

Issue 4-2006  
October

# ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



"Let the children come to me!"



PACIFIC  
MISSIONARY  
AVIATION





# Vacation with a Mission

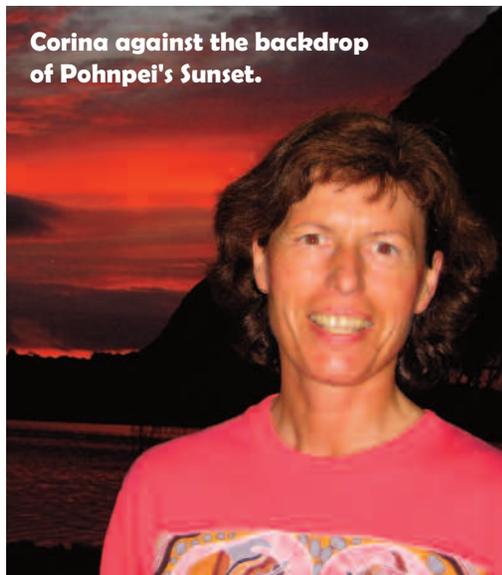
by Corina Sturm, Board Member of PMA Germany

What would you think about spending your holidays working? - I spent my holidays working on a tropical island. First of all, it was a great relief not to wear a jacket! The average temperature was about 28 degrees Celsius (or 85 degrees F) - every day! The motivation for this special "working" holiday was not for monetary gain, but to serve the Lord. It didn't matter what kind of work I did or where I did it. And for me, it was a great adventure!

Imagine waking up in the morning, surrounded by jungle noises, to birds singing, and their music sounded as if they were performing especially for me. When I looked out my small studio apartment window, I saw fruit-bearing banana trees, along with many different flowers in bloom in varied colors. And yes, the avocado tree was already preparing its fruits for our hors d'oeuvres for dinner that evening. Want a healthy way of life? Well, all I had to do was step out of my little home and gather Noni fruit from the shrubs that surrounded my place. Looking up, I saw coconut trees laden with their delicious fruits, ready to be picked... that is if you're expert enough to know how to climb the trees!

This summer I found myself assisting Pia Kaufmann, PMA's Coordinator for Youth and Children's Ministries. We prepared for the upcoming Vacation Bible School (VBS), as well as for the weekly Sunday school lessons. I prepared the lessons to be distributed to the teachers, as well as the crafts that accompanied those lessons. With an average of 100 children attending Sunday school every week, at different age levels, we needed to divide the classes according to their ages. Then age-appropriate materials for each individual class had to be prepared. I thank God that I can be a part of reaching and teaching these children about Jesus. It's a ministry that's so important.

For 10 years now, I've been spending my holidays in this way. I'm so glad that I'm able to experience the best of both worlds - serving God, and at the same time, having the time of my life! I'm away from everyday work in the big city and living in an island paradise! I challenge you to enlist yourself in a [Vacation with a Mission](#) - there is much to do in the "fields" of God, and working hands and willing hearts are always greatly appreciated, and welcomed!



**Corina against the backdrop of Pohnpei's Sunset.**

[www.pmapacific.org](http://www.pmapacific.org)

## PMA has a New Website!

In August 2006, Pacific Missionary Aviation launched its new website: <http://www.pmapacific.org> and new email addresses for our Guam Headquarters and Mission Stations in Pohnpei, Palau, Yap, and the Philippines. The new main email address is [info@pmapacific.org](mailto:info@pmapacific.org). Please browse our website to find the email addresses of our different locations.

The new website provides detailed information on PMA and its ministries, as well as updated information on current projects. Browse the picture gallery and find up-to-date pictures of our ministries, projects and outreaches. Have you ever wondered who the men and women serving with PMA are? Then browse our new website and find out about our mission staff.

Please register your personal account on <http://www.pmapacific.org/user> and let us know about your interests and comments. Your having a personal account will enable us to keep you updated on your interests and our prayer concerns. Please be part of our Team of Prayer Warriors.

