

NEWS LETTER #23
December 31, 2008



Dear Friends

My hope is that you are walking in the Peace of the Lord and being Strengthened for what lies ahead. **“WITH GOD” ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE!!**

I appreciate this opportunity to tell of the progress we have made since our last News Letter ([#22](#)).

January: Built access stairway up to swim deck at the stern of ZEBULUN.

Jan 8: A-L Compressed Gases Welding Supply delivered (2)

new [MILLER welding machines](#): The XMT 350MPa Pulse-Mig Welder was **“donated”** to MMI and the XMT 350 CC/CV Mig Welder is **on loan for the duration of welding.**

Early Spring: Myron Wicks of Newman Lake, WA, donated the machining for the **rudder shaft bearing housings** and parts and they are ready for installation when the skegs are fabricated.





May 31: MMI Open House was a great success with 180+ guests! The weather cleared off to sunshine and that was perfect since the **Open House** included **ICE CREAM!!** Dave Mather and Warren Moore came down a day early and helped Loren erect the new sign with the painting of Zebulun on it. Also Dave ironed all his code flags and hung the long string of flags from the sign to the building. It was nice and festive! Thanks also to Steve Dilts for his part in the new sign. **Happy Days Corporation** owner **Bruce Finch** and his family set up a tent inside the boat shed for the ice cream booth and served during the 5 hours of open house. Great huckleberry, vanilla and chocolate ice cream with toppings you could put on yourself! T-Shirts were made for the workers to wear and for sale. Tables were set up around the outside of the boat with

computer shows running of the building of Zebulun. Another video was of our former boat, "**American Flyer**" crossing from New Zealand to Vanuatu Is. and the outreach there. Our Board, Advisors and Friends guided little groups on a tour, explaining things. There were bulletin boards that Georgia put together of past mission boat trips and people. A

DVD of the Aliyah by Ebenezer Emergency Fund was showing the return of the Jewish people to Israel by ships and by airplanes. This DVD is

by www.EbenezerUSA.org. There were pieces of lead, aluminum, welding wire, and other items of interest on display with signs telling the amount all ready used or still needed. The plans of Zebulun were open for review on a table. The back of the boat was open so folks could go up the stairs and look in. One family came with a wheel chair bound son; his father and grandfather carried him up the stairs so he could see inside!! There were home schooled children, neighborhood folks, elderly folks, toddlers, a small dog in the arms of a child, a Jewish Rabbi and wife with his Shofar as well as some pastors and leaders. All enjoying the event and the fellowship!! Dave and Steve Dilts put together handouts that we gave to all the people with our brochure.



Aug 6: Boat Missionaries: MurSea assisted the **Frets Family Mission** recently by sewing up the sail cover for their 36' mission sailboat, "FISHER OF MEN". Steve Frets bought the boat over eBay and had it delivered to Clarkston. Steve's wife Sophie and their four boys pitched in like a bunch of bees and after 3 weeks of hard work, which included installing a new inboard engine and building an aluminum pilot house they were ready to head down river. A stop in Portland to get better sails and they were fitted out for their passage to Kodiak, Alaska. We got a call from Steve when they arrived in **Kodiak, AK**. The passage took one month (weather layovers included). Praise You LORD for carrying them through the stormy seas!!

**“Remember that I have commanded you to be determined and confident!
Do not be afraid or discouraged,
for I, the LORD your GOD, am with you wherever you go.” [Josh 1:9](#) GNB**

PUBLICATIONS:

May 19: “Lewiston Morning Tribune”: “Faith leads couple to build giant sailboat. Loren and Georgia Murphy hope to have vessel finished in two years and ready to bring Christ and aid to foreign lands”. A wonderful two page article was thoughtfully written by **David Cole** who had spent several hours of interested dialog with us.

June 5: KMBI (Moody Radio): In June, Loren was interviewed by Rich Montieth on KMBI (Moody Radio). It was a two part interview about MurSea Missions and was aired two consecutive days at prime time 7:40am & 5:40pm! It was very informative and Rich was very supportive of MMI.

June 8: KXLY TV – Spokane, WA: Sent a camera crew down to “The Boat Shed” for a great interview and then aired it the same day at 5:45pm & 10:45pm Prime Time Nationwide!

