

March
2011

**"I press on to take hold
of that for which Christ
Jesus took hold of me."**

Philippians 3:12

Tacking or Coming About:

a sailing maneuver by which a sailing vessel turns its bow through the wind so that the direction from which the wind blows changes from one side to the other. For example, if a vessel is sailing on a starboard tack with the wind blowing from the right side and tacks, it will end up on a port tack with the wind blowing from the left side.

Don't miss any news!

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Our ministry is dependent on the giving of mission-minded individuals and churches. Please consider joining our support team or giving a one-time gift to our ministry projects.

Please send contributions to:

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P.O. Box 367
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All Other Correspondence:

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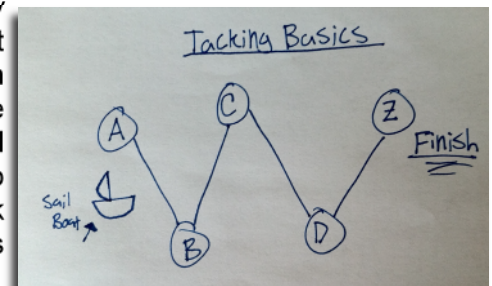
ONLINE GIVING



Have you ever felt like you were being diverted from "The Plan", but still had peace that the Lord was still working it all out. Or headed in a direction that does not seem to get you closer to the goal? Have you ever wondered what the point was in this latest experience? We have!

It's true that the shortest distance between two points is a straight line. But it is also true that "There is a way that appears to be right, but in the end it leads to death." (Proverbs 14:12 & 16:25) At this point you have the opportunity to trust the Lord and walk by faith in obedience. So... the Lord has given you a vision or a goal to reach. In navigation we call this a "waypoint". A waypoint is an intended destination along a desired route. But along your route there are obstacle and opposing forces. Some obstructions are unseen or below the waterline (reefs, shipwrecks, etc) and some can be seen above the waterline. Either way, both require a good chart because often the straight line solution doesn't always fit. Then there is the wind.

The goal is directly ahead but the wind is against you. Now, I know that the Holy Spirit is typified by the wind in the Bible. So is doctrinal error. So stick with me on this and don't get lost in the parallels. We are just talking about opposition and circumstances. A sailboat can't sail directly into the wind. But it can sail upwind. Anyone can "sail" downwind. In some cases its called drifting and requires no skill or effort. But our goal is upwind. Have you ever heard the saying, "I can't control the direction of the wind but I can trim my sails." This is very true. So we make some "adjustments" in our sails. When a boat turns, and the bow goes through the wind, the sails get "tacked" to the other side of the boat. The path looks like a zig-zag, and at times the boat may seem to be pointing the wrong direction, but ultimately there is forward progress being made. The next time the boat tacks, the goal is once again straight ahead. But only for a moment and once again you are not pointing at the goal but still getting closer. It's the Captain's responsibility to say when to tack. If the Captain calls for the tack at he wrong time, you may hit an obstruction. It's the Captain's call.



How you view and handle obstacles and adversity will ultimately determine where you end up. If you look at adversity as the "end of the road", you're done. And my friend, it's not over until God says it's over! A course change does not mean that the Lord has changed His mind or given up on what He promised you. We have learned that much of what the Lord allows us to go through, is preparation for the next thing He wants to do in and through us. And if we had not had the encounter at "point C" we would not have been ready for what He wanted to do at "point D". It's not as easy to connect the dots looking forwards as it is looking backwards. But when you finally reach your destination, you can look back on your zig-zag tacking pattern and maybe begin to make sense of it all. I'm sure that when Jesus was hanging on the cross, the disciples thought that it was all over. What good could come from that? But here we are, looking back and can connect all the dots and see the plan of God.

There are many things we have done in the ministry that we NEVER planned on doing. But in the end we could look back and see the wisdom of God in why we needed to go that route. As the Lord leads, we have to be willing to change and grow. Surrender your will to the will of the Captain of our souls. It's not just about the task. It's most always about walking by faith and trusting in the Lord, relationships, people and others. So when things go in a different direction than what you had intended, just know that it may just be the Captain giving the order, "PREPARE TO TACK!"



Church on Korbiski Island with solar panel by entrance.

PANAMA UPDATE San Blas Islands

"And you shall receive power..." Acts 1:8

We are so happy to be able to share with you that Maritime Discipleship was donated over \$2,300 in deep-cycle batteries by our good friends at Interstate Batteries. These batteries will service one mainland village church and five island churches including the

mission base on Nalunega. Most all of the churches were using batteries that were over 5 years old, if they were still working at all. Interstate has been very good to us over the years and when we told them about the mission in the San Blas Islands, they were more than willing to get involved and meet the need. All of the churches planted by our missionary friends Allen & Kathy Sappington are powered by a single solar panel and deep cycle battery. It may not seem like a big deal, but the alternative is church services in the dark. In many cases the church is the only power supply on these remote islands.

The batteries were picked up at the Interstate dealership in Panama City and have already been shipped out to the islands. The indigenous pastors there will be trained in the care and maintenance of these batteries to ensure longest service life possible.

We are trusting the Lord to make a trip this year to minister to these beautiful people. Your generous gifts are what make it possible!

Thank You! *"And how can they believe in the one of whom they have not heard?"*

And how can they hear without someone preaching to them?" Romans 10:14



Over \$2,300 in deep-cycle batteries donated to Maritime Discipleship by INTERSTATE BATTERIES for the mission in the San Blas Islands.

THANKS TEAM INTERSTATE!

Lord, Bless this company real good!



Missionary Allen Sappington in Panama City PANAMA

receiving new deep cycle batteries for the island churches of San Blas.



Some of our crew of volunteers down at the boat-yard

www.SailFreeFlight.org

Progress on "Free Flight" continues as we get closer to the Spring launch. It's been great getting to know new people and building relationships while having fun working on the boat.

We're excited to see the amount of support we have received from the business community for this project. Currently over \$5000 of gear, supplies and services have been donated. Along with this we have logged around 200 volunteer hours at the boatyard (While it was still COLD!) Our latest BIG job (still in progress) is replacing the keel bolts, barrier coat and paint the bottom. There is still plenty of buffing and waxing as well. And we can always use some "good ole cash". Our volunteers have started a fundraiser to help make it happen. To do this, we are offering the Samaritan Discount Card. With this card you get exclusive savings of up to 50% at more than 100,000 merchants nationwide and unlimited usage for 12 months. Show your support and go to the Free Flight website and order online.



Jeanie's first time using a pneumatic scaler aka "Needle Gun"



Prayer Points Please continue to pray for:

The leadership of the Island Churches in San Blas

The young people that will sail with us this season. (Its all about winning souls and making disciples)

Capt.Clif tore a ligament in his knee working in the boatyard March 9th and is laid up for three weeks.

"Sometimes the ship that is longest on its voyage brings home the richest freight. If the promise tarries, wait for it. A promise long waited for is very precious in its fulfillment." - T. Coley