Having a personal account also allows you to subscribe to our various email newsletters and our magazine: Island Echoes. A personal account is free and without obligation. You can be assured that we will keep your data in confidence.

We look forward to your comments on this new website as we pursue excellence in providing you the information you need. We praise God and thank you for your faithful friendship and partnership. God bless you!

### ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA).

**Issue**  
4-2006 (October)

**Cover Pictures**  
Vacation Bible School, Reaching Children in Pohnpei, Palau and Guam for Jesus Christ.

**Editors**  
Melinda Espinosa  
Sylvia Kalau  
Barbara Pace

**Layout**  
Roland Weibel

Pacific Missionary Aviation  
P.O. Box 3209  
Hagatna, Guam 96932  
Phone: (671) 646-6464  
Fax: (671) 649-6066  
[guam@pmapacific.org](mailto:guam@pmapacific.org)  
<http://www.pmapacific.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 501(c)(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 as "Pacific Missionary Aviation, Inc." (formerly "Flying Medical Samaritans", FMS).

# The Longer I Serve Him

## Part 1

### Missionary Memories by Anita Del Rosario as shared with Melinda R. Espinosa

*Editor's Note: Anita Del Rosario served with her husband, Pastor Romy, as the first PMA missionaries in Palau. Although God called Pastor Romy home in 1991, Anita - or "Mamang Annie" as she is fondly called by all in Palau - knew God's calling for her was to stay. In November last year, Annie celebrated twenty years of service with PMA on Palau. In June of this year, she celebrated her 65th birthday. We thank God for her service to the Lord, for the many lives that have been changed and touched for Jesus Christ through her and Pastor Romy.*

The year was June 1960. Romy and I, both single and enrolled in Ebenezer Bible College, in the Philippines, dedicated our lives to mission work when our mission class professor presented the challenge. At that time, our Mission Board had no plans to send missionaries overseas. We studied diligently, worked our way through college, and continued to nurture our dream of one day serving the Lord overseas. Romy and I got married in June 1966 and immediately applied with our Mission Board for an overseas assignment because the Board now had Filipino missionaries serving overseas.

While waiting, we served in two churches in South Cotabato, Philippines, where we learned about pastoral care, grew in love with the Lord and His people, and had our first "bundle of" Joy, our daughter. By 1969, we were informed that our visas for mission work in Indonesia were approved. But we needed to leave immediately as I was pregnant with our second child, and needed to travel before my seventh month. So in January 1970 we arrived in Palembang, South Sumatra, Indonesia. And yes, the Lord gave us our second bundle of joy - our son Alfred, born in Palembang. The Lord graciously provided an obstetrician and pediatrician, both Filipino doctors, who took care of me before they had to leave Indonesia as their contracts were almost complete. God's timing had been perfect!

We were young and full of plans, perhaps sometimes more zeal than knowledge. We learned many of the "do's" and "don'ts" which one can never read in books. Thank God for

the sense of humor the Lord gave us when we were in tight situations. We stayed in Palembang for almost five years. These years were filled with experiences too numerous to relate, but they were rich in lessons and spiritual growth, opportunities to share the One Person we loved dearly to a culture whose religion was totally opposed to Him.

Those years were also times of testing of our faith, and the strengthening of it, the years held joyful times, and times of discouragement - but through it all, the One who held us together was the Lord Jesus Christ. The One who called us and remained true to His promises, unchanging and faithful!

Although Romy and I prayed for at least one Muslim a year to accept Jesus as Savior, the Lord gave us more than that! Before we left, there were 13 individuals who had come to know the Lord and were baptized. One is now an evangelist and continues to serve the Lord faithfully. We thank God that even if we could not go back, after five years, He replaced us with one who knew his own people and could minister to them more effectively. God is good! And He is truly amazing!

