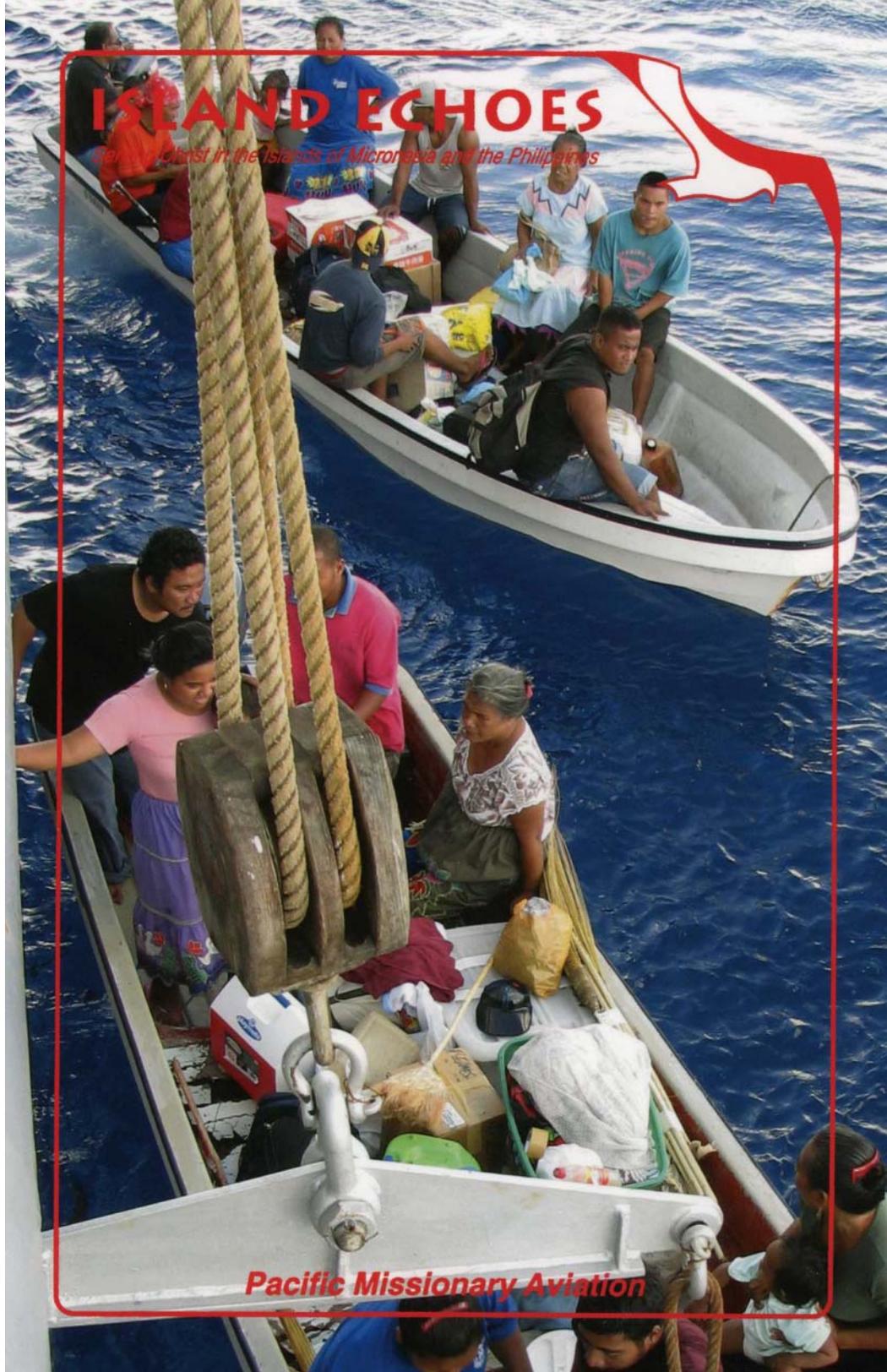


# ISLAND ECHOES

*Service in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines*



*Pacific Missionary Aviation*

## Transportation in Micronesia

by Roland Weibel



*Roland Weibel  
Volunteer in Pohnpei*

After my studies in computer science at an university in Switzerland, I wanted to do something totally different than what I had learned. I was tired of sitting in an office behind a computer and wanted to explore the world. So I came to the island of Pohnpei in March 2005 to serve for 10 weeks as a volunteer with Pacific Missionary Aviation. Even though the Swiss are known to be punctual and decisive, I have extended my stay here in Pohnpei already three times and don't have a plan to leave yet. I have found mission work to have a lot of variety and interesting challenges. I'm always finding a new thing to do or a project/assignment to improve on for the mission. Mostly, I help with construction projects, but there is a lot of work in the office for me as well. For my vacation break, I traveled via the government ship to Mokil and Pingelap, both outer islands of Pohnpei, as well as to the island of Kosrae, to experience ocean-going island travel. Here's what I saw and experienced:

