

Remote Island Ministries

March & April
2024

MISSION: INDO-PACIFIC!

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*"The God of all
grace is still God,
above us, beneath
us, ahead of us and
behind us."*



Happy 24th Birthday to our daughter, Juli —March 1, 2024! Juli continues working with us on the ship as an important member of the crew.

Ship's Log: 8.71S—115.24E Serangan Island —Glen Knight

I HAVE ALWAYS BELIEVED in God's grace that protects us. The question has often come, through over thirty years of labor out here, as to why we carry on in the face of imminent peril. And there are the comments like, "Can't you find a safer place to work?" The thing is, safer places to work may not be the places where God wants us to work. And what is the proper measure of "safety" anyway? I don't want to be foolish. But neither do I want to be faithless. So, the principle for life becomes Proverbs 3:5-6. I know that in the center of the circle of God's will, there is peace.

JESUS SAID to His early disciples, "Follow Me." He didn't specify where He was going or for how long. He didn't say what they would be doing and neither did He give any indication at the time, as to the cost of the commitment. He simply said...Follow me. If we could see the full scope of our lives we'd surely pick and choose the easiest routes. It's human nature to do so. But we can't see that much of our lives, except in looking back, and that view can be disappointing or rewarding, depending on what we've done with respect to Jesus.

AS WE GROW OLDER, making good of commitments from long ago is just as important as ever. We may in fact, find ourselves among the few who carry on. Aiming to finish the course means something. It's easy in younger years to set out on a journey but to continue that journey when the years have grown long, requires a lot more effort. One thing is very sure: The God of all grace is still God, above us, beneath us, ahead of us and behind us. And so, we trust Him and move ever forward toward distant horizons.

—Glen & Summer Knight, Remote Island Ministries



Ministry Scenes from March & April

The celebration of Nyepi here on Bali Island was observed in March. This is the Hindu New Year and featured many rituals and offerings that are believed to bring good luck for the year. This is not unlike the Chinese New Year during February. So much yet to understand here...

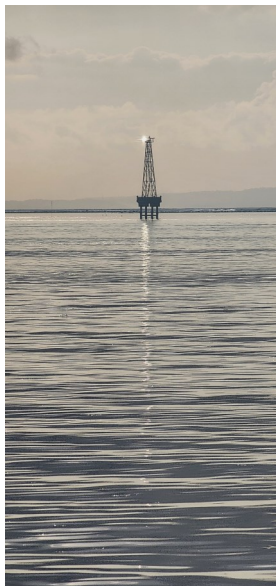
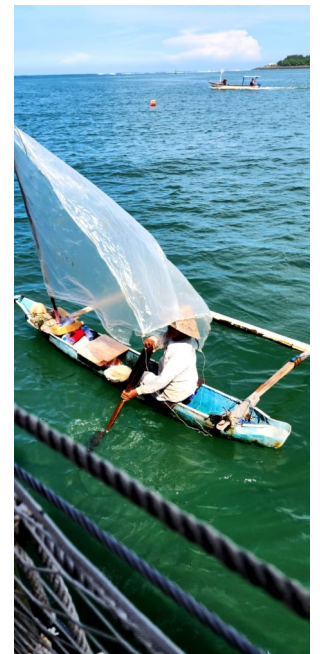


"As friendships are created, it becomes easier to communicate things that are important."

A street vendor and her produce form a typical scene in the cities and towns across the island. They are usually very cordial and conversive as we stop to buy what they sell and to share blessing. Photographs are rarely taken because we don't want to make people think we're merely tourists, out to get picture souvenirs. This lady and the one in the photo above, left, are at these locations every day. As friendships are created, it becomes easier to communicate things that are important. They are Hindu in their religious faith so the challenge to us is great.



Opportunities to help others come often in the simplest of ways. The photo at the right shows an elderly fisherman who happened by our ship one afternoon, making his way slowly with a sail fashioned of a plastic sheet. Obviously, the rigging was not efficient and he was struggling with the wind and flowing tide. When Summer spotted him, her mind raced immediately to a nice piece of lightweight, polyester-nylon sail cloth that Justin had purchased a few years back. Knowing exactly where she had stowed it, and while I hailed the man down to come near NATIVA, she hurried to retrieve it. Then she gave it to the old man for his use, fabricating a proper sail for the little boat. It isn't difficult to see ways to minister to others. Usually, it's a matter of slowing down long enough to be observant and having a heart of compassion as well as having hands that are willing to reach out.



A lighthouse at Sanur, marking the rocks that can cause shipwreck, reminds us of our task of shining the light of God's grace in this dark world.

