

Pacific Missionary Aviation's  
Quarterly Magazine

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December

# ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



God is Always On Time

 **PMA**  
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives

# Never Give Up!

by Rea Joy Lumawan, PMA Missionary, Palau

It was a sunny October afternoon, skies were clear, the ocean still... a perfect time to play... the children sang “Never give up ‘cause He’s always there, never give up anytime anywhere, never give up ‘cause He’s always there, remember God is always by your side.” Our own version of the “Amazing Race” as the culmination of our Post-Vacation Bible School, with its theme, “Son Games 2008,” was now at an end.

Divided into three teams, each team needed to hold on to a rope, keeping themselves together throughout the “Games.” The first team to make it through the obstacle course would win! The first clue they found from among the pine trees on the beach. Then to the next stop. Every time they found a clue, they were so excited; it meant they could move on to the next stop, and hopefully be ahead of the other teams to win the race!

I watched as they ran from one station to the next, holding tightly to their rope, trying not to break the bond, and to do what their leader said. I reflected on the lesson for each Sunday. I thought, “This is what Jesus wants us to do: Join His team, obey His commands and cheer up each other, so we can overcome every test, and can celebrate together!”

The first Sunday of Son Games, PMA staff member Ruth Fulguerinas had asked, “Who wants to join God’s team?” Every teacher, all 30 children, and even parents signed up for God’s team. We learned that being on His team requires care, understanding, and love for each other. When we allow God to coach our life game, He has a plan for us, so we can trust Him. We shouldn’t expect everyone to think and act like we do - each one is unique, but with our own abilities and gifts we can complement one another. We discover our differences and, at times, may argue or fight, but we can choose to forgive, care and love one another again.

As the children were challenged, they encountered difficulties: Some stumbled and fell, others cried because of uncomfortable blisters, still others became impatient. Then one of them remembered a memory verse, “Let us consider how we may stimulate

**Teacher Sahlee and Baklai learned how to encourage each other during Son Games 2008. Here they are shown enjoying their moment of triumph as they present each other victory medals of honor. Learning lessons on how to love, accept and care for one another helped them be better members of God’s family.**



Rea Joy enjoys ministry with the children.



one another on toward love and good deeds.” (Heb. 10:24) They began to cheer and encourage one another, and continued the race. They learned how to be on His team: not criticizing weak ones, not tearing them down, but, “encouraging one another and building each other up.” (1 Thess. 5:11a).

It was past 4:00pm when one of the teams finally arrived at the next to the last station. Tired and thirsty; the heat of the sun dehydrating them, they longed for water. Little did they know that this stop was the drinking station! They were so happy. They realized that waiting for the right time was essential, like in their lives. They drank and drank until they regained their strength. Like water that quenches thirst and strengthens us, God, in His mighty power, can quench our thirsty souls, giving us strength to obey Him and to persevere. He only requires that we wait on Him and do what He asks.

Finally, two teams competed for the ultimate goal - the hidden treasure. Team A found the treasure in the pulpit (a bag of candies), and ended up winning the game! They gave praises to the Lord once again, singing “Never Give Up.”

We all learned valuable lessons from this Amazing Race. First, it’s important that as God’s team, we be united in love. Then we’ll be able to encourage one another and finish the race together. Second, it’s not about how fast we run, but how well we run the race. Third, it’s only through God that we face every obstacle in life. The Apostle Paul acknowledged God’s power in him in Phil. 4:13, “I can do all things through Christ who gives me strength.”

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# PMF Learning Center

## Patnanungan Island, Quezon Province

by Mary Cleope, PMA Missionary, Philippines

It was a sweltering day in late October for a trip to Patnanungan. A one-hour plane ride, crisscrossing through the clouds, and a one-hour small boat ride across the channel--with high bouncing waves - set us in motion for our visit to Patnanungan. It was a welcome sight to be greeted by Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) believers.

Here settled in Quezon Province, Pacific Ocean, lives “Teacher Mercy,” with her husband Jun, and one-year old daughter, Faith. Mercy is PMF Learning Center’s lead teacher. Each weekday, 20 students, ages 4-6, come to learn important skills of life - listening, obeying, singing, simple reading, proper manners, and especially “who is God and what does God’s Word say?” Mercy stated that only three of the children come from Christian homes at this time. But the others have heard of the school and how well the students learn, and have sent their children.

Mary: “What kind of work do the parents have?”

Mercy: “Most of them are farmers; others are fishermen, security guards, teachers (in the public school), government employees, or vendors at the market.” A good variety.



**With eyes wide with interest, the children soak in the important things they learn at the PMF Learning Center. Their parents are so happy and proud of what they learn - as most of “our children” go on to the next level of education well prepared and are achievers.**

Mary: “How can they afford the P300 (about \$6 USD) per month to send their young child to school?” (Farmers and fisherman average about \$60 - \$100 per month income.)

