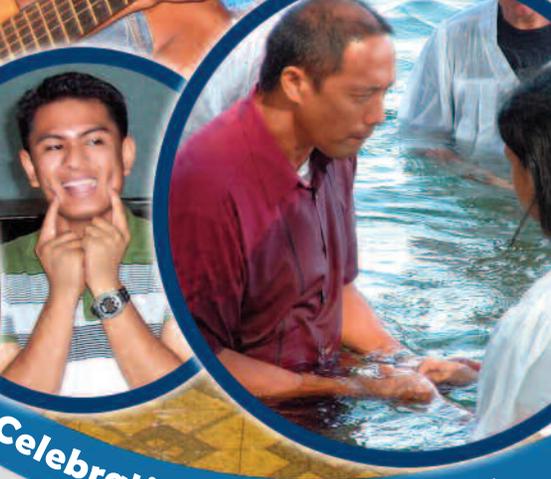


Issue 3-2008
September

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Celebrating God's Goodness



PACIFIC
MISSIONARY
AVIATION



Little Lights Shining For Jesus

by Simon Hämmerling, PMA Missionary, Yap

What a real blessing and a gift it is to be able to live and share our faith without the fear of persecution here in Micronesia. Many times, I take this for granted. I realize that this freedom gives me so many chances and opportunities to witness. I can be very creative and use a lot of my gifts and talents to reach out to others.

Micronesians love music and sports and wherever it is offered people like to come and join. Even parents like to send their little ones to places where these activities are offered. This is what I experienced during our Vacation Bible School (VBS) week here on Yap. The VBS was a joint effort of the Yap Evangelical church, the Palauan Church and PMA's Pacific Mission Fellowship. Altogether there were about 130 children who attended. Our program was for children from 4 years to about 13 years of age. Many of the younger children don't understand English yet so we were thankful for our local pastors and helpers who got the message across to them. It is so cute to have one of the young boys walk up to me and talk in his native tongue, expecting me to respond in his language.

The program was packed with singing, stories, crafts, snacks and games. It was very encouraging to see how easy these children were motivated and how content they were with simple games.

The highlights of my day were picking up the children for VBS in the mornings and dropping them off again after lunch. Most of them would already be waiting when I arrived, and others would walk to where my car was parked. While driving the van, it was so great to hear them review memory verses and sing the songs they had just learned. At one time I had 32 children in my car. What a precious load, I drove at a cautious 10 mph.

One incident hurt my heart. It happened on one of the mornings when I went up to the outer island settlement to pick up the children. There was one child that I hadn't seen the day before who wanted to join his friends. While we were waiting for some more children to come, I saw a man walk toward this boy and take him back to his house so that he couldn't come with us. This made me even more aware of the spiritual battle we were engaging in as we reached these children for the Lord.

For me it was just so wonderful to see how God's Word was shared among the children and I thank Him for His promise, that His Word will never come back empty. So we pray that the Gospel seeds planted during that week fell on fertile soil, and would bear good fruit that remains. And that the children may apply what they have learned so that their little lights would shine in their homes for Jesus.



Simon's precious cargo - little lights shining for the Lord in their homes. We pray that they will grow in wisdom and grace in the Lord Jesus Christ.

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Celebrating God's Goodness

by Eileen Uyehara, Member, Pacific Mission Fellowship Palau

Palau has always been very dear to the hearts of Pastor Edmund and Elizabeth Kalau. It was here in 1956 that they first served as missionaries for a German mission society. After establishing PMA in 1975, Pastor Kalau's vision of reaching the Micronesian islands continued to include Palau; thus a PMA ministry was established in Palau in 1985 with Pastor Romy and Annie Del Rosario. The dream was to have a multi-purpose center where young people could come not only to spend time in positive activities like indoor sports and music, as well as values training, but also to provide a sanctuary for those seeking physical and spiritual refuge.



Palauans render special praise music during the Anniversary celebration.

But it was not until July 7, 1996, that this dream was realized and the first worship celebration took place. Today the multi-purpose center, called the "Kalau Gym" by the Palauans, is home to worship services, prayer meetings, Bible studies, leadership training and children and youth outreach programs. The gym is also open to the community for various purposes such as sports, music programs and seminars.

