

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Pacific Missionary Aviation

SO SPECIAL

By Charina Bacorro, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Nurse



ON THE COVER: Eloy gets his exercise with the help of a caregiver.

August 2003 was the first time I saw Eloy. He was such a good-looking baby with a small angelic face; when he smiled, it melted my heart because he was so cute. At first, I did not recognize that he was a "special needs child" because he was only three months old. It was so nice to hold him and hug him. He seemed so fragile.

In October 2003, we took him to the General Hospital for a rehab visit and the physician examined him. She diagnosed him with the Extra Pyramidal Type of cerebral palsy and said that the life span was not very long in most cases. After that, I often found myself staring at him. Many questions came to my mind when I found out he had CP. Why did such an illness come to this child? Eloy would need special care, special attention, and special treatment. "Therapy is definitely needed to see any improvement," the doctor mentioned. I could not help but cry for the little, innocent boy.

As I accompanied Eloy to the therapy sessions, I could see and hear Eloy cry each time the therapist tried different exercises. The

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therapist said I needed to be strong for him, not to cry, but to practice and learn the techniques with him. At first, I was hesitant to learn because I really did not want to cause discomfort to him while stretching and moving his little limbs. However, it was my job and I knew that it would be a big help for Eloy.

Months passed and he became more flexible. Before, when he was put in one spot, he could barely move. Now he was starting to roll over, moving back and forth, really trying hard to move and reach for something.

Eloy is now twenty months old. I imagined little Eloy without all of these difficulties. What would he be doing now if he didn't have CP? By now, he would be walking, running, and enjoying playtime. A cheerful boy that would love to explore every place... if only he could do it.

As I see him everyday, I ask myself, "Is he able to understand what I'm saying to him? Does he understand my smile?"

This time I stared at him and was able to see that God has a purpose for Eloy. The Lord wants us to see how blessed we are because we have a chance to take care of him. The Lord has something special in mind; He has a grand plan for Eloy because He loves him. He loves all of us and has promised, "I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born." (Isaiah 44:2) Eloy's case is an open book to Him; it is not a secret. The Bible says, "You saw me (Eloy) before I was born and scheduled each day of my life before I began to breathe. Everyday was recorded in your Book!" Just think, before our parents conceived us, we were conceived in the mind of God. It is not fate, not chance, nor luck, nor coincidence that we are breathing at this time. God does not have accidents and He never makes mistakes. He has a reason for everything He creates. So it is for Eloy, so it is for me.

When visitors come to Bahay Kalinga, sometimes they ask, "How long will Eloy be this way?" I smile and say; "Only the Lord knows the answer." For this, I am requesting you, my friends, to join me in praying for Eloy. He is a little angel in our care. We can give him our love and our care, but only the Lord can provide all that he needs. Moreover, may the Lord open doors to new treatments for Eloy. I am thankful this story has reached you; may Eloy be a blessing to you, too.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE

Ray and Jannette Wood served in Pohnpei and Yap

As Jannette and I go down memory lane, our lives from September of 1992 to December 31, 1997 was an experience of a lifetime. We were so privileged to work for the Lord through PMA. It was an awesome experience to see God's work unfold and develop and to be a part of that.

We have such fond memories of the island people, especially the outer islands. They always welcomed the PMA airplane and were very kind to Jannette and me.

We miss the fellowship of the PMA family and the many good times and uplifting experiences we witnessed there.

God is good...all the time!



LATEST SEA HAVEN TOUR

By Nob Kalau



In May/June, our medical ship Sea Haven visited 14 islands, logged 1,375 miles, and delivered one and a half 20-foot containers of medicines and medical supplies, donated by Heart to Heart through the Ayuda Foundation, as well as other organizations, to Chuuk's outer island dispensaries.

The medical ship, Sea Haven, left on May 25th to the Chuuk outer-islands with a seven-member crew: Nob, Edwin, Benito, Lihno, Mino, Thomas and Alex. Visiting 14 islands, the crew traveled 1,375 miles delivering one and a half 20-foot containers of medicines and medical supplies for the outer-island dispensaries: Weno, Murilo, Ruo, Fananu, Nomwin, Pissaras, Onari, Magur, Onon, Pulap, Tamatam, Pulusuk and Oroeluk. Relationships were established with dispensary and health aides, especially on the islands where the Sea Haven had never visited before. The medicines and supplies (thanks to Ayuda Foundation via Heart to Heart and PacificCare) were a great encouragement to the people and especially to the dispensary and health aides.