To be continued on the next issue -  
learn how the Del Rosarios came to  
serve with PMA

**Anita Del Rosario is faithfully serving as a missionary on the island of Palau.**



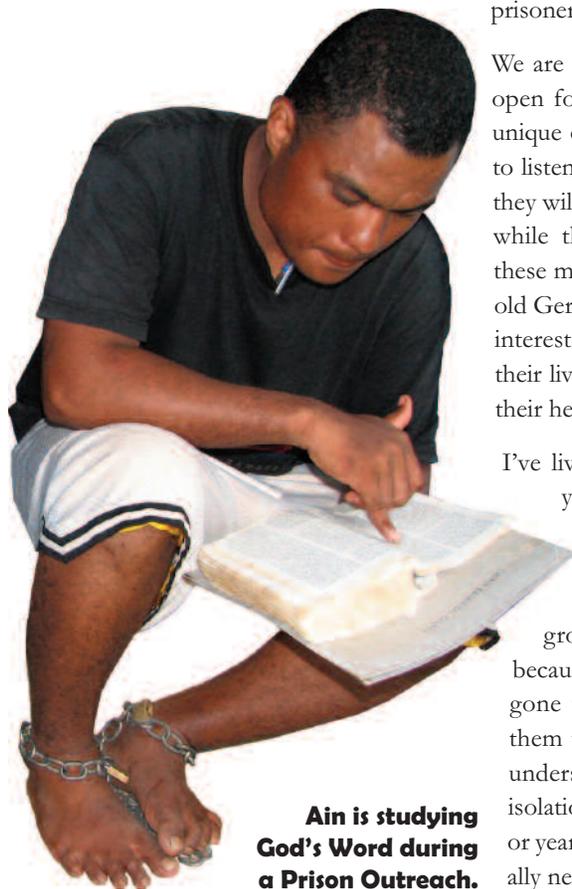
## SETTING

## CAPTIVES

## FREE

by Simon Hämmerling,  
PMA Aircraft Mechanic

For many years, 70-year old Falrog, a woman from the Yap Evangelical Church, in Colonia, Yap, has been faithfully going to the local jail on Sunday afternoons. She visits prisoners and talks with them about Jesus. I've always had a burden for people in trouble and had been praying about my involvement in this ministry. I asked the Lord to show me what I should do. That's why I was so glad when Falrog came up to me one Sunday in September 2004, and asked if I'd join her and a friend that afternoon. They were going to visit the prisoners.



**Ain is studying God's Word during a Prison Outreach.**

We are thankful that the doors are open for us to work in here. It's a unique opportunity for the inmates to listen to the Word of God, since they will never be as free to listen as while they're in prison. I wanted these men to know that I, a 23-year old German, cared about them, was interested in what was going on in their lives, and most importantly, in their hearts.

I've lived on Yap Island for four years, but it is sometimes hard to find a subject to share. Not only do our different cultural backgrounds separate us, but also because I don't know what they've gone through, what has brought them to this place. Could I really understand what it's like to be in isolation for weeks ... months ... or years? What do these people really need?

Although I can't begin to know the answers to all these questions, what I do know is that each one of them needs a relationship with Jesus. And that is why I'm there, to let them know who Jesus is to me. And why I believe a person's life without Him has no hope.

I am maturing in this ministry much more, as I let go of my nervousness. I'm starting to enjoy sharing and talking with the prisoners, many of whom are not much older than I am. Some of the prisoners are just happy to see someone different than their prison mates, so they look forward to these Sunday afternoon meetings. Although this doesn't necessarily show a lot of commitment, at least they're hearing God's Word.

Last Sunday Falrog told them the story of the Prodigal Son (Luke 15:11-32). She explained how his father had been eagerly anticipating his son's return, even after the difficulties the son had gotten himself into. But this earthly father didn't know if he would come home. Falrog told the inmates that our Heavenly Father is eagerly waiting for us to come home to Him, too. He says that no matter who we are, or what we have done, He is faithful and righteous to cleanse us from all our unrighteousness and He will forgive us, just as He's promised.