By the grace of God, many lives have been touched by the PMA ministries. On Sunday, July 6, 2008, PMA-PMF Palau celebrated twelve years of God's goodness. And, who better to lead our celebration than Pastor Edmund Kalau? Without his obedience to God's calling to serve in Palau; without the obedience and faith of subsequent missionaries in following through with the vision for Palau, there would be no church and no cause for celebration. How blessed we were to have Pastor Kalau, his wife, Elizabeth, and their grandson, Alex, join us for our anniversary celebration.

Final preparations for the Sunday worship celebration began the day before in the usual fashion. Faithful volunteers spent Saturday evening cleaning and setting up the Center, transforming it into a place of worship. The fruits of their faithful labor were clearly evident the following morning in the inviting atmosphere generated by a clean and beautifully decorated place of worship, not to mention the aroma of barbecued chicken permeating the place in anticipation of a special lunch.

Truly the main event was the gathering of God's people to worship and praise God for His goodness and faithfulness. Pastor Kalau's worship message, "God Why Me?" was very timely. His emphasis was on the need to follow the example of the twelve Apostles (Acts 6:1-6) who, when confronted by problems in the church, acted immediately. Churches do make mistakes, but the important thing is that when the mistakes are discovered, immediate action to remedy the mistake/problem, be taken. As Christians, we are called to be trouble shooters and not trouble makers; not to shrink back from God's calling. We are to be obedient, which means to follow God without asking Him, "Why me?" Don't say, "Not me, Lord." Instead say, "God, it's me. Use me." Genuinely ask to be used to accomplish God's perfect plan. Have a positive influence in your own family and the body of believers. Consider how we can stimulate one another to love and good works (Hebrews 10:24). Then wait on the Lord. Wait and trust God for everything.

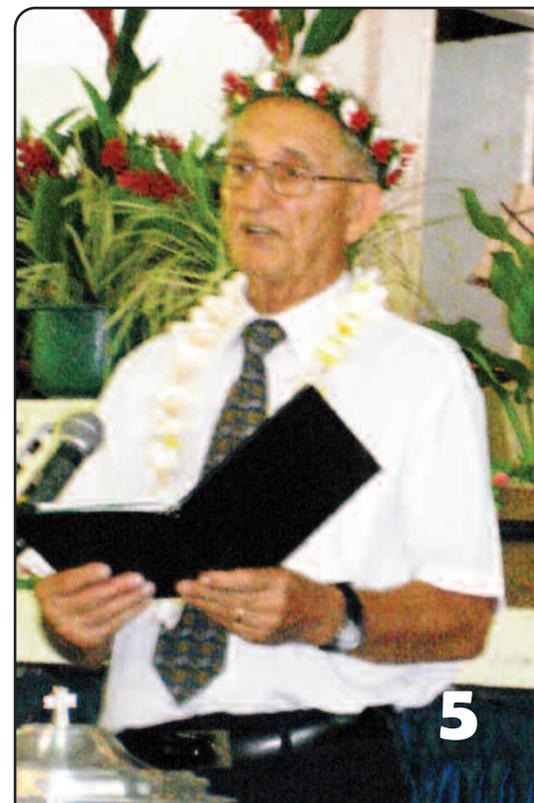
Pastor Kalau's message fed our souls. As Romy Maidu later reflected, it was good to be reminded that we shouldn't wait for the Pastor to tell us how to help others. Listen to God when He speaks personally, and act right away with faith. One does not need to be a missionary, pastor, or deacon to do God's work. As long as we are open to God's will and are obedient to Him, God indeed will help us to accomplish His good and perfect plan.

The celebration continued in the afternoon. We learned more about the ministries of PMA through the Aviation and Sea Haven video, "On Course to Lamotrek," which was shared by Pastor Kalau. From it we have come to appreciate the different sacrifices of many people because of their love for God.

So it all began with a man, obedient to the calling of God. Lito Claveria shared that he thought he was a Christian when he was still in the Philippines. But after coming to Palau to work and finding a home in PMF, he realized that he was a Christian in word only. It was here in Palau that Lito became a true believer. If Pastor Kalau had not obeyed God's will, Lito and others would not have the intimate relationship he now has with Christ.