Pohnpei, February 21, 06:00 PM. The Caroline Voyager, the inter-island passenger and cargo vessel, is ready to sail into the Pacific Ocean. A couple of hundred passengers are on board, most of them are going to visit their relatives on the islands of Mokil and Pingelap. Since there is not enough space, passengers can be found anywhere on the ship; on the cargo hatches, on the deck, in the stern or sleeping on the floor of the cabin aisles. The deck is loaded with bags of rice, boxes of instant food, tools, generators, bicycles, containers with clothes and many other goods. The passengers bring these to their relatives living on the outer islands, since there are no container ships going there.

### ISLAND ECHOES

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**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.

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*The Caroline Voyager at the island of Mokil. Passengers and cargo are hauled with small boats.*

After one night of sailing, the Caroline Voyager arrives at the island of Mokil. The ship stays outside the reef, because like all outer islands, there is no dock; the only way to go on land is by small boat. In addition to the luggage carried on board by passengers, there is more cargo in the holds below the hatches. With the help of the ship's cranes, construction materials such as cement, lumber, tin, pipes and hollow blocks are being off-loaded into the small boats. On the shore, there are no cranes available; everything has to be off-loaded manually. Therefore, the hauling of passengers and cargo is a lot of work and can take many long hours. The same day, the Caroline Voyager departs to Pingelap and to our last destination: Kosrae Island.

After one week in Kosrae, discovering the island on foot and by bicycle, my journey takes me back to Pingelap and Mokil. Returning to Pohnpei, the passengers bring lots of local food from the outer islands: bananas, coconuts and crabs. Sometimes, crabs escape out of the woven rice bags and run around on the deck. An important source of income for the people of the outer islands is to raise pigs and sell them in Pohnpei. That's why there are about a dozen pigs in wooden cages on the deck.

In general, the transportation to the outer islands of Micronesia is slow and unreliable. It takes a ship several days or even a week to travel to a distant outer island and back. In case of a medical emergency, help by ship usually comes too late. That's why flying is an important means of transportation in these islands. A distance that takes a ship one week can be flown within a few hours.

In the islands of Yap, PMA offers medical evacuations by airplane without charge. For routine medical services such as dental treatment and eye surgeries, the medical ship "Sea Haven" offers free medical help in the outer islands.

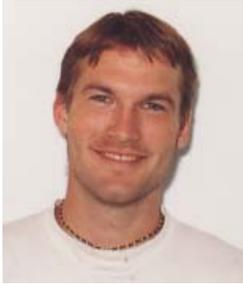
I'm very thankful to be able to work with Pacific Missionary Aviation, which offers these invaluable services to the remote islands of Micronesia and I thank God for all the people supporting us at PMA: in praying, giving and serving.



*Passengers in Pingelap are getting ready to go back onboard the Caroline Voyager.*

## New Pilot/Mechanic shares from His Journal

by Amos Collins



*Amos Collins  
Pilot/Mechanic*

When I joined Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) in the summer of 2004, I was recruited for a pilot/mechanic position in the Philippines. Like all new aviation missionaries, I was

first temporarily assigned to Yap Island in Micronesia where I would receive initial training and, eventually, a final check-out by our Chief Pilot and Director of Flight Operations, Peter Reichert. That August, I arrived on Yap and began working as an aviation mechanic in the hangar. Here I also had the chance to co-pilot with Peter on many flights to service Micronesia's outer islands. This "hands on" experience and "working in the field" has helped me begin to learn the disciplines and techniques that PMA personnel have developed over many years. There was also an additional need for me to remain in Yap for my first term: to assist with the overhauling of a twin-engine Britten-Norman Islander aircraft. It would be good to complete this project. I had also come to PMA with low flight time, and this extended stay, would give Peter and me more time in the air, so I could accumulate more flight experience.

In March 2005, Peter was about to leave on a brief six-week furlough. He suggested that since there would be no flights during that time, it would be an excellent opportunity for me to visit PMA's Philippines ministry. This was also where I had originally been recruited for. My visit proved to be a great experience.