This trip was specifically designed to deliver meds to stock the island dispensaries and enable health assistants to carry on their important services. Due to the many island stops that the Sea Haven made to get the meds to the northern islands that had just been hit by typhoons, doctors were not on board to treat patients. The meds were handed over to the health assistants so they could treat the patients on their islands.



This trip was specifically designed to deliver meds to re-stock the island dispensaries of Chuuk.



Volunteers form a human chain to offload supplies from the Sea Haven.



Konsi Tulmwar, a 40-year old widow, is the health aide from the village of Relong, on the island of Puluwat, an outer island of Chuuk. She has 3 children.

Konsi Tulmwar on Puluwat was able to receive much needed meds for Puluwat's dispensary. For 3 years the dispensary had sat empty, void of medicines, and unable to meet the medical needs of the island community. Konsi was thrilled to stock the empty shelves and to once again treat the islanders in their common and complex health care needs. Boat loads of meds were transported from ship to shore to dispensary. As the island community eagerly watched boxes of meds being stocked in their dispensary, the many words of thanks and heart-felt gratitude were given to the Sea Haven crew to relay to those who cared enough to give and share to the isolated and far-flung islands of the Pacific.



Alex Kalau, the youngest crew member aboard the Sea Haven.

Also, about forty students, who were on summer break, were stranded in Puluwat Atoll. The ship planning to pick them up to return them to their home island, Pulusuk, had not arrived because of lack of fuel.

Fortunately, the Sea Haven was able to accommodate them. This was a great opportunity for Mino Fagulor, our Bible school intern from Guam, to minister to the young people and answer their questions.

We are very thankful to all our supporters and partners, in particular Gannett Foundation, without whom the Sea Haven could not continue to serve the needs of the islanders. To God be the glory!

EQUIPPING LEADERS TO REACH THE WORLD

By Melinda R. Espinosa

“Many people are coming to Christ each day around the world. The crying need of the hour is for healthy, effective, spiritual leaders to guide them,” challenges Dr. John Maxwell, who authored the materials we used for the training seminar, “Equipping Leaders to the Reach the World”. We were privileged to have Pastor Nonon Punzalan from the Philippines, to teach, lead and mentor us in leadership principles—first in Guam, and then in Pohnpei, where our Pacific Mission Fellowship churches



Guam participants realized the “crying need . . . for healthy, effective, spiritual leaders”



Pastor Nonon with PMF church leaders in Pohnpei.



In Pohnpei, Seminar participants learned the Biblical mandate

sponsored both events. In Guam, we had representatives from four other churches, as well as students from the local Bible school. Everyone agreed that what we learned, in turn, encouraged, challenged and helped each one of us personally. This will enable us to train others to be effective servant leaders.

In Pohnpei, there were approximately a hundred in attendance, among them church and government leaders. We are very thankful for the impact this seminar has had in the hearts and minds of those who attended. It was a great encouragement to all, not to mention the spiritual enlightenment each one received. It is our prayer that each person who attended the Seminar will apply what they learned in their everyday life, be effective servant leaders and give glory to God!

HEALTH, HOOPS AND HOPE

By Mary Cleope

The month of June started out quiet and peaceful on the Polillio Islands, Quezon Province, Philippines. However, on the 17th, the provincial surroundings became aflood with bus-

FMS staff and volunteers screened the patients, handled blood pressure checks, and kept the crowd orderly for the most efficient progress. One medical doctor, two dentists, one nurse, and one eye doctor shared their medical expertise to accommodate the various needs of the day. Final count: 464 grateful patients had been served on three islands.



Ventures for Victory plays with local teams

ting activity. The Flying Medical Samaritans sponsored a free medical, eye, and dental clinic for any interested families, eventually including three island venues. As a bonus, this 3-day event also included special guests: the *Ventures For Victory* basketball team, a visiting group of international players coming to challenge the islanders. They did not only seek a challenge on the court, but also to challenge the hearts of the audience.

Health

The tarps were attached to the side of the church, chairs and tables positioned, as the Pacific Mission Fellowship churches prepared the surroundings for the volunteer doctors to set up their clinic. Under the coconut trees people lined up, carrying babies, towing children, and waiting in expectation for relief from their ailments.

