

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Pacific Missionary Aviation

TREASURES OF THE NILE

By Pia Kaufmann

Pyramids, Camels and Crocodiles, life can really be dangerous in Egypt! But the children were not afraid at all. 80 brave Micronesian children came along on our adventurous Vacation Bible School (VBS) to explore the "Treasures of the Nile." And boy, did we find great treasures!

God plans: We discovered how God was a part of all the historical Bible stories. For example we learned that **God had a plan** with the difficulties that Joseph faced when he was sent to Egypt. His brothers thought to harm him, but God meant it for good. God is always in control.

God sees: We learned that **God saw** the Israelites crying out in slavery and that He sees us today. He promised: *"The eyes of the LORD are on the righteous and his ears are attentive to their cry."* *Psalm 34:1* What a great encouragement! We rejoiced to see how eager the kids were to learn their daily Bible verses. One verse became the theme verse of the VBS week: *"Not by might nor by power, but by my Spirit, says the LORD Almighty."* *Zechariah 4:6*

God empowers: God didn't just empower Moses when he went and spoke-up in front of the Pharaoh. He also empowered lots of helpers to do a wonderful job during VBS. We had beautiful background paintings, well organized and prepared crafts, snacks, games, puppet skits, mimes and of course precious Bible lessons for each of the five days during July 4-



ON THE COVER: VBS children in "Egyptian" headdress.

ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of the Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA), and is printed quarterly by PMA's Good News Press on the island of Pohnpei in the Federated States of Micronesia.

III Quarter 2005

Visit our website:
www.pmafms.org

Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) is incorporated as a non-profit Christian mission organization by the Government of Guam, Territory of the United States. All donations are tax-deductible under section 501c(3). **PMA** is governed by a Board of Trustees. The business office is located in Guam and a field office in Pohnpei. **PMA** is incorporated in the Philippines under **Flying Medical Samaritans (FMS)** with its office in Manila. Please direct business correspondence for **FMS** to our business office in Guam.

For additional information,
please contact:

Pacific Missionary Aviation
P.O. Box 3209
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

Phone: (671) 646-6464
Fax: (671) 649-6066
Email: pmaguam@pmafms.org

Field address in Pohnpei is:

Pacific Missionary Aviation
P.O. Box 517
Pohnpei, FM 96941

Phone: (691) 320-2496
Fax: (691) 320-2592
Email: pmapohnpei@mail.fm

8. Lots of work was accomplished by everyone. It is true, God turns "Zeros" into "Heroes"... for anyone who is willing... Moses and you!

God acts and God saves: When we revealed the beautiful treasure that **God acts**, the kids really came to understand that the Lamb sacrificed, didn't just save the lives of the Israelites that night, but more so was a precious preview of our Passover lamb - Jesus Christ - who died to save our lives. The kids didn't just walk through the re-enactment of the Red Sea, but 15 kids left their old lives back in Egypt



Humphrey and Niles with Pia.

and walked into freedom with Jesus Christ. It was amazing to be a witness of God's acting and saving not just in the Bible times, but also today at VBS in Pohnpei. We were blessed to help children pray and to entrust their lives to God, who surely loved to save them. *"The Lord is not slow in keeping His promise, as some understand slowness. He is patient with you, not wanting anyone to perish, but everyone to come to repentance."* *2 Peter 3:9*

The kids and all the helpers loved the Bible action songs we learned during VBS. Humphrey and Niles, our crocodile and camel mascots, led us in our singing and skits. The children practiced diligently to present a musical presentation the following Sunday for the parents and relatives.

Thanks so much to all the helpers, prayer partners and especially the PMF Youth who provided much of the needed energy and the excitement to make this summer event into what it turned out to be: a **Big Success!** But the biggest "thank you" we need to send to God, a God who never changes. A God who plans, sees, empowers, acts, and saves: The greatest treasure, anyone could ever discover.



VBS children with teachers and volunteers.

A CHARGE TO KEEP... A GOD TO GLORIFY!

By Pastor Charles Wright

In John 15:16, Jesus was talking to all believers when He said, “. . . You did not choose me but I chose you and appointed you, that ye should go and bear fruit . . . “. Pastor Charles G. Wright and his wife Stephanie, who live in Waterloo, Iowa, heard the Lord’s first *charge to keep*. And it was to go . . . go to the Philippines, that is. They recently traveled over 9,000 air miles from Iowa to Manila, the headquarters of Flying Medical Samaritans (FMS), Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA), Philippines.

