Yes, of course. There are some things a dad doesn't forget. And Daddy, when we walked you carried me on your shoulders. Do you remember? I said, Yes, but I don't think I can do that now. And Daddy, when the sun shined in my face early in the mornings, do you remember that I would always sneeze twice? Yes, I said, I do remember very well. And she hugged me and she said, I love you, Dad. And that, my friends is also something I will always remember." —Memoirs...