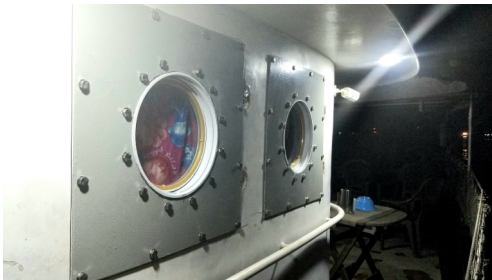
"When you're born into a society, all the things of that group become a part of you. If, however, you enter that society from another, many things will seem strange and in some instances, revolting. How then is it possible to be a missionary to areas and people who are not of your own upbringing? It's difficult. Understanding, patience, wisdom and a lot of keeping your mouth shut and your eyes open are all important to success!" —gk

Maintenance: Changing ship windows...

When I built NATIVA in 2012, limited funds forced me to manufacture windows for the galley and the bridge that weren't proper windows by a long shot. In time, not only did they not seal out even the weather, much less an ocean storm, they became difficult to open for letting in fresh air. Add to that, the fact that they opened to the outside rather than to the inside, which is marine standard, and I had very substandard fresh air openings. For two years, I've intended to replace these and have had the portlights for replacements. Time and material lacking, the project was delayed until now. The photo at the right shows our crew cutting away the first of the four windows, in preparation for installing the new portholes.



The crew here, working on the removal of the old, original galley windows that had become difficult to open. These are being replaced with proper portholes that are water tight.



Steel plates were manufactured and drilled for bolting onto the exterior galley wall. The new portlights were then bolted into place, as you can see in the photo to the left. These are the same on the opposite side, giving four nice portholes in the galley and soon, will be painted white.

"...the superstructure and the masts, booms and spreaders will be painted all the way to the top."

Among the maintenance issues for now is the preparation for a complete painting of the ship. Part of the deck structure has already been repainted and looks ship-shape. The photo at the right is of the engine room combing on the main deck, showing the new paint with the two hatch covers open. We are installing aluminum checker plate to the top surfaces to give us a better grip when standing on the hatch to work the main sail boom above. The deck has yet to be painted and looks dirty in this photo. All rusted spots on the deck have been cleaned and painted with primer but full deck painting will be the final part of the job. Next, the super structure and the masts, booms and spreaders will be painted all the way to the top. This is big work that is necessary, as most of this painting is the first in ten years.



A strange sight is produced by the cutting going on outside the galley window.

"They come by the ship most every night, trying to be quiet so as to not disturb. They never board but do often tie their boat along side. And there, they fish in the light of NATIVA in the surrounding waters. Our security lights attract fish after dark and that attracts the fishermen. In as easy a manner as one can imagine, this gives us an opportunity to share, simply and without pressure, lovingly, as with friends." —gk

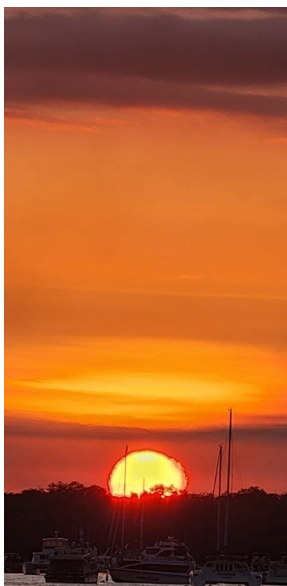
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"Indian Ocean Sunset"

...Reaching people on the edge!



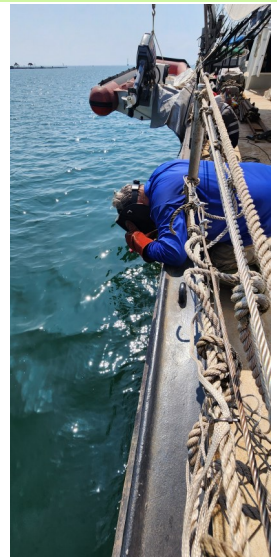
"Morning Calm"

A Bali duck flies past in this photo of the distant surf and a small sailing boat off the eastern point of Serangan Island. The serenity of the moment is captured for our enjoyment and meditation upon the goodness of our Great God.

Closing thoughts: "Get comfortable..."

—Glen Knight

My father taught me when I was very young and first learning to work, that regardless of what I was doing, I had to get comfortable with it and continue until finished. His advice had mostly to do with welding. And I took what he said to heart. I recall working one summer on the stump cutting blade of a D-9 Caterpillar. It was hot and dusty and the task presented to me was to weld hard-surfacing electrodes onto the cutting edge from one side of the blade to the other. It was difficult. But my Dad's advice paid off and I finished the job after several days. That taught me a valuable lesson I've never forgotten. Even until now, whatever there is that has to be done, wherever it may be, getting comfortable with the work and aiming to finish is important. In the service of The Lord, it is vital. Carry on!



"If the task is difficult, it's usually because it is important. If the work is lonely, likely it is because no one else is willing to undertake it. If the effort is tiring, then give the most attention to rest when possible. If it seems that finishing is no where in sight, then keep your mind on what you're doing and soon, the finish will emerge. Work. It's the most noble of all things." —gk