

Issue 3-2006  
June

# ISLAND ECHOES

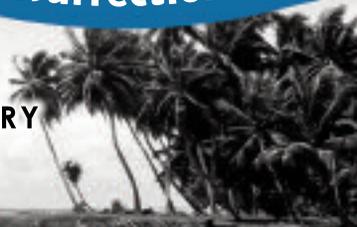
Serving the Lord in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Celebrating Resurrection Day



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Celebrating Easter

# CHOICES

by Sylvia Kalau

CHOICES. . . every minute of every day we find ourselves making choices. Some for our good; some to our detriment. But, the most important choice is one that we must make before we die. The choice is where we will spend eternity. This year our Easter production in Pohnpei revolved around the theme of “Choices in Life” and where they lead us, visualized through choir songs, solos, dances, mimes, a Power-Point presentation, video clips, parables, and shadow-acting. Every night, jam-packed audiences were blessed by the presentations. We held repeated performances each evening from Easter Day until Wednesday night. The 70-member choir was also touched in many ways.

Our program began with the angel Lucifer rebelling against God and making a bold choice to be his own god. Then with a scene from creation, God chooses to make man from the dust of the earth. He also makes him with the ultimate choice: to reject or accept his Creator. White-faced mimes depicted scenes from everyday life, and the choices of one teen who battled against peer pressure.

We appreciated a parable of the destiny of three different trees. The trees stood on the left side of the stage and three crosses on the right. Each tree was cut and each used differently: One as a manger, another, a boat that carried Christ, and the third, the cross that Christ was nailed to when He was crucified. At last, these trees had discovered their purposes, too!

The ultimate choice at the program’s climax was the most touching, as a thief carried his cross through the church and mounted his cross next to Jesus’ cross, behind a red-lighted, shadow-acting screen.



**Thief on the way to the crucifixion scene.**

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**Cover Pictures**  
Baptism in Palau  
Story on page 5.

**Editors**  
Melinda Espinosa  
Sylvia Kalau  
Barbara Pace

Pacific Missionary Aviation  
P.O. Box 3209  
Hagatna, Guam 96932  
Phone: (671) 646-6464  
Fax: (671) 649-6066  
pmaguam@pmafms.org  
<http://www.pmafms.org>

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**PMF Choir performing the Easter Program, “Choices”.**

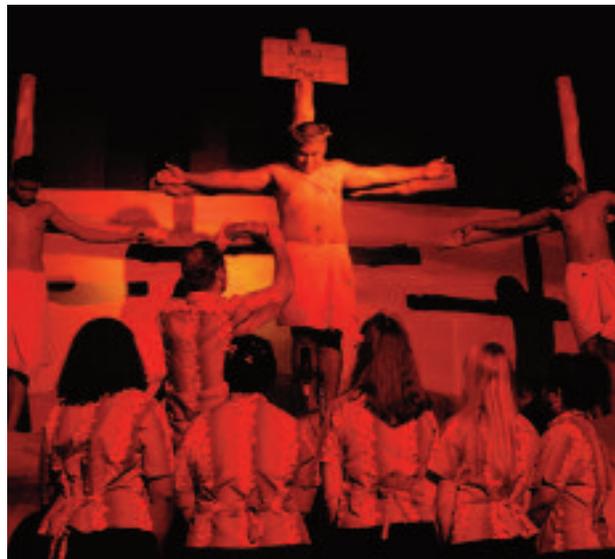


His repentant and humble request for eternal life through Jesus contrasted greatly to the other thief's arrogant refusal of Christ.

The final question was: Which thief will you follow? There were only two choices at Calvary and today, this most important of all choices, God has left up to each one of us. Many tears in the audience testified that God was touching hearts with His amazing love; that the cross is still the picture of God's incredible grace and forgiveness for those who would receive it. At the foot of the cross, communion was shared by choir members as they sang a most-touching tribute, ...on bended knee.

Our director, Nob Kalau, with some input from a few other sources, put this story together in only five weeks, with script writing, choreography, drama and selected music. Roland, our PMA volunteer from Switzerland, devoted many hours to the technical and sound aspects of this program. To our delight, our artists produced a beautiful stage.

There is an intense desire among our church members in Pohnpei - especially the young people - to be involved in plays performed with excellence, and with creative drama and inspiring music. We have all worked long hours together, while believing and praying that the end result would touch many lives. We sit back in amazement at what God can do, if we only step out in faith and give Him our creative minds and able bodies to communicate through word-pictures, music and art, God's wonderful Gospel love story. A choice He indeed desires to bless.