Indeed today we praise God for His goodness and faithfulness for the twelve years He has blessed Pacific Mission Fellowship, Palau. We praise God for how He has used the missionaries to love all people, build the Body of Christ, and disciple the faithful and for encouraging the faithful in saying, "Use me!"

Pastor Edmund Kalau challenging PMF Palau to say to God - "Use Me!"



Three Days with Genezial

by Mary Cleope, PMA Missionary, Philippines



Genezial serves his own people of Quezon and does advocacy work among the rural poor and the children in public schools. He tirelessly screens all the patients before Dr. John sees them.

folks have been suffering with cataracts or glaucoma for 2-5 years. They travel between 10 - 50 kilometers by land and some may even travel by 'banca' (two-out rigger boat) from villages that are few hours away from the clinic." Genezial describes the patients as they first come into the office for an orientation meeting: "These patients are wearing drab clothing, shuffling stiffly like robots with their arms extended, hesitating, and having sullen, gloomy dispositions."

The free out-patient surgery is performed, and they stay 1-2 days in town, so as to have a follow-up appointment the next day. Right away, they state excitedly, "Oh, I can see this; oh, I can see that!" In one week they must come back again to assess the progress.

Genezial describes what he observes about the patients after one week: "They wear bright-colored, fashionable clothing; the women wear earrings, make-up, and they

I had the privilege of sitting alongside Genezial during an eye clinic outreach. I watched him gently screen the eyes of all the patients, take blood pressures, and answer a multitude of questions. He is a soft-spoken young man, 27 years old.

Genezial is from the Quezon province, south of Manila, near the town where Dr. John Escote, PMA's medical and eye doctor conducts a clinic 4 days each week. I was concerned that he and Dr. John would be overwhelmed by the solid 3 days of non-stop patients at the medical/eye outreach. He smiled and said, "This seems easy! We generally work 9 am – 9 pm, Tues, Thurs and Friday. On Wednesday, we have surgeries, 7 am – 10 pm." Ok, I thought, these are weathered servants.

When I asked him what his daily routine was, he had a story to share with me: "At the clinic in Quezon, many surgeries are done for adults, 60 years and older. Most of these

have a spunky lift in their steps. It's an amazing transformation," he states. Sometimes he can hardly recognize them. Before the surgery they were dependant on their families and helpers to assist in most daily activities. Now their family members say they insist on no help.

"Doctor, thank you, thank you!" Genezial smiles as he shares stories like this.

I continued my interview, "What else do you do during the week, Genezial?" On the weekend, Genezial serves as the music director for the Gumaca Bible Christian Community Church. On Saturdays, he enjoys music practice and prayer time. On Sunday morning, he loves to play the guitar and lead worship.

Dear Lord, bless Genezial for serving You faithfully.

Editor's Note: We are so thankful to God for Genezial - a young man who has dedicated his life to serving the Lord in a practical way. He first came to know about PMA through a medical outreach in his church. He was in high school then, but was already interested and helpful to our Dr. John. The next time Dr. John met him was when he was nearing graduation from college. He was challenged to serve with us as Dr. John's assistant and he accepted the challenge. He then underwent training at the Lopez Hospital, Quezon Province for OR procedures and with Dr. John in the screening of patients (medical and eye), taking blood pressure, etc. He was a quick learner and after graduating from College with a B.A in education - he went on to serve full time with us. Just recently, Genezial took a big step in trusting the Lord for his future, in that he married his long time friend and fiancé - Vida.

Genezial (far right) is accompanied by PMA Medical Director, Dr. John Escote (far left) and Julio who is our liaison person, enjoy time together in a staff retreat.



Here I Am Lord, Send Me

by Kathrine Faye Pace, PMA Missionary Volunteer, Pohnpei

When I was 12 years old, I asked God not to send me to the jungle as a missionary. “I’ll do whatever you want me to God,” I used to pray, “just don’t send me to the jungle.” Thankfully, God knew better than I that one day I would find that the one place I didn’t want to go was the one place where I would truly find myself in Him.