When I first arrived in the Philippines, we had several flights to mission stations on different islands. The aircraft we used for those flights was a BN-2A Islander, which is the same aircraft I'd been helping to rebuild in Yap. So I really appreciated seeing that aircraft in action. Malcolm Cleope, the missionary in charge of FMS, immersed me in the routine procedures of flying in and out of Manila, and the outer islands. We had several flights, so Malcolm showed me different routes each time, always discussing with me the weather concerns that would determine which route to take. Sometimes the pilot flies high until nearing his destination, and then does a steady, yet steep descent before landing. Other times, one is forced to fly much lower, to avoid thunderstorm cells.

Some of the highlights: We transported sacks of rice to the remote island of Jomalig; on the return flight we brought back a team that had been gone for a week performing medical outreach. On another trip, we flew south to the FMS Bahay Kalinga Orphanage in Mindoro, where we took an American couple who were about to meet their newly adopted son for the first time!

PMA Philippines has also planted Pacific Mission Fellowship churches. One such church was established in Katakian Island. The airstrip on that island was not safe for landing, hence, from Jomalig, we crossed the ocean with a powered outrigger canoe. This boat trip usually takes us an hour over semi-rough seas. This was an adventure, for sure. Here we visited the Bonggoyans our PMF pastor and his wife.

And last, my favorite experience had to be an outreach, which we held for the Jomalig Island people. We transported our eye doctor, Dr. John Escote, his assistant, and a den-

tist with her assistant. In addition to the professionals, four mission staff, including myself, filled other positions as needed. Some wrote prescriptions that the dentist ordered; others assisted by reloading syringes with new needles and the necessary anesthesia. All of the tools needed to be sterilized after every use and one of our mechanics handled that responsibility. I became the "pharmacist" who dispensed free medicine as I received needed prescriptions from the doctors. The dentist methodically worked on four patients at a time. She would start at one end, and would give a shot of anesthesia to each of the four patients. By the time she returned to the first patient, the anesthesia was in effect, and she could do the extrac-

tion. Handling things so efficiently, in 5 or 6 hours she was able to accomplish over 50 extractions. I was impressed! Although many times the procedure may have been painful, I'm sure the islanders were very grateful. It was heartwarming to see these dedicated physicians and dentists (who most likely are accustomed to working in an air-conditioned, sterile environment), sweating profusely as they examined patients in someone's yard, while other patients quietly waited in lawn chairs nearby. While we were setting up this temporary office for the doctors and dentist, our pastor—with the help of a loudspeaker—was able to share the gospel message to ev-

eryone around. Seeds were planted, and hopefully some will "take root". Our prayer as the islanders see the love of Christ in action, is that they too may experience His incredible love.

Another enjoyable aspect of this trip was getting to know our PMA Philippines mission staff that work diligently and faithfully at our office/hangar. Fred, head aircraft mechanic, allowed me to work with him occasionally to complete the annual inspection on one of our Islander aircraft there. I also enjoyed trying to speak Tagalog, the primary language of the Philippines, and I'm convinced that the staff enjoyed listening to me try. By the

end of my stay, I had received a good "hands on" insight into many of the different aspects of flying in the Philippines. Praise God, too, that we can provide medical and dental service to these people, and for the volunteer physicians, who donate their time and skills to help the people.

In these six weeks, I was able to meet our staff and other professional people in the Philippines, tackle much paperwork, and experience and learn so much. By the time you read this account, I will have returned to my responsibilities in Yap. And I thank God for this inspiring and worthwhile time!



*The hangar crew in Yap: Amos and Neil (top),  
Peter, Tommy and Simon (bottom)*

## “The Bible is a Cool Book!”

Stories from Palau Mission Station by the PMA Palau Team

“Says who?” So say the members of the PMA Children’s Achievers’ Club and a dude name “Zachary Zuwiky”. The musical presentation held at the Kalau Youth Gym, delighted and greatly blessed those watching the program.

The hidden talents of the children were brought out through the guidance of our pastor’s wife, Joy Balayo. Joy and her assistant patiently and lovingly worked with the children and taught them what a cool book the Bible is through song and dance. By having fun, the children learned that the Bible contains more than rules to live by; it is a book full of radical stories, cool dudes, and major babes.

Through the unique character of Zachary (Ken Uyehara), the children found out how great God’s love is. Although the Achievers thought Zachary was a bit too much, they knew that Zachary was doing his best to sing in tune and dance to the beat. Really he was!

We pray that the experience of doing this presentation has made a difference in their daily lives as they take the lessons of the Bible to heart. We pray that knowing the goodness of God is helping them with situations they encounter, peer pressure they are faced with daily and relationships they are building. What a blessing their presentation was to all. We are already anticipating the next one.