Hoops

It is a blessing to partner with other Christian organizations. With the same vision in mind, FMS was able to help the Ventures For Victory basketball team visit the Polillio islands. This team had already spent a week touring and competing against the challengers in the Quezon province; but now it was time to cross the channel and play against the teams of Patnanungan, Katakian, and Jomalig. Our FMS pastors rallied the teams and invited the townspeople. The audience cheered and the teams presented their best, spirited performance. In the end, it was a grand event, complete with the young players sharing how faith in Jesus Christ had made an important change in each of their lives.

Hope

During the half-time break, the *Ventures* team took the opportunity to challenge the island-

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Challenging island youth to read God's Word

A WORTHY ORGANIZATION SERVING A GREAT GOD

By Dr. Todd Perla

My wife and I had the pleasure of going on a medical relief trip to Ulithi, one of the outer islands of Yap. We were sponsored by PMA (Pacific Missionary Aviation), and our trip dates were from July 14-18th. It had been about one year since any medical doctor had been on the island. We were amazed at the medical needs of the island. Fortunately, we were able to "beef-up" their medical supplies. We really appreciated the Ayuda Foundation for coming through with extra medical supplies on such a short notice.



Ulithi's Dispensary Aide with his grandson



Dr. Todd and Brenda Perla found their volunteer medical service very rewarding.

We saw 46 patients in four working days, which was somewhat less than we'd anticipated, but there was also a boat chartered by FEMA, re-supplying the island with much needed rice, gas, and other necessities in the wake of Typhoon Sudal. This kept the men of the island very busy. Also, there was a funeral, which hampered patient access for two days. We saw mostly children and women patients. A couple of children had pneumonia, so the new arrival of liquid antibiotics came in handy. In addition, almost every patient had chronic bacterial infection of the skin. I also removed tumors from two patients. One man had a tumor on his scalp. It had been bleeding intermittently for some time, and he had had associated pain. It made my whole trip worthwhile to see the big smile on his face, when I accidentally saw him later

that same day on the island.

We were really impressed with how smooth travel arrangements with PMA were handled. Melinda efficiently had everything lined up with our hotel, air fares, and medical licensure. Chief Pilot Peter Reichert made us feel very comfortable traveling from Yap to Ulithi, and back. We were impressed with their airport facilities in Yap, too. It is evident that Peter is very meticulous and organized with the mechanical upkeep of the planes. We were also impressed when we observed the great relationship that PMA has with the people of the islands. This relationship has been fostered for 30 years.

Overall, it was a very rewarding experience. We were amazed at how friendly and appreciative the Ulithi people were. Despite their difficult living situations, we were humbled by the joy and peace shown by these people. I'd like to encourage anyone contemplating medical or other relief work to these islands to take action on God's calling. So many of us are like the disciples who passively watched Peter walk on water. To see Jesus work maximally in our lives, we often have to get out of our boats, or our areas of comfort. Consider teaming up with PMA. They are a worthy organization, serving a great God!

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ers to read the Bible. Along with a Tagalog interpreter, the team asked who would like to find out more about the love of God. *Ventures For Victory* also partners with the "Bible School of the Air," a correspondence course provided free for any interested person. Throughout the Venture's 10-day tour, they had 2000 responses from people who wanted to try this Bible Study course. The pastors and churches in the villages would follow-up and assist the interested ones.



Responding to the challenge

Head coach, Mr. Tine Hardeman, remembers Polillio. "We usually get a 20% rate of interest when people are invited to try this course. However, in Polillio, it was 35% of the audience. The people are very eager to find out more about the Gospel." Mr. Hardeman went on to share that he started the basketball

tours in 1955, and he has traveled throughout most of the Philippines. He finds it an effective way to visit villages and build relationships with the people. This year was the first time to visit the Polillio Islands.

His son, Todd Hardeman, is now a teacher and coach in Metro Manila. Todd was a part of this year's traveling team and shared his memories of the trip to Polillio. "We were warned that the boat rides across the channel and between the islands would be extremely rough this time of the year. Then the day came and it was perfectly calm! God provided that for us. He also provided those comfortable accommodations and extra special food, just at intervals when we needed a little pampering. It's not easy commuting from place to place on winding roads, sometimes eating the same food over and over, then playing basketball in the hot sun."

Later in the conversation, Todd recalled, "Oh, and a big blessing for us? The plane ride home! We were thankful for the Flying Medical Samaritans and their flying ministry."