I had made the decision to follow God’s leading to Micronesia after my “Oma”, Grandmother Yvonne Bechthold, suggested taking a semester away from college to do some missionary work. I was struggling with many issues in my life, and I felt God telling me that He would surely work in me as I served others. My Oma smiled as she said, “I know just the place.”

From the moment I got off the airplane in Guam, I knew God would be faithful to what He had laid on my heart. I had planned on staying a day or two in Guam and then heading to Pohnpei, but God had different plans. My passport was denied at the airport, and I had to stay in Guam for two extra weeks, helping with Sunday school curriculum and creating crafts for Kid’s Klub. When the airport officials gave my passport back to me and said, “I’m sorry, we can’t let you go to Pohnpei,” I was ready to give up and go home. But after two weeks of listening to God say “Wait,” I realized that God was already working in my heart. My updated passport arrived on time for the newly scheduled departure for Pohnpei.

I spent my time in Pohnpei working on the annual Easter program and categorizing all of the music for The Cross radio station - a ministry of the PMA/PMF church there. I felt blessed to be able to use the creative talents that God has given me in such a constructive way. After four months of letting God use all of me, I found that that is the only way to truly live.

While I enjoyed the tasks I was given, the most important part of my time in Pohnpei was the time I spent with the people there, especially the youth. I had a chance to share my testimony at one of the youth meetings, and from that point on I felt like the youth stopped seeing me as “some American girl” and started seeing me as someone who cared about them and was herself still being molded daily by God. In all of the events and tasks that I helped with, from teaching Sunday school to creating games for the youth meetings, to painting the welcome sign for the new youth pastor and his family, to being a part of the girls’ discipleship sleepover, I was blessed to spend time with these young people. While four months is a very small amount of time in which to

build relationships, I was still able to create some important ones, as well as observe how other PMA volunteers/missionaries grew and cultivated their relationships with the youth.

As my time in Pohnpei came to a close, I began to take stock of everything that God had done in my life. As He promised, He had changed me. He had shown me how life as a missionary can be one of the toughest, but also one of the most blessed. Through my experiences with other PMA volunteers and missionaries, as well as the people of the island, I learned what it means to be truly unified in Christ. Coming from a very self-centered culture, I felt a breath of fresh air as I spent time with people who were loving, accepting and encouraging. God reminded me of His faithfulness and His every day presence as I lived in His beautiful islands. I spent time seeking His face about certain issues in my life, and He was faithful to answer me. When my departure time came, I didn’t want to leave! I had fallen in love with the people of Micronesia and with the PMA missionaries and their ministry.

When I left home for this short-term mission experience, I was a person who was afraid of leaving the confines of a safe, routine life. About a week before I left, God showed me 2 Timothy 4:7 which says, “For God did not give us a spirit of timidity but a spirit of power, of love, and of self-discipline.” I trusted that God would fill me with His Spirit as I obeyed His calling, and

I have now returned home fully confident that God always goes before me and loves me no matter what happens. PMA has become an important part of my life, and it has been a privilege and a blessing to be a part of this ministry in Micronesia, which God has blessed mightily through the years. Serving in Pohnpei changed my entire perspective on what God has put me on this earth for. And instead of fearing His plans, my prayer has now become, “Here am I Lord. Send me.”

Katie with 5-year-old Mona, just one of the many friends that has made Micronesia dear to the heart of Katie.



My Time in Micronesia - His Hand Leading Me

by Rahel Lutz, PMA Missionary Volunteer, Pohnpei

In October 2007, I started a long trip from Germany to Pohnpei. Alone in a big airport in Korea, fear suddenly gripped me. I prayed in my heart for God's guidance and help, and to my relief, I felt immediate peace and was not lonely anymore. I knew God was with me and would be with me throughout this trip.

On Pohnpei I lived together with Pia Kaufmann (PMA Missionary) and Larissa Arnold (PMA Volunteer). I learned so many things from Pia, and Sylvia and Nob Kalau (PMA CEO).