We thank God for the parents who supported this ministry and allowed their children to attend the many rehearsals. We are blessed by our young people: Keno and CJ, for their expertise in making Zachary look like a real teenager! The “bling blings” and spiked hair surely made a difference. It was a joy to experience the body of Christ in unity as each one helped in many ways, in setting up the stage and lighting, in providing the food that evening, in attending the program and showing support. We give all the honor and praise to God for the great things He has done in our midst.



*Kids at the PMA Children’s Achievers’ Club at the PMF Church in Palau.*

## Thorsten the Servant

by PMA Palau Team

Decades ago the Germans were in Palau as colonists and administrators. They were here to be served and had very defined objectives. A few months ago, a German son returned to Palau with very different motives: he came to serve the Palauans and help the missionaries.



*Thorsten (left) with his PMA family in Palau.*

When Thorsten first arrived in Palau, communication was a challenge. He spoke very little English and no Tagalog or Palauan. We, of course, spoke no German. With God’s grace and persistence, we were barely able to exchange basic ideas. It was the language of computers that was the first breakthrough. Thorsten had a way with computers. With his help the church was able to get a computer lab up and running. In a short time there were classes for MS Word, Excel, and Power Point. Computers were being used by students for all kinds of tasks. Another area that Thorsten was able to make progress in, was basketball. He was a natural. He may not have had much experience but he had heart and drive. Thorsten made many friends and earned the respect from his team mates as he played on the basketball team. There were many jobs around PMA that Thorsten was involved in. It was amazing that in a few weeks he was beginning to take charge of some of the projects: repairing the road and pouring a cement sidewalk going around the Church / Youth Center. I remember someone saying at his farewell party that they saw Thorsten working hard and they were embarrassed. He as a guest was working hard and motivated our Church family to work harder. His English was still difficult to understand but we all knew what he wanted to do. We even began to joke around with him.

Thorsten has one year left of seminary school in Switzerland, and is not yet sure what he is going to do when he is done. The day before he was to leave he kept saying he still had lots of work to do before he could go, and he was busy until he left... a true servant’s heart.



## Baby “Jun”

by Mary Cleope

It was a typical day for a medical outreach at Patnanungan, Quezon Province. A makeshift clinic was set up in the Pacific Mission Fellowship church; Dr. John Escote set about interviewing the patients and determining the best plan back to health. Many families sat patiently in the waiting area, eager to take their turn. A visiting team from the US willingly carried out their duties on the side, checking in patients, screening, and assisting in the pharmacy.

Patnanungan is a village in the Polillio Islands, which lies in the Pacific Ocean on the eastern edge of the Philippines. There are 11 small islands there, with an unmistakable lack of medical professionals and facilities. If a rural health worker is assigned to these places, they quickly depart for lack of pay and severe isolation.



*Katakian Island*



*Melanie, a home health nurse volunteers in the Philippines*

Melanie was the first to meet a quiet young mother bringing in her baby “Jun”. Melanie is a friend of FMS, a home health nurse and mother visiting for a week from the US. On this day, she was assigned to the screening process, providing the initial blood pressure check to the patients. This tiny baby boy was frail and sleepy. Signs of dehydration were apparent and Melanie asked the mother if she needed some fluids at home. The baby was given some sips of “Gatorade” and Melanie gave extra for the family as they waited. The mother was very quiet; the look of concern in her eyes spoke volumes. She waited quietly as the day came to an end, and the patients were told to return in the morning. Melanie reminded her to get more Gatorade if she wanted and the mother quickly accepted. Melanie had a burden for Jun; she hoped that the mother would be back the next day. This young lady seemed inexperienced in caring for the child and it was evident that lack of funds was an issue. It was found out later that the family had walked 5 hours to attend this outreach.

The next morning Jun and his mother showed up early and saw the doctor immediately. Dr. John said without hesitation, “This baby needs an I.V. TODAY!” He knew it was urgent and possibly life threatening. Melanie asked how much it would cost for a round trip boat ride to Jomalig, another village that had a small clinic with I.V. equipment. \$20.00. (This was probably more than half of the family’s monthly income.) Melanie graciously provided the funds, and by God’s grace, the visiting US group was already planning to go to Jomalig later that morning.

Members of the Pacific Mission Fellowship church in Jomalig met up with the family at the clinic, provided them a place to sleep, and reported back that the baby was recovering well after a few days. Thank the Lord!

A week later, after the family returned to their home village, our own Pastor Ed followed up with them to see how they were doing. He

was happy to observe the baby doing very well. While he was visiting, he shared with the parents about the saving grace of Jesus. They decided to give their lives to the Lord.