The Lord’s second *charge to keep* was to “bear fruit”. Together they have already begun to show Christ’s love to the many church people of the FMS stations at Naujan, Katakian, Patnanungan, Jomalig and also, to Manila’s FMS staff. The Lord had chosen and ordained them to do this at their very first meeting with FMS missionaries Captain/Pilot Malcolm Cleope and his wife Mary back in Iowa, in September 2004, when the Cleopes were home on furlough.



Arriving in Katakian

Stephanie was the first to receive Christ’s revelation to go. And soon after, Pastor Charles also realized that same vision and commission. His decision soon exceeded desire and became a passion—a purpose and a passion to glorify God in the Philippines!

Charles and Stephanie have been married since 1972. They have two

married daughters who have given their parents three grandchildren.

Presently, Pastor Charles is a United States Postal Service supervisor. He also helps shepherd a church in Waterloo, Iowa. Stephanie is an Assistant United States Attorney, and she also ministers at the church. Both Wrights are also licensed private pilots.

Jesus has said, “Go.” So, when the Wrights retire from their government jobs, they plan to go into full-time ministry. Please pray that the Lord’s “charges for them to keep” will be to continue to glorify God through the ministries of PMA. Through Christ, this can be done . . . “not by might, nor by power, but by My Spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” Zechariah 4:6.

A WOMAN’S PERSPECTIVE

By Stephanie J. Wright

What touched me the most deeply about our visit to the Philippines was the love the people have for those who come to visit. At each location we visited, the people had eagerly anticipated our arrival. They really appreciated us.

I was moved to tears to see children waiting for our small plane to land. They were so happy that we had come to see them! The children who lived at the orphanage and waited to be adopted, especially touched me. We trust and believe God for miraculous happenings in the life of each of these small ones.

At each mission station, the pastors, their wives and the workers must be commended for their daily obedience to God. It is apparent that they are making great sacrifices to serve in these remote island areas. The preaching and teaching of God’s Word, teaching the people to pray, and being loving examples to them will not go unrewarded in this life, or in the life to come.

Finally, we are grateful to the FMS team in Manila, our launching pad team. We’re thankful for these dedicated workers serving “behind the scenes” to be sure that each outlying mission station is functioning for the glory of God. We thank God for you, too, who uphold these men and women in prayer and through your faithful giving!



Boat ride to Patnanungan



Pastor Charles and Stephanie Wright

NEW BEGINNING - MINO'S STORY

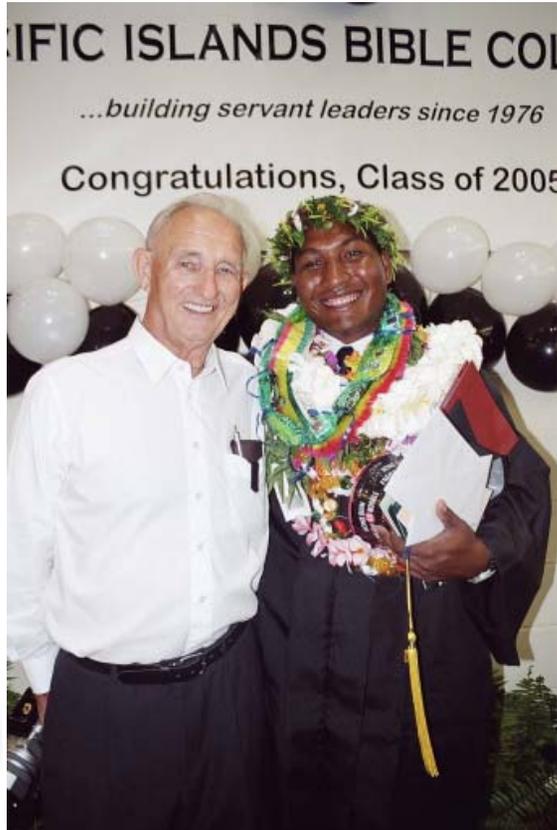
By Melinda R. Espinosa

“... being confident of this, that He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus.” Phil 1:6

May 11, 2000, was a very significant day in the life of Belarmino Fagolur (Mino). This was a day that he dreamed and prayed for. He knew that only by the grace of God this could happen. It was his graduation from Bible school. He received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Biblical Studies.