**PMF choir group celebrates communion in front of the crucifixion.**

# Celebrating Resurrection Day

by PMA Palau Team

Ten new believers celebrated Resurrection Day/Easter Sunday this year by following the Lord in water baptism. The site was the warm Pacific Ocean beside the Kalau Gym in the village of Meyuns in Palau. It was a joyous occasion for everyone - what greater way to symbolically show the new life we have in Christ, than through baptism.

Two thousand years ago, Jesus was buried but then rose up from the grave on the third day. To follow Christ's example, Pastor Bambit Balayo immersed these believers in the Pacific and then brought them out of the water. This is a beautiful picture of Christ's death and His resurrection. We were blessed as each believer told how they had given their hearts to the Lord. Two of these, Jonie and Letty, want to share their stories with you... (continued on page 6 and 7).

**Ten baptismal candidates sharing their testimonies in the PMF Church in Palau.**



## SINCE JESUS CAME INTO MY HEART by Jonie

What a wonderful day when I came to know Christ! Christ had no part in my life before. I have now begun to read His Word, something I'd never done before because I had no desire. He gives me joy, especially when I serve Him. And He gives me added strength, so that I rarely feel tired when I'm doing things for Him.

I thank God for the PMA Pacific Mission Fellowship family. They never tired of inviting me to church. My old life was filled with drinking, smoking, womanizing, gambling, and causing plenty of trouble. But the PMA team members never tired of guiding and counseling me, and encouraging me to be accountable. I am so thankful that all of these things are in the past. Christ has forgiven me, and my sins are covered by His blood. Will you pray with me, that He will keep me strong, and growing stronger in Him?

I want my wife and children to experience what I've been given in Christ. Pray that I will continue to be a good role model for them, and that because of the positive change they see in my life, they will turn their hearts to the Lord, too. I can't help but think if PMA had not been here, would I have ever come to know God? Now I understand that I could never live my life without Him.

**Baptismal candidates  
with Pastor Bambit and Pastor Bobong.**



## MY GREATEST TREASURE by Letty

In 1 Corinthians 1:31 we read, "Let him who boasts, boast in the Lord." I came from a very religious family, and was raised in the Philippines. My parents were good parents and I considered them the greatest treasure God could ever give me. But my cheerful life came to an abrupt halt when, at a young age, my father died from heart disease. Like many would, I asked God, "Why did you let this happen? He was a good man, a good father! Why did you take him away from us? What about others who cause others heartbreak and difficulties?"

I angrily cried out, "You are very unfair, God!" I stopped praying and going to church. I avoided my friends. Inside I was filled with anger and hatred. I wanted nothing to do with God.

After my father's untimely death, each of us had to find ways to provide for our family. I was able to come to Palau from my home in the Philippines and worked as a seamstress. This was my first time to be away from my family and I felt terrible loneliness and struggled with homesickness. And so in my desperation, and with nowhere else to go, I turned back to God.

I realized that He'd never left me. He'd been there all along, protecting and guiding me. I recognized that He had a plan for me by bringing me to Palau. Later He even brought my sister to work here, and so I was no longer lonely.

With my sister, we attended some church services. That led me to read God's Word again. But I couldn't understand it. My sister encouraged me to ask the Holy Spirit to help me understand His Word. I did. Still, a personal relationship with Him eluded me and I returned to the Philippines.

Five years later, the Lord opened the door for me to return to Palau. This time, He helped me find fellowship with PMA's church. Through attending their church services and Bible studies, I came to know God more personally. Now I understand why God brought me back. Growing in the Lord's ways enabled me to stand firm with my faith in Jesus. Through the PMF church, I found not only friends, but a second family. They are loving, caring, and understanding, always praying with me through all my life's circumstances. Now I understand clearly that I am a child of God and that nothing can separate me from His love.

I have now found my greatest treasure to be the Lord Jesus Christ, the One who saved me and keeps me. Today I am very sure of what is written in Isaiah 43:1, "I have called you by name, you are Mine."