I especially enjoy the discussions we have after we've read the events in the Bible. We also talked about the verses in Matthew 14:22-33. In these verses, Jesus had challenged Peter to get out of the boat, to walk on water to reach Him. But Peter grew fearful. Although this situation may not likely happen today, Jesus does expect us to do things that are, perhaps, even more difficult than walking on water.

One of these, to live a life without worry, can be very difficult. Another huge challenge is to live a life without fear. Whether we live life in a small jail cell on a Pacific island, work in an up-scale city office in Houston, or teach young children in a large elementary school in Germany, worry and fear may be a troubling part of our lives.

That afternoon we shared with the inmates that by trusting God's promises and taking Him at His word, each one of us can overcome our fears and worries. We can be set free, no longer imprisoned by our worries and fears.

Our prayer is that the seeds planted in these inmates' hearts will grow and bear much fruit. Even though you're thousands of miles away, please join us when you pray. God loves each one of these inmates just as He does you and me.

**Falrog and Simon share a burden to reach the inmates in Yap State Prison. Their desire is to lead them to the One who is able to truly set them free.**



# A GREAT ADVENTURE

The background picture shows an aerial shot of the island of Yap, where Martin, Barbara and Michael had their great adventure.

by Martin Vonaesch, Short-Term Missionary, PMA Switzerland

After three months on Yap, Micronesia as a short-term missionary family from PMA Switzerland, my wife Barbara, our 7-month old son Michael and I arrived home safely. Now our hearts seemed to be tugged in two different directions. One part was the returning heart: it was really wonderful when our family welcomed us home to Switzerland. Yet, the other part of our heart was quite sad, because this significant and heart-changing term for us as a family was already over.

In our three months on Yap, we were able to get in contact with new people and build good friendships and relationships. We served in the Pacific Mission Fellowship church and also helped with the Yap Evangelical Church in the small town of Colonia. Our home was a mission guest house in Colonia, just a few miles from the airport where some of other PMA missionaries live. For our little son, Michael, it was a perfect situation. The pastor's children, who lived next door, were his playmates. More importantly, Michael opened doors for us as he worked himself into the hearts of Yapese moms and girls. (Little ones can do this without trying!)

When the two-week Vacation Bible School started, Barbara, a Kindergarten teacher, was really excited and eager to help. Children from 6 to 12 years old took part in our program. With the theme: "Power Up with Jesus", they learned many important things: what it means to love, accept, serve, comfort and forgive one another with Jesus Christ's help. They had a lot of fun with games, crafts, stories and Bible verses and more importantly, they learned a lot about Jesus! One girl asked her mom for the Living Water from Jesus so that she would never be thirsty again!

Barbara and I were also involved in a Youth Retreat. Young people from the ages of 13 to 23 participated in this activity. Our theme was "The Physical and Spiritual Olympic Athlete 2006." Each one of us learned a lot about the race we have become involved in as believers. The Apostle Paul wrote in I Cor. 9:25-26: "Everyone who competes in the games goes into strict training. They do it to get a crown that will not last, but we do it to get a crown that will last forever. Therefore, I do not run aimlessly; I do not fight like a man beating the air." In those four days, we didn't punch the air, but, instead, we exercised our physical and spiritual muscles. We heard so much about running this race as believers and the importance of finishing well.

As PMA's motto is serving the total person: body, soul and spirit, it was a great opportunity for me to be involved in Yap State Hospital's program - making an impact in having a healthy lifestyle. Because I work as a Sports Teacher/Heart Therapist in Switzerland, I slipped into this role very easily. Non-communicable diseases such as diabetes, obesity, high blood pressure, heart disease, and cancer are becoming major problems in Yap State, and throughout the Federated States of Micronesia.

These diseases cause a great number of early deaths among the islanders. With Pastor John Malimai, (originally from Woleai, an outer island) I started an exercise program in the morning three times a week. We walked, talked and prayed together. A wonderful friendship grew. It was time well spent.

My involvement in the "Healthy Lifestyle" endeavor inspired me to create a computer-generated Power-Point presentation concerning our body, as a sanctuary of the Holy Spirit (I Cor. 3:16-17). Because we know this, we have the responsibility to care for our body spiritually, emotionally and physically.