Mino was born and raised on the atoll of Woleai, a group of outer-islands 400 miles from Yap proper, Federated States of Micronesia. In 1989, Mino left his island to pursue high school at the Outer-Island High School, in Ulithi atoll. After high school, he went on to enroll at the Community College of Micronesia in Yap for a year. After that, he just hung around and let each day pass by without purpose and meaning.

In 1996 a Korean mission group visited their village in Madrich. They asked him if he could help them go around the island and translate the message they were bringing. While translating the Gospel message, the Lord opened his heart and he realized that he was a sinner and in need of a Savior. He realized that it was only Jesus who could put meaning and purpose in his life. And so he placed his trust in the Lord Jesus Christ. When asked if he would like to join them, he readily said “Yes”. He returned to Woleai to ask permission from his parents. His father did not want him to go. The family was against this new “religion” that he was involved in. When he did not give up his newly found faith, he was no longer welcome in his home. He then decided to join the Korean missionaries in their mission endeavors. This took him to Palau, Malaysia,



Guest Speaker Pastor Edmund Kalau with Mino

Indonesia, Philippines, Papua New Guinea and Korea. In all these travels, he felt God's direction and His strength. God gave him the confidence and boldness to witness and share his faith. However, he realized that he needed to know more about the Bible and equip himself and so he prayed to go to Bible School. God provided his support and so he enrolled at a Bible School in Guam. While in the Bible School, he struggled with school and ministry, trying to find focus and balance. This was resolved when on his second year he was introduced to PMA's church ministry – Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) on Guam. During his weekly Sunday visits, he felt the Lord call him to be involved in PMF. As he served with PMA/PMF, he realized that his vision to one day go back to his family and his own people to share with them the Gospel message of the Lord, was a vision that PMA already had. It was an answer to prayer!

God works in mysterious ways. His ways are higher than our ways. As Mino began his internship with PMF Guam, God brought Woleai to him. Many Woleaian children, youth and families attend PMF worship services, Kids and Youth Klub – hence it was natural for Mino to minister among them. He finds himself occupied during the week in visiting and conducting Bible studies. At first, three homes were open to him. Lately two more homes opened for him to teach the Word of God. Each home includes extended families of an average of ten members each. God has his work cut out for Mino. God also gave him the desire of his heart. After graduation, PMA sent him to Yap, first to accompany a medical team, and second for him to have a vacation and spend time with his family. He was truly excited – he had been away for ten years! It was a great reunion with his family. The greatest joy for him was that his mom has been attending the Bible study and fellowship led by John Malimai! God is good!



PMF family with Mino

MEDICAL MISSION TRIP TO YAP

By Dr. Mark Weber

In May (16th to the 28th of 2005), a medical mission team from the International Medical Mentoring Program (IMMP) of Grove City College visited the islands of Woleai, Fais, and Ulithi. Drs. M. Hagen and M. Weber provided medical instruction and service to the nationals and resident health care providers in the islands. The team divided into two groups in order to serve more needs.

Before engaging in clinical work, the team met with village leaders and chiefs to develop strategies and educational programs which would address the most pressing medical needs of their respective communities. Our efforts remained central in meeting the immediate needs while developing strategies to prevent reoccurrence of preventable pathologies through education, behavior modification and good hygiene.

Our days on the islands began at about 6:30 a.m. The team traveled to and set up clinic at a remote site, from about 8:00 to 5:00 or as long as there were patients to be seen. A short break of 20 minutes was taken for lunch. The clinics were located in very rural areas of the islands where there was limited medical care. The remainder of the evening was spent eating dinner, reviewing clinic cases and teaching. Without fail the evening hours were interrupted by emergency patient visits and Q & A associated with medical practice.



Dr. Weber and students evaluate a patient with knee pain.

One night we showed the film, "The Passion of Christ", followed by a basic explanation and message. The invitation to accept Christ was met with open hearts by at least 75 people. Nightly walks along the beach presented opportunities to continue the medical education and engage many more people into thoughtful reflection of a personal relationship with Christ. Several more came to Christ in the early morning or late

night hours, as our Lord was working mightily to meet the needs of the Yapese.

The IMMP seeks to augment the needs of missionaries and the populations they minister to in the underserved areas of the world. We were truly blessed to have the opportunity to meet and come along side of Peter and Esther Reichert and Big John. We lost count of the numbers of nationals served and those that came to the Lord. But then again, God is not into the numbers business. Angels rejoice with each one who decides to dedicate their heart to Christ.