**“Therefore go and make disciples of all nations,  
baptizing them in the name of the Father  
and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.”**

**Matthew 28:19**



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# Moving Forward by God's Grace

by Pastor John Malimai

*John and Joanna Malimai, PMA missionaries in Yap, have been known to PMA for over twenty years. In 1985 they attended a community college Bible study in Pohnpei led by other PMA missionaries. They both gave their lives to the Lord that fall, and later married. John was a fulltime staff member on our Sea Haven medical ship for several years, and now they serve with their family in Yap. Here is their latest experience.*

John writes: What motivates us, as God's servants, to keep on serving and following the Lord to the best of our ability, despite loss or hardship? Like Abraham... we live by faith as we look beyond this life and wait .. "for the city with foundations, whose architect and builder is God." (Hebrews 11:10)

When my wife Joanna and I approached the end of 2005, I became very depressed. I remember crying out in prayer one night, "Lord, show us where we have failed. It's been five years and it seems there's been no progress." And then, I felt God reminding me, "John, you are a cultivator, not a harvester." Yet, I still blamed myself for not doing well, or for being inadequate to serve in almost every aspect of my ministry.

To comfort me, the Lord directed me to 2 Corinthians 12:9, "My grace is sufficient for you; my strength is made perfect in weakness." I realized anew, that it's not about me, but it's all about God. In His own perfect timing, I had to trust and wait for Him. Instead of rushing ahead, wanting to know what came next, I had to wait. It had to be His will - not mine - that would be done in my life and ministry. I was refreshed by this understanding.

The Lord then began opening doors. On February 12, 2006, I baptized Grace Adgil, our Office Manager and Flight Agent, her husband David, and two young girls. The whole PMF congregation came together to participate in this special event. After the baptism, Augustine, one of the men I'd been discipling, expressed his interest in being baptized. He asked, "What do I need to do to be baptized?"

You must understand that Augustine's question was a real break-through and the answer to many prayers. You see, the Sunday evening Bible study had been meeting at Augustine's home. I remember when we first met there. We were only allowed to do this because of the persistence of Augustine's wife, Mary. Augustine, however, did not attend. I still recall his leaving the living room, making excuses because he didn't want to join us. But God had other plans for Augustine. God gently touched his heart, and soon Augustine began attending, began listening, learning and growing at those Bible studies.

On the 30th of April, six new believers were baptized at Sunset Park Beach in Kaday. And Augustine and Mary were two of those believers. They were the first converts and the first to be baptized in our newly established church, Pacific Mission Fellowship, Yap Island.

One of the new Christians shared with us, "I thought I had everything I needed until I attended this Bible Study. I found out that I had missed the whole purpose of my existence! If I had not met Christ, I would have known nothing at all about God. Praise the Lord, I found what I needed most in my life... a living Savior!" We praise our God who works miracles in the life of these new Christians.

Dear friends and families, we experience your abundant love for the Lord, through your faithful prayers and support of the work we do here on Yap. Your prayers help us as we reach out to the islanders. Our great desire continues to be - TO KNOW CHRIST AND TO MAKE HIM KNOWN - to those islanders who don't yet trust Him personally. We covet your prayers.

Once again, Joanna and I, along with our children, send our love and our thanks to each of you! To Him be the glory for all He has done and is doing in our midst. What is our motivation when things don't seem to be progressing as we think they should? Trust the Lord, and see what He will do next, as we continue to serve Him.

**Center Page Poster**  
**Baptism in Yap: Pastor Nob Kalau**  
**and Pastor John Malimai with**  
**baptismal candidates.**

# Pulo – an “Island” Changed by God

by Joel S. Legaspi

How can an island be changed by God? During a visit to Patnanungan in November 2005, I met a 38-year old man named Pulo Fernandez. In Tagalog, the National language of the Philippines, Pulo’s name means “Island”.

Here is his story. Pulo and his wife Rosa had lived on the island of Jomalig, which is an hour’s motorized canoe ride away from Patnanungan. Then they moved into a house on Patnanungan beside our Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) church compound. Almost immediately they became active and supportive volunteer workers for the church. They tackled carpentry repairs, cooking for visitors, and guarding the church compound if most of our workers had to be away. Pulo also consistently attended the one-year Natural Church Development (NCD) training being conducted by PMF in partnership with Philippine Challenge. Philippine Challenge is a ministry that supports local churches, including our PMF congregations, and is assisting us in “growing” the PMF churches in the islands.