I first worked mainly in preparing Sunday school lessons. I loved to create new crafts for the children and had fun preparing them with Larissa. Then I was involved as a Sunday school helper, and as I gained confidence, as a teacher, finding that teaching was one thing I loved to do. When Pia left for furlough in December, Larissa and I took over the girls' discipleship Bible study and fellowship group. We also helped in the Youth program every Friday evening.

Living "alone" out there in the island was not always easy for two German city girls; but we had the PMA and PMF (Pacific Mission Fellowship) families. It was special to get to know and develop deep friendships with each one. This made my time in Micronesia even more special. It was great to experience the PMF Christmas and Easter Presentations. I was really impressed with the way the PMF members worked together, practiced hard almost everyday so that each presentation would be pleasing to the Lord and at the same time be a great witness to those who watched the programs.

On my way back to Germany, I was privileged to visit Guam (again), Yap and Palau, together with Grace Willis (PMF Member on Pohnpei) and Larissa. We had a great



Rahel enjoys the beauty and history of Pohnpei as she visits the 200 year old ruins of Nan Madol.

time on the islands and enjoyed fellowship with PMA missionaries. I will never forget how friendly and helpful all the missionaries were. I am still thankful and praying for all of them.

Back in Germany, I still miss Pohnpei - the people, the slow pace of life, the lush beautiful greenery with all the beautiful flowers and the crystal clear blue green ocean all around. Pohnpei has changed how I look at life. I do not take things for granted now - The Lord opened my eyes and showed me the beauty of my own country and the people here as well. Being in Pohnpei also enabled me to pray for the islands, the missionaries and the PMF Churches. And I know, no matter where I am, He will always lead and guide me.

Psalms 139:9-10: "If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Thy hand shall lead me and thy right hand shall hold me."

Rahel (far right) enjoys her time with new found friends in Pohnpei and from Germany (Larissa, a mission volunteer). Her love for children has led her to pursue a career in teaching children. Upon arriving Germany, she was accepted to serve in a Kindergarten school. She finds Germany to be so different from the Micronesian Islands but enjoys being with family and friends. She is very thankful though for all the friends she met during her stay in Micronesia who she can never forget. They have brought so much joy and richness to her life.



Men's Retreat at Nahlap

by Mark Sorby, Member, PMF Pohnpei

On March 6, 2008, men of PMF Pohnpei retired to the peace and tranquillity of Nahlap Island for a three day retreat. It was a very enjoyable and rewarding time for all the men who attended this special spiritual excursion, particularly for those whose busy lives don't often permit them to experience the natural splendour of a beautiful island and to be reminded of God's marvellous creation.

The Nahlap men's retreat was truly a special time of learning and reflecting on the Word of God and in particular how it can be effectively applied in our lives, as men of PMF Church, to serve others.

As we learned about what it means to be a servant and how we can be of service to others, we ourselves were served and blessed by Merme Yamada and Athena Heinrick, our chefs, who worked tirelessly cooking, cleaning and caring for us. A lesson in itself, not lost on those of us they served, was the manner in which they worked. In true Pohnpeian style, always with smiles on their faces and happy cheerful hearts, they served up countless plates of barbequed chicken and fish, breadfruit and fried bananas. They were truly a blessing to us all during the retreat, and we thank them very much for their dedication, kindness, generosity and especially their laughter.

For some of us, particularly those from the outer islands, and Eric whose appetite for sashimi is legendary, freshly caught tuna was a 'must have' to make our Nahlap experience complete. Unfortunately, despite the many attempts by so called fishermen, the only tuna available during the retreat was the kind you get out of a can, which as Eric later demonstrated, can also be sashimi-ed.

Each day there was a period set aside for exercise which took the form of a swim in the ocean. The newly installed water slides provided a great way to enjoy the water and give the new contraptions a good workout to make sure they were safe and could stand up to the task of entertaining hundreds of youngsters who would no doubt be visiting the island during the summer holidays. Aply led by Pastor Nob Kalau, who performed some manoeuvres from his college days too dangerous for kids, we all got to experience the Nahlap slippery slide. A word of caution; make sure your trunks are done up tight, and don't forget to take off your slippers before you slide!