Thank you very much for extending the courtesy and privilege of allowing the IMMP to participate in this medical community program as an extension program of GCC.

CHOICES

By John Malimai

We had prayed and planned for the medical trip to Woleai. The day was fast approaching, only to find out that the day after our planned departure; my two daughters would be graduating: Leilani from High School and Lakisha from Head Start. What must I do? I was torn. I prayed to God to show me what to



The medical team and translators with Pastor John Malimai.

do, I felt God wanted me in Woleai. My daughter confirmed God's answer: "Daddy, it is okay with me if you miss my graduation."

Everyone on the team was excited. We thank God for safe flight and landing in Woleai. The first day we arrived, we settled in, and unpacked everything to be ready for the days ahead. People were already coming around asking when we would be starting. I knew it would be a busy week for all of us.

The team worked long and hard, my task was to translate for the islanders and the team. It became very clear to me why the Lord wanted me in Woleai with the team. I would not have been able to impact so many of them, had I not been with the team. The best part was at the end of every examination. After the prescription was given, it was a delight to hear from the doctors and medical students, "but the best medicine is prayer." Before we



The medical team evaluating a newborn while obtaining information from the mother.

prayed, we would present the Gospel. Many times, I would translate the prayers as most of the patients did not speak English. It was a joy to see that many were receptive and open to the Word of God. Of course there were many who made fun of us praying for them, but I had the confidence that God's Word does not come back to Him empty and it will accomplish what it was sent out to do. The seed was planted; God will take care of the growth. Few others sincerely



Dr. Weber explains the Physical Exam of the abdomen to two students in an evaluation of lower abdominal pain.

prayed to accept Jesus as Lord and Savior, however, when followed up, they did not want others to see them talking to me. I pray in time they will have the courage to stand for their faith.

An important part of my stay in Woleai was being able to follow up those who were part of the different Bible study groups I conduct in Yap proper. It was a joy to be in fellowship with them and a great encouragement to me that they

continued to be faithful in reading the Bible and sharing the Word with family and friends.

We had an evangelistic night where we showed "The Passion of Christ". So many people watched the movie for the first time. Dr. Mark Webber preached after the film and I translated for him. When we gave the invitation, almost everyone came forward with their hands raised to pray and receive the Lord Jesus Christ. Many stayed back for counseling. I had the opportunity of talking to many of them. Praise God for the blessing that night.

Because our time was short and limited, two days were given to Falolop, Woelai's main island. We accepted major concerns first and served others as time permitted. For our third day, we combined the islands of Wottegai and Seliap. The fourth day was an outreach to Tegailap. Our last outreach was on the island of Falalis. Although the Team worked long hours, we were not able to see everyone. But for such a short time, we accomplished so much. It was no surprise for me then, that just as I hesitated to leave Yap, I now had the same feeling leaving Woleai. The thought that I would be back in Woleai soon gave me encouragement. It is my prayer that those who made decisions for Christ, would continue in their spiritual walk and growth. Please pray for them.



Dr. Weber explaining the ECG of a patient with arrhythmia to the American student and Woleaian translator, (a medical officer on one of the islands). The patient came to the clinic complaining of chest pain. The trip provided excellent opportunities to teach several medical officers on various islands.

TEACH THE CHILDREN TEACHER TRAINING IN PALAU

"And whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes Me." Matt. 18:5



Trainees learning to teach

How does one lead a child to develop a personal relationship with the Lord Jesus Christ? If you're a Sunday school teacher, how do you sustain a learner's attention? How do you make the lessons interesting and effective?

With a goal of equipping Sunday school teachers to effectively reach and teach children, Helga Pichlmann, an Austrian from Child Evangelism Fellowship (CEF), conducted a training seminar entitled: "Teach the Children" on May 15 – 20. The venue was PMA's multi-purpose room. Thirty-five men and women attended the seminar, composed of members of PMA's mission church: Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) and representatives from two local churches. Helga emphasized the great responsibility an adult believer has in teaching and explaining the Word of God to children, and more importantly to set a good example in applying the Word of God in their lives.

The trainees were taught how to prepare and teach a Bible lesson, different ways to effectively teach the memory verse and songs, how to share the Gospel and counsel a child, and the importance of teaching and evangelizing children. It was a great time of learning and encouragement. Everyone was challenged with the great task of reaching and impacting the next generation.