

Declare His Praise in the Islands by Hinrich Kranzlin

"SH'KHINAH" - the presence of the Glory of the Lord - and also the name of a yacht sailing to the remotest islands of the South Pacific with a crew of nine from seven different nationalities - mostly Pacific Islanders from Palau, Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu. These YWAMers have really learned to "rough it". Through the merciless seas and heat on a 20 meter hull of steel, you gotta be cut out for that! And we drop anchor in a place like Wallis.

One pastor whom we had been communicating with for weeks had been eagerly awaiting us. Soon we realized that communication was a challenge. All of us speak English, but French?? Jack from Vanuatu, a 17 year-old boy sailing with us from Samoa did most of the talking and translating, but then we also realized that our two Tongans can understand the Wallisian native language. What followed was a week of ministry, relating, praying, singing, laughing together, and helping them with youth meetings, etc.

Our mission is to mobilize young people throughout the islands of the sea. Historically the most dedicated missionaries come from the remotest places. In Wallis this was a new message and the youth responded. I can see waves of young people from Wallis reaching the shores of French-speaking West Africa or South America or France itself. There is a passion for God burning in many of those precious Wallisian people.

So after that week in Wallis, the church put two of their people onboard with us, urging us to go to Futuna, a 24-hour sail away, with the same message. After another 4 days we were ready to go, but the weather turned bad and we had to stay on. This gave us more opportunity to minister on this rarely visited island. Another 3 days later we are able to leave, sent with a fine farewell by the villagers, who loaded us with food, and sent us off with prayers of blessings, and tears in their eyes.. What seemed to have impacted each place we had visited the most was the fact that the team came from several different places, yet demonstrating the peace of God through working together.

"Sh'khinah" - the glory of the presence of the Lord - expressed through his people living and operating in purpose and unity. What a privilege to serve Jesus!! And through that learning to express His purposes by living together with people from many nations and cultures.

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