Our weekly prayer meetings were very encouraging to us, and I know, for other people who joined us, too. We made new friends. We realized that God is building His kingdom in the hearts of men, women and children in Yap and throughout the outer-islands. Last, but not least, God continues to build His kingdom of love in our hearts.

Before our short term on Yap began, we asked God what His will would be for us as a new family. We received important answers. He opened and closed doors as well. We are truly blessed to have had this great adventure with the Lord - meeting all kinds of people, from different islands, seeing and experiencing His work in the lives of each one. Finally, we found that we emerged from this experience with a greater knowledge of Jesus Christ, a deeper maturity in Him ourselves and we love Him more as a result!

**Martin and Barbara Vonaesch with their 7-month-old son Michael served as short-term missionaries on the island of Yap.**



**"Let the children come to me; do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of God."  
Mark 10:14**

**Vacation Bible School is a great event in PMA/PMF's islands of ministry in Micronesia and the Philippines. It is a great joy to be able to reach children at the time when their hearts are most open to the Lord. It is a great encouragement to all the teachers to see and experience the joy and excitement the children show every time they come to each session. We are so very thankful to God for their eagerness to listen to God's word, memorize scriptures and their joy in singing praises to the Him! This year, we have been able to reach approximately 600 children throughout the islands. To God be the glory! Pray that they may continue to grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord Jesus Christ.**

**Children in our Pohnpei VBS were truly excited, singing the cool theme songs. It was great to hear them sing with lots of enthusiasm!**

# Who Will Go for Us?

by Mercy Burata, Missionary Teacher

"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, 'Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?' And I said, 'Here I am. Send me.'" Isaiah 6:8

Tiny Katmon village, located in the tropical Philippines, has been a part of our PMF Patnanungan Church outreach for a year now. This remote village, located about 4 hours off the coast of the small Polilio Island group, is a two-hour walk from our church. It's amazing sometimes to think of these people so far from the mainstream of large, developed countries, and yet God's interest in them is just as passionate and as personal.

Recently one of our new church members celebrated her birthday and expressed a desire to visit her neighbors in Katmon. Soon we had organized a team, together with our dorm students from that village, and we paid a visit. While there, we held a Bible study for the eight men and women who had gathered, and shared personal stories with them about God's help in our own lives. Other team members were busy sharing Bible stories with the children.

The village of Katmon has only thirty families, and about one hundred and twenty adults. Due to their poverty, and partly because their closest town is quite a distance from them, most of the parents have never attended school. This unfortunate cycle of "no school" has been passed on for many generations, and, as a result, few villagers can read or write.

Last May, our group held a three-day Vacation Bible School (VBS) in Katmon for the children. It was the first time the villagers had ever heard of this concept! We shared Bible stories the younger generation could easily understand. One twelve year-old girl was so excited to attend the classes. Even though she'd never attended school, she eagerly learned how to write her name for the first time! Her excitement was evident from her beaming eyes and huge smile. We encouraged all of the children to learn to read and write by giving them a good supply of notebooks and other school materials. We have a burden to conduct regular VBS, and integrate reading, writing and Bible literature for these less fortunate children.

Our Patnanungan Church team's passion to help these needy people has only increased since our last visit. Our ongoing assignment: To reach out to these people, tell them about Jesus, answer many questions, and to continue helping them in practical ways. We thank God for workers who've already responded to the call of loving these villagers! Pray that by God's grace, we will be able to continue the work in Katmon. Your prayers are an important part of the equation. And pray that the workers will find joy and strength in serving the people, for they have heard God's query, "Who will go for us?" and have volunteered, "Here am I. Send me!"



# Happy Endings

by Malcolm Cleope, Officer-in-Charge and  
Missionary Pilot, PMA Philippines

In November 2005, after processing several documents, our prayers were answered when we successfully matched three of our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage babies with new families! Our orphanage is located in the town of Naujan, on the small island of Oriental Mindoro. Bahay Kalinga translated into English is “house of love.”