July: SUMMER ISSUE “METAL BOAT QUARTERLY”: The feature article of the July issue of **MBQ Magazine**, “**ARK Welding**”, was about “**ZEBULUN**” and **MurSea Missions**. **Ralph Hollingsworth**, the Editor, did an excellent 3 page article with many pictures and great dialog. This publication is sent all over the world. The week it went out MMI got 596 hits on its website!

ZEBULUN PROGRESS: The weld-up of the decks and deck insert plates has been completed. The **bulwark** is tacked in place along the top of the 3” rub rail, both port & starboard. The **1½”x 20’ sch80 pipe sections** are welded into **two 92’ long cap rails** for the bulwarks and are tack welded into place. The **bow-cone** is installed and tacked in place and looks great. The **anchor roller plates** are now welded in place and are a very solid structure with the bulwark welded to them. The weld-up of the longitudinals is **95%** complete and the interior plate seams are being welded in the proper sequence – the vertical butt seams first and then the longitudinal butt seams; working from the middle of the boat towards each end and also from the chine to the rail and from the chine to the keelson. The last longitudinal welds to be made will be the bottom plates to the keelson and then the topside plates to the rub-rail.



Loren: Spent several months developing an **Excel spread sheet** which covers the total cost of building and launching “ZEBULUN” including outfitting and provisions. When the pages of the printout were fastened together they were 9 ½’ long and included 750 lines of items and calculations. Loren also has requests out to five sail lofts for sail quotes; quotes for the stainless steel fabrication; sand blasting and many others.



Base Location: We have had several possible locations for a base suggested: Hilo, Hawaii; Newman Lake, near Spokane, Washington; Coeur d'Alene Lake, Idaho, and MurSea Missions "Boat Shed" in Clarkston, Wash-ington. We are looking for additional sites as well so that when we have the funding we will be able to pursue the most favorable site.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS: The annual MMI board meeting was held at Skip & Sue Murphy's beautiful home in Casco Bay on Lake Coeur d'Alene, Idaho, November 15, 2008. Every one enjoyed the boat ride across the lake and Skip and Sues' hospitality while we visited and ate our sack lunches. The meeting went very well and we added a Finance Committee which will help manage large donations and grants when received. Also it was suggested that an assistant project manager be brought in to work with Loren. If anything was to happen to Loren, then the assistant manager could keep the project going. Makes good Sense!

WEB & Computers: Jack Lawlor has helped to update our computers and web site. Jack is also coordinating web site work being done by Will Morrison from WSU, Pullman, WEB Design Department.

Murphy Family News: Our daughter Sophie and family who live in Plains Montana invited us to their family log cabin deep in the Lolo Forest last fall. It was just before hunting season and the huckleberries were coming on ripe. Wayne happily drove us around the mountain roads look-ing for the bonanza patch of huckleberries while he checked on footprints and signs of where the elk were! The family all get elk and deer tags now and we are thankful for the meat they send us as gifts. Sophie has upgraded her sleep lab technician work and has a new job at Ronan Hospital. Cody was a forest firefighter again last summer. Rio works at Quinn Hot Springs after high school is out. She is paying for her new car! Our daughter Brenda works with Red Cross in Spokane. She is a 'Disaster Assessment Specialist' and loves the field work and was able to travel to the Midwest last year when the floods were so bad. When she goes out on field trips we put her on our ladies prayer chain back home! Jack continues work with Real Life Ministries which has grown to around ten thousand members. Isaak worked on the lake again for Skip Murphy and they built docks as well as the other marine construction work they do on Lake Coeur d' Alene. Last summer Ian balanced Track & Cross Country events with work in a nearby hard-ware store. Some of our family went sailing with us on a borrowed sailboat on the Snake River in Clarkston. Hopefully next season we can do more sailing with them! Ian said he wants to crew for us some time. We will always make room for family!!

Thank you for all your prayers and support! Times certainly are 'a changing'.

May God bless you and prosper you in this new year of 2009!

Sincerely,

Loren Murphy, Pres.

MurSea Missions, Inc.

The Lord is my Shepherd, I shall not want.

He makes me lie down in green pastures; He leads me beside quiet waters.

[Psalm 23:1,2 NASB](#)