Special times we shared at Nahlap, fondly remembered by all, were sitting by the waters edge around the "nahs" (a local thatched roof house) after the evening meal, watching the last rays of the setting sun fade away in the western sky, and the great conversation which was invariably punctuated with shrieks of laughter coming from the kitchen.

It was a great time of really getting to know one another, not so much in the way in which sporting or management teams use such retreats, as a male bonding activity to build trust and respect in order to maximise productivity and profits. Rather for us it was a way of learning more about one another so that we can better serve one another and draw out our individual and collective gifts as a body of Christ in the service of others.

For me personally, it was a great privilege to get to know each of the men on the retreat and develop closer fellowship, particularly with my roommate and friend, Norm Willis. I consider myself to be truly blessed to have shared with Norm some of our hopes and dreams, our love for our wives and families and our desire that all our loved ones will one day come to the Lord and be saved.

"Make me a servant humble and meek Lord let me lift up those who are weak and may the prayer of my heart always be, make me a servant, make me a servant, make me a servant today."

With a small boat the men return back to their island to implement the truths of servanthood that they learned at the men's retreat.



Beginning a Good Work

by Leeman Sebastian, Member, Pacific Mission Fellowship Guam

At an early age, the Lord was already preparing my heart to be open to His word. My mother and I attended a fellowship in our village in Palau. Through the teaching of our Bible study leader, God touched my heart and planted a desire to know more about Jesus. Although I knew who God was, and believed that he existed because my parents taught me this and even told me that He was very powerful, I did not really understand how I could find salvation. I lived in fear of God, and desired to obey Him and read His Word when I could.

During one fellowship service, our preacher asked who wanted to receive Jesus as their Lord and Savior. I was not quite sure what to do but a voice seemed to whisper into my ear and ask me the same question. I found myself raising my hand and right then prayed to receive Jesus as my Lord and Savior. A couple of days after, I forgot about my decision to follow Jesus and spent inconsistent times reading the Bible and praying. Yet I knew in my heart that God was real.

Going to church was one of the struggles in my Christian life. I thought it was boring. I had better things to do. Every time my family attended church, we would always sit at the back pew and nod to whatever the Pastor said. Yet, what we heard did not seem to impact our lives. We were never consistent in going to church as a family.

For the first three years of my high school, I had good grades. Then came my senior year, when for the first time I struggled with my studies and was suspended. I could not focus my mind on my studies. Hanging out with my friends, doing what they were doing and being accepted by them became very important. I was warned by my teachers that if I did not work hard to get better grades, I would not be able to graduate.

It was at this point that the Lord led a family to live with us. They needed a place to stay, and my father gave them a home. Their faith was a great encouragement to me and my family. We observed that they were always attending church every Sunday. One day, they invited us to go with them. My Mom wanted to go and invited me to go with her. I did not want to - I wanted to be with my friends, but somehow I found myself going to church with them. The church was not far from where I lived. It was called Pacific Mission Fellowship. When we went there, Pastor Bambit greeted us. His humility and caring ways made us feel at home, accepted and part of the church family. We experienced God's genuine love as we met each person and family in the congregation. Each one warmly greeted us with a smile, and when I went home that day, I found myself with a happy smile as well. Since then I have continually grown in the Lord. And as I learned about Jesus and applied His Word in my life, I began serving Him by becoming part of the worship team and the youth ministry.

After graduating from high school, the Lord led me to enroll in a Bible school in Guam. There I found another church family (Pacific Mission Fellowship) where I

could be part of, grow and serve. I am filled with satisfaction with His love and know without a doubt that I am saved because He said so in His Word. I know God will continually enable me to grow and equip me so that He can use me to serve Him - in school, in church and in my community. The Bible says, "He who began a good work in you will carry it on to completion until the day of Christ Jesus." Philipians 1:6

Editor's Note: Pray for Leeman's desire to one day go back to Palau and serve with the PMF church after his graduation from Bible school. Pray for a disciplined and focused life and that he would be a blessing to his family who live here on Guam - at school and at church.

Leeman is a young man who is determined to serve the Lord. He wants to pursue excellence in all he does by the grace of God.





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