The first baby to leave us was James. His new parents, Philip and Karen, are both doctors from Wisconsin. While waiting for James, their son had kept asking “When will my baby brother come?” To be sure, no child was as welcomed as James. We are so thankful to God for this special match.



**Eyes full of hope in our Orphanage - Bahay Kalinga - “House of Love”. Will you please pray that the Lord will provide Ishmael with a good home?**

Later that month we received a call from ICAB (International Children’s Adoption Board) about the arrival, two days earlier, of prospective parents, Ralph and Paula from Indiana. We had been expecting this call since the beginning of March. It generally takes six months after a match has been made. ICAB requested that we fly Ralph and Paula to Oriental Mindoro to pick up their little boy, Noel.

Ralph and Paula are not new to adoption, as their two daughters were adopted from the countries of Russia and Guatemala. Within minutes of our arrival at Bahay Kalinga, Noel connected easily with his new mommy Paula. Ralph, Paula and Noel quickly became a happy family. Of course, Noel’s caregiver had some teary-eyed moments. Children have a way of working themselves into one’s heart and even if you know that you’re only caring for them temporarily, the bond has been formed and farewells are often difficult.

Instead of staying overnight in Naujan, the small village on Oriental Mindoro, the family decided to go on to Puerto Galera, a resort near the coastal town of Calapan. They wanted some “alone” time together before they headed back to Manila, and on home. Encouraging words came from them just a week after their return to their Indiana home - Noel was very much at home at their farm house, he was ready to run and play with the animals and pets.

After I had just a few days of rest, I began working, along with Angie Dioquino, our Social Worker, with, what often seems like, never-ending paperwork. Once again the phone rang, and ICAB alerted us that John and Kerry, the adoptive parents of Tiffany, would arrive in two days. Joel Legaspi, our PMA Philippines Administrative Officer, was able to notify John and Kerry the day before we were scheduled to fly to the Orphanage. We agreed to fly them to Calapan, the nearest airport, and then we traveled by jeepney (a Philippine innovation of the U.S. Jeep) to Naujan. Two days later we would pick them up in Calapan and fly back to Manila.



**Some Bahay Kalinga Children with our Mission Staff.**

The couple arrived at our hangar early in the morning where we gave them a short tour. They were quite excited about our work. John and Kerry are familiar with the Philippines because they had done some short-term mission work before through Far East Broadcasting Corporation (FEBC). After a smooth flight and the road trip to Naujan, we arrived at Bahay Kalinga. As you might guess, John and Kerry were thrilled to see their new daughter, Tiffany, and right away, she seemed at home with her new mommy and daddy.

Yes, happy endings do happen, and not only in fairy tales. They happen in real life! We only need to look at what God is doing, how He arranges circumstances, and uses people over and over to create HAPPY ENDINGS for these precious children!

**One Happy Family: Tiffany (left) with her new mom and dad and her new siblings.**



# Freedom in Christ

by Mel Pelayo, Pacific Mission Fellowship, Guam

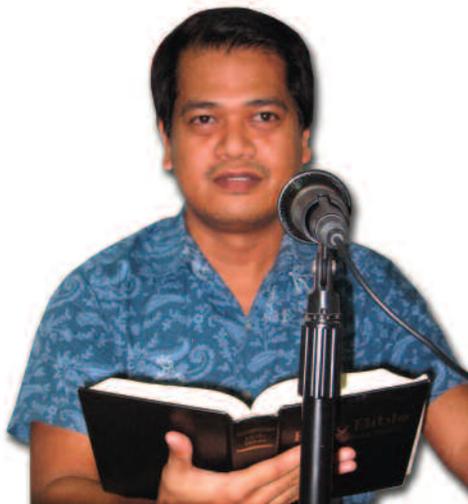
*Editor's Note: Mel Pelayo serves at PMA's PMF church on Guam as a Core group member and Bible study leader. He serves in the Youth and Children's ministry, and is Worship Leader. This summer the Lord provided Him with a challenge which stretched his faith, and caused him to depend much more on the Lord. He was asked to serve in the pulpit ministry while Senior Pastor Edmund Kalau and his wife Elizabeth would be off island for a few months. Mel's spiritual journey had led him to this point. God continues to strengthen and mature Mel, using him for His purposes and His glory. Mel is amazed that God can use a man like him. We at PMA/PMF praise God for him and thank Him for sending Mel to serve with us.*