During one of our congregational fellowships, Pulo stood up and shared

**Pulo offers his time and does all kinds of repairs on the PMF premises.**



how his life had been dramatically and wonderfully changed by the Lord Jesus Christ. Once a drunkard, Pulo had often hung out with his peers, most of whom were considered a menace to their community. After coming to know the Lord, it took little courage for him to say “No” to his former ways. And he knew God would guide him and see him through these changes.

Pulo expressed his interest to follow the Lord in water baptism after his next birthday. Our NCD trainer, Pastor Jerry, and I encouraged him to do this. But at that time, he didn’t feel ready as he knew there were still areas in his life that needed to be surrendered to Christ’s Lordship. We counseled him about the significance and essence of baptism.

Pulo celebrated his birthday last December. On May 06, 2006, and coinciding with NCD Training graduation ceremonies, he was baptized. Our PMF family was so pleased to see him take this step of faith. And to him, the event was another milestone in his Christian walk, baptism being the next step after having received Christ. Now with the knowledge gained in the NCD training, this believer is eager to share his newfound faith with others.

PMF Patnanungan continues to make great strides in our evangelism efforts. As PMA Philippines Administrative Officer, I am confident that with more and more dedicated workers and volunteers like Pulo and his wife Rosa, this island church will continue to impact and influence our island people who have not yet heard the good news of Jesus Christ. Pulo Fernandez, an “Island” changed forever by God, is impacting these islands through Christ!

**Pulo and his wife Rosa are a true blessing to the ministry in Patnanungan.**





# DO NOT HINDER THEM...

by Melinda R. Espinosa

How early can a child experience God's gift of salvation? How soon can one follow the Lord in water baptism? Little did I know I would be confronted with these very questions. Not long ago I received a call from Pastor Edmund Kalau asking my thoughts about four year-old Marla being baptized. She had been attending Kids Klub and Sunday school at our Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) church, and Marla and her parents were eager for her to take this step of faith. I knew she had prayed to receive Jesus as her Savior and Lord, but I wanted to make sure she really understood who Jesus was and what He had done for her. A very serious step for one so young.

When I asked Marla who Jesus was, she said that Jesus died on the cross. I asked why? "For my sins," she replied. "Did He stay on the cross?" "No," she said, "He rose again from the dead." "And where is Jesus now?" I continued. She responded confidently, "He's in my heart." I informed Pastor Kalau of my talk with Marla, and he also spent time talking with her. After they finished, she shared with him that she loved Jesus and she knew that Jesus loved her, too.

The day of the baptism dawned. Only close family relatives attended: her parents, Samson and Lavernie, sisters Beverlie, Diana and Asmara, Lavernie's mom, her sister, and Samson's brother. They all stood as witnesses. Marla looked radiant that afternoon. Her mom, Lavernie, had prepared a small plastic wading pool for this special service. As Pastor Kalau dipped Marla into the pool, she enthusiastically leaned back and then came up with a child's beautiful countenance. This reaffirmed her young faith to us. Pastor Kalau asked her parents and the other witnesses if they would promise to help Marla in her spiritual growth. They solemnly affirmed that they would.

It has now been some time since Marla's baptism. And she has been growing in the Lord. Her parents faithfully take her to Kids Klub, and Sunday school, and she comes to prayer meetings and Sunday worship with them. Lately, the door has been open for her to spend time with Ruth and me. While with us, she not only learns her alphabet and her numbers, she is beginning to memorize Scripture.

In the New Testament, when the disciples rebuked those who were bringing children to Jesus, He said, "Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." (Matt. 19:14) To hinder a child from coming to the Lord, or causing them to sin would be a terrible offense before God. (Matt. 18:6).

How do we adults hinder a child? By discouraging a young child who has asked Him into her heart or by telling her that she's really not saved. Or by neglecting to help her grow in the Word of God. Perhaps by insisting that she show a maturity beyond her years, or by being a bad example to her.

Jesus gave a warning to those of us who would discourage a child from drawing close to Him. He said it would be better that a millstone be hung around his neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea. (Matt. 18:6b) Pretty serious consequences, aren't they? Jesus continues, "See that you do not look down on one of these little ones. For I tell you that their angels in heaven always see the face of my Father in heaven." (Matt. 18:10) What a wonderful promise to all little children who learn about Jesus and trust Him! How soon can a child understand what it means to give her heart to the Lord? As young as four-year-old Marla!

**Rev. Edmund Kalau baptizes four-year-old Marla.**



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**Pacific Missionary Aviation  
P.O. Box 3209  
Hagatna, Guam 96932**



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