Mercy: “They make it a priority. Even though it’s difficult, they want the best for their child.” The PMF Learning Center asks for a small fee to attend the school, which has proven to be a good incentive for commitment.

Mercy feels strongly that PMA has found a special niche in Patnanungan. Why? “At the beginning of the school year and each quarter, I have a parents’ meeting. Lately, I have been taking some time to teach the parents out of the book, *Effective Parenting in a Difficult World*, by Chip Ingram. In the past, I have seen “problem” kids in our church families; now that I have a daughter, I am excited to learn about parenting, too. The island parents love the opportunity to learn, too. They share comments made at home by their pre-schoolers, such as ‘you should not say that’, or ‘do not quarrel’, and then they mention ‘because that’s what Teacher Mercy says.’”

PMF Learning Center is a ministry of Pacific Mission Fellowship. Please pray for our needs: a full-time pastor; building repairs are needed for the school building, dormitory, church building, and staff housing. The whole place needs a make-over! Please pray for the children and their families, that they would all desire to live for Christ. Pray also for Mercy, Jun, and Faith, that their needs would be met each day.

Mercy adds: It’s heart warming to know that my teaching is going further than just inside these school walls; the children are learning values from God’s Word. I can be a vessel for Jesus in my classroom.”

**Teacher Mercy lovingly shares with the children Godly skills needed in life: proper manners and right conduct, Biblical values and simple reading skills.**



# God is Always On Time

by Melinda R. Espinosa, PMA CFO, Guam Headquarters

We knew that the Medical Ship, Sea Haven needed to undergo dry dock. The last dry dock was in 1997 - it was long overdue. Funding was the problem. And where to go - Australia or Guam? Australia was where the ship was dry docked the last time, and Guam would be a new alternative - nearer, less fuel consumption - plus we had many supporters and partners here that could help us, as well as our headquarters office.

Guam Shipyard's Matt Pothen and Ayuda Foundation's Carlotta Leon Guerrero visited Pohnpei a year before to inspect the ship and see whether it was feasible for her to be dry docked on Guam. The answer was "yes!" Meanwhile, Kommission für Entwicklungszusammenarbeit (EZA), an organization in Basel, Switzerland, through our PMA Switzerland, and friend Peter Bossert; and friends from Germany, through PMA Germany, provided the seed money for this project. Then we waited for the right time and a "go" signal from the Guam Shipyard.

In June 2008, the Lord provided us with this verse to take a step of faith and to begin preparing for dry dock: "So He told His disciples that a small boat should be kept ready for Him because of the multitude..." (Mark 3:9). That same month, we received word from Matt Pothen that Guam Shipyard could accommodate Sea Haven in June or July. But because the Shipyard had to work on an unscheduled project - our

schedule was moved to October. All these delays worked for good, because we didn't have a complete crew then, but by October, our fifth crew member, Tobias Stork, a PMA volunteer, had arrived from Germany. Little did he know that two days after his arrival in Pohnpei, he would immediately set sail for Guam. This would be his first long trip on a ship. He told me later, "The Lord really gave me strength as I was responsible to check the engines every four hours. I was also worried that I might get seasick. But, thank God, it didn't happen."

**The Sea Haven distributing 1,205 boxes of books and 5 palettes of medicines and medical supplies.**



The ship and crew left Pohnpei October 7 and were able to visit 11 Chuuk outer-islands, distributing 1,025 boxes of books and educational supplies to 3 junior high schools, 2 high schools and 22 elementary schools, as well as deliver 5 palettes of medicines and medical supplies to the 12 island dispensaries. We were told that these schools have not received any books for 6 - 10 years! We are thankful for the partnership of Ayuda Foundation on Guam who provided us with the books and educational materials. Another important aspect of the trip was the distribution of solar-powered short wave radios - with fixed dial on PMA's 4755 SW Christian radio station, The Cross Radio. What a fantastic tool to keep the islanders connected and informed in the isolated outer islands.

The other members of the crew, except for Edwin Romolow, are all first timers. When asked what this trip had meant to him, Etinimei shared, "I was so excited and looked forward to this trip. I was born on the main Chuuk Island, Tol, and was excited to visit the Outer Islands. I saw how happy the people were to see us, to receive the books and medical supplies. Even if we worked hard, I loved every moment of our trip."

Theodore, another first timer, and also Chuukese, remarked, "When I found out we were going to deliver educational and medical supplies to the Outer Islands of Chuuk, I really prayed that I could go on this trip because I love to serve. My most memorable experience was distributing the solar-powered short wave radios to the islanders, because I know that everyone needs to hear the Good News. I experienced a lot on this trip, to be responsible, be part of a team and to work together. God taught me the value of prayer - I was never seasick! Praise God!"