*“Blessed are the meek, for they shall inherit the earth.” Matt 5:5*

This is an excerpt from Melanie’s next e-mail: “How awesome is our Lord when he works in ways you can’t even imagine.....Please, if you have a chance, let the young couple know they are in my prayers daily. Meeting this family has been such an overwhelming joy for me. I have a better understanding of what it means to be the hands and feet of Jesus. I thank God everyday for the extraordinary power He has. To hear of all the goodness that is coming from our trip, it seems to strengthen the bond between two worlds that seem so far apart....”

*“For the Son of Man has come to seek and to save that which has been lost.” Luke 19:10*



*Melanie makes a difference in baby Jun’s life.*

## A Donkey for the King

by Sylvia Kalau

At PMA, we put our guests to work! Peter Bossert, from Bern, Switzerland first came to PMA two years ago. Helping in Guam with all facets of church work, kids club and computer challenges gave him a love for the island people and a desire to visit the other islands of Micronesia someday.

In 2006 this desire became a reality as Peter flew to Yap and experienced our aviation and church planting ministry there. Years before, he had joined PMA's prayer for an outer island church. Now on Yap he was able to worship with the outer island church meeting in PMA's airplane hangar.

On Pohnpei, he arrived as we were in the thick of preparing for Palm Sunday and Eas-

ter programs. Pia Kaufmann, our children's missionary, wanted to make a life-size donkey to ride into Jerusalem for Palm Sunday. Peter with his engineering skills stepped right up to help. He used chicken wire and Elmers glue dilution to create a donkey that amazed the children and delighted the parents.

Servant hearts come in all different shapes and sizes, Peter's desire is to help missionaries do their jobs better.

At PMA, we appreciate that attitude and have learned many things from our guest volunteers. As on that Palm Sunday long ago in Jerusalem... God always seems to send the right person at the right time to bring what is needed.



*Pia Kaufmann and Peter Bossert with their donkey for the Palm Sunday program.*

## Give Us This Day Our Daily Bread

A Testimony of God's Faithfulness by Melinda R. Espinosa

A friend of mine once asked me, "Why does God always answer my prayers at the last minute?" As I pondered that question, and looked back at how God worked in my life and in Pacific Missionary Aviation, I realized that God was not a "last minute" God. He always answers on time. Our time and God's timing is different. And He always knows what is best.

Prayer has always been a very important part of my life. And it has been more so during my 19 years serving with PMA as Chief Finance Officer. As a mission, we are so dependent on the obedience of God's people to faithfully give toward the support of our missionaries and ministries. Hence, praying for our partners has been a high priority for me – not only that they will continue to give, but more importantly that the Lord will give them the joy of giving, that they may be blessed as they continue to be God's channel of blessings. Sometimes I would jokingly tell God – "Why don't You just provide for the monthly needs of PMA? Why do I have to ask daily? You know our needs, Lord." But then I realize that asking causes me to be completely dependent on the Lord for all our needs. It keeps me on my knees and in constant communion with God. And most of all, it keeps me obedient, for didn't He Himself teach us how to pray?

Hand in hand with the faithfulness of God and His people, is the responsibility to be an organization of integrity and to be a good steward of what the Lord has provided. We are thankful to our Board of Directors; External Auditor, CPA, ECFA and Internal audits ~ for keeping us accountable and transparent in all our undertakings. Like Paul, we can say: *"We are so glad we can say with utter honesty that in all dealings we have*

*been pure and sincere, quietly depending upon the Lord for His help, and not our own skills."* 2 Cor. 1:12 TLB

The end of our fiscal period showed ever-increasing operating costs. Aviation and Sea Haven ministries were hard hit with increased fuel, insurance and maintenance costs. However, when one looks at the people these ministries has helped, the numbers become insignificant. The next highest cost of 28% is attributed to Church Growth and Evangelism (in Micronesia). This is the heart of all we do. People from all walks of life, of every tongue and nation are being impacted for eternity. The Philippines continues to be our greatest challenge. We have a total of 23 national staff that need to be supported, and multi-faceted ministries to be provided for, such as: aviation, medical, orphanage, learning centers, high school dormitories, and especially the island PMF churches. To fully support the Philippines, we would need \$12,000 a month ~ of which we have fallen short during the fiscal year. Despite this shortfall, we are truly thankful for the many lives that have been touched, healed, rescued and given new life in Christ.

We look forward to the next fiscal period with great anticipation as we do have a great God who is able to do exceedingly, abundantly above what we can think or imagine.

**How Funds Were Used** in the 12 months from June 30, 2004 until June 30, 2005:

Medical Relief & Aviation	38%
Church Growth & Evangelism	28%
Media & Printing	11%
PMA Philippines	10%
Studio	5%
Management & Administration	5%
Fund Raising	2%
Loss from Early Termination of Lease	1%