Isaiah 61:1 reads, "He has sent me to bind up the broken hearted; to proclaim freedom for the captives, and release from darkness for the prisoners." How true that has been in my life!

Getting acquainted with the Lord has been a long process for me. I had many issues and questions to bring before the Lord. But I thank Him that He used the events in my life to seek Him and know Him.

In Manila in December 1998, my brother died from tubercular meningitis. He and I hadn't been on the best of terms when he passed away, and I never had a chance to ask for his forgiveness before he died. His death haunted me. It also broke my heart. How could I have made his life so miserable? What kind of a brother would do that? It made me realize in a very vivid way that life is short and death is sure.

The evening of December 8, 1998, at my brother's funeral, I gave my life to the Lord. That night the Lord turned my mourning into rejoicing, because I received the Lord's forgiveness! I had been spiritually lost for twenty-six years, but the Lord found me. It was not an immediate transformation though. I struggled a lot. I had to give up many things that had corrupted my life. Even after I gave my heart to the Lord, I was living a sin-and-confess lifestyle. On Sundays, Christ was my King, but, on weekdays, I moved Him over and I became the king of my life.



**Mel Pelayo sharing God's Word on a Sunday Morning Worship Service.**

I decided to quit work in Manila in May 1999 and began to look for a job overseas. Unfortunately, none of the recruitment agencies I had applied to would hire me. For eight months I was jobless. It was a nightmare for my family, as I'd always been the bread winner. We lived a hand-to-mouth existence. And yet, we never went hungry, never had to beg for food. God was with us. He never left us nor turned His back on us.

Finally, in January 2000, it seemed the Lord provided work for me, but the company underwent a merger, and just as quickly, my job was gone! But soon after that merger took place, I was hired by another company as an accountant in Palau. In Palau, the Lord led me to PMA/PMF church. It was God's time for healing me, and for helping me find my confidence in Him. Then my work took me to Guam in 2002.

It's been eight years, since my new birth in the Lord. All the trials and circumstances that have happened have been tools of God's to break my calloused heart, melt it and mold it into a new heart with a new spirit. In all these experiences, the Lord has shown me His goodness. He has used my life events to draw me closer to Him. I have finally become serious about my relationship with Him and now know Him personally and intimately.

My walk with the Him, like so many of you, has its ups and downs. But each time I fall, I see His merciful hands picking me up, brushing me off. He has shown me, through hardships and triumphs that He is the God that I can trust. He is my Father, Counselor, Friend, and most of all, He is My Lord. He has blessed me exceedingly and abundantly more than what I could ask for, or even imagine. For He knows the plans He has for me, plans to prosper me, and not to harm me, and plans to give me hope and a future. (Paraphrase of Jeremiah 29:11)

Whenever my past life attempts to haunt me, the Lord reminds me that He is my Advocate. He reminds me that absolutely nothing can separate me from His love! What a great freedom! To know that He has given me an abundant life with a purpose, and that purpose has been clarified: To know Him, serve Him, and love Him and to make Him known. He has healed this broken-hearted soul! It's truly a great privilege to serve our Mighty God!

**Mel Pelayo sharing Devotions in PMF Guam's Prayer Meeting.**





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

**[info@pmapacific.org](mailto:info@pmapacific.org)**  
**[www.pmapacific.org](http://www.pmapacific.org)**



PMA is Member of the  
Evangelical Council for  
Financial Accountability

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Barrigada, Guam  
Permit No. 3