ISLAND REMEMBERANCES

By Barbara Pace

From 1985 to 1993 my husband Harv and I served on PMA staff in Micronesia. Much of Harv's time was in the air as he was one of their pilots. He also had his A&P license. When he wasn't flying, his hands were usually inside the plane repairing something, or doing routine maintenance. I served as administrative secretary in the offices of Edmund and Nob Kalau. As Harv was busy with the planes, I was occupied with computer keys, keeping a handle on PMA's correspondence, and writing stories for Island Echoes.

One recent evening I sat in my home in Hawaii and sifted through literally hundreds of our photos and momentos. The pictures, taken on the islands of Yap, Ulithi, Kosrae, Pohnpei, Pingelap, and Mokil, told many stories. And that night I spent several hours remembering.

I came across a Christmas greeting, reminiscent of significant ways the Lord had used us, His servants, to draw others to Himself. An Air Force officer formerly based in Micronesia in the late 1980s wrote this: "Dear Harvey and Barbara,

First and foremost, having completed my command (of Air Force responsibilities), last June my family relocated. My command (in Micronesia) was wonderful and I am so thankful to have had a chance to serve my country in the Pacific.

Again, I want to personally express my appreciation for what you folks meant to me, and to our CAT (Civic Action Team) members and their families. Second, and most importantly, my executive officer led me to the Lord and I accepted Jesus as my personal Savior last summer, prior to my departure from the battalion. It was just a culmination of seeing sincere Christians in action that convicted my heart. Harvey, flying with you, riding as your co-pilot in your Beechcraft, was a part of that. You are true servants of the Lord and such positive influences on all you meet. May God truly bless you all, your ministry and all the lovely people we have come to know in Micronesia. -Dennis"

Those days in Micronesia held hours of correspondence, keeping in touch with people around the globe, about PMA plans and projects. They included a log of routine flight hours interspersed with dramatic and perilous emergency medical flights. And to ones looking for significance and meaning to life, God used those times to show His love. God so faithfully walked with us, we saw His hand in many ways, and we grew in His love, and our total dependence upon His wisdom.

Sadly, in December 1997, Harv was killed in a corporate plane crash in Ohio, close to where we lived at the time. Several months later, I moved to Hawaii, where Harv and I had planned to relocate together. God has given me new assignments. As you read this, I'm in Micronesia for seven weeks, working and writing. More than ever, I find God's faithfulness and His direction so vital in my life.



Barbara Pace today



Harv and Barbara with some Ulithi friends

MORE THAN A BAPTISM

By Melinda R. Espinosa

It was a beautiful day. The ocean was calm and the sun warmed everyone—as the joy of togetherness and love warmed the fellowship of families and friends. They had gathered to witness a very special event in the lives of twelve believers, as they planned to follow the Lord in water baptism. Among those who made this decision were four cousins: Keno, Krista, CJ and Anne Misajon. The Bible says, "Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not turn from it." (Prov. 22:6) CJ and Anne were reared in love and admonition of the Lord—by their parents, as well as "Mamang Annie" (PMA missionary, Annie Del Rosario). Their parents had to work, and being away from home and family (i. e. Filipinos working in Palau), Mamang Annie became their resident Mom and took care of the children. She saw them, not only taking their first walking steps — but most especially, their first steps in faith as young children, when they prayed to receive Jesus Christ into their lives. Time flies. Now teen-agers, they are excelling in school, as well as growing in their faith and are active in church activities. Anne already helps in Sunday school and in other activities with the young children. It's indeed a joy to see children continuing in their faith walk. Pray for all the children that we minister to: that God will continue to keep them safe, pure, and growing in His grace and knowledge of Him.



The Misajons, from left to right: Keno, Krista (Bebot and Gina's), CJ and Anne (Totong and Milay's)

BACK AT THE OFFICE

By Edna Ranada

I prayed for the medical team as they flew out to accomplish much for the Lord. Though I was in the Manila office, I received the reports from Bong, our FMS pilot trainee. God granted great weather, protected the airplane, and the volunteers were able to serve 464 patients!

You see, before a team's departure, my responsibility is to order and organize medications, and to keep the statistics on the outreach. The doctors need enough medications to go around, yet they don't really know what the ailments will be.



Fred and Edna Ranada (Fred serves as Chief Aircraft Mechanic)

The routine supply is for infections, nutrition deficiencies, common colds, flu, and allergies. But the airplane can carry only so many passengers and the right amount of supplies, so it won't be overloaded. Through the years, God has taught me much about planning. We are always amazed at how He utilizes, and sometimes stretches, what we have sent. I pray for those patients, especially those that do not know the Lord yet. I pray that our pastors will continue to befriend these people and show them God's love in action.