**Nob Kalau handing out and explaining a solar powered shortwave radio receiver to an islander on Tol, in the Chuuk lagoon.**

For Chuukese Edwin Romolow, Nob's right hand man and an experienced Sea Haven crew member, he was excited to visit Guam. Why? "I was glad that we could once again help the Outer Islands of Chuuk. But I greatly anticipated going to Guam. We've prayed for our church there, and for the first time, I will see each person face to face. I will be able to meet people who've been praying for us, helping the work of PMA through the Sea Haven, and of course, meet my Micronesian families who have settled on Guam - to encourage them, especially in their Christian walk."



**The Sea Haven up on dry dock (photo courtesy of Guam Shipyard)**

The Sea Haven arrived safely on Guam October 20th, and received a warm "Hafa Adai" welcome from Guam's harbormaster himself. Many of your prayers were answered, as all documents and paperwork were completed on time. Federal and local government agencies were extremely helpful to provide us all the necessary guidelines. With Guam being a U.S. Territory, Border Patrol and Homeland Security had to be very particular with protocol. The Government of Guam allowed docking privileges for the Sea Haven to clear customs and immigration, as well as waiving all the fees.

As of this writing, the ship is still on dry dock - and may be here till the fourth week of November. The people, companies, and organizations on Guam have been reaching out to us, asking how they can help, doing what they can, and calling us to pick up medicines, supplies, food, clothing and other supplies for the Micronesian Islands. I'm so thankful that Guam, not only is the "Gateway to Paradise", but is also a "Channel of Hope and Help" to the Islands of Micronesia. When God planned this trip, He knew that in His time, the place and His provision would be available. We just needed to trust Him.



**Sea Haven Crew: Theodore, Etinamei, Tobias, Edwin and Nob arrived on Guam after traveling 1,400 miles in 14 days from home port Pohnpei. They visited 11 Chuuk Outer Islands to deliver educational and medical supplies before they arrived in Guam for dry docking.**

**Islanders of Tol, Chuuk, eagerly await the arrival of the Sea Haven. As they see the medical ship on the horizon, approaching the island, word gets out and many of them wait along the shore knowing that the Sea Haven would be bringing them help and hope.**

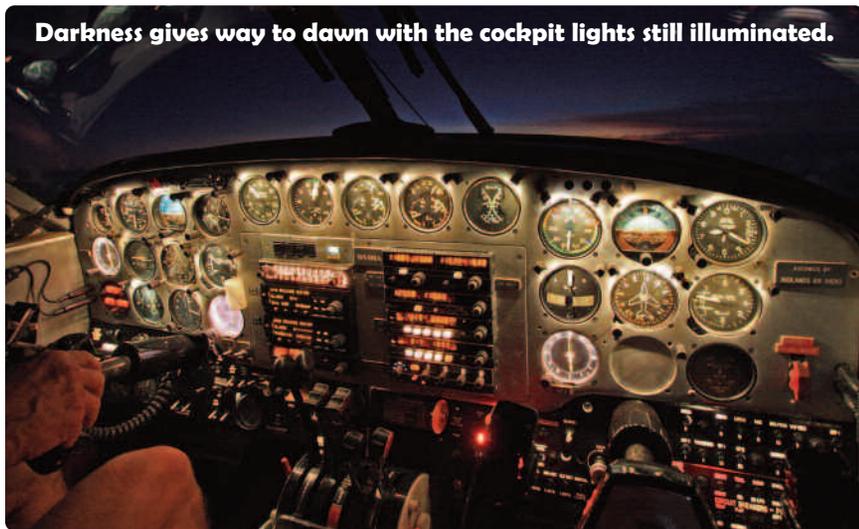


# Night Flight, Stormy Weather; A Life Saved!

by Peter Reichert, Director of Aviation, Yap, Micronesia

The sound of a distant melody brought me out of a deep sleep. The phone was ringing at 2:30 the morning of June 21st. My wife, Esther, reached for the phone and told me it was the medic from Yap Memorial Hospital. The medic said that a young man had been seriously injured in a midnight brawl on the Island of Ulithi. The life-threatening knife stab to his chest called for an immediate medical evacuation. The medic on Ulithi had reported that the patient might die at any time. By now we were wide awake and alerted PMA staff: Vince and Amos, both pilots, and Simon, aircraft mechanic, to come to the hangar to help prepare the plane.

**Darkness gives way to dawn with the cockpit lights still illuminated.**



Unfortunately, the weather satellite image revealed heavy weather to the northwest of Ulithi. Stepping out into the night, we observed distant lightning flashes in the clouds. As the Yap Hospital prepared personnel and equipment, Esther established radio contact by short wave radio with Ulithi. Falalop, one of Ulithi's atolls, is 130 miles from Yap, a 45-minute flight for us. The 3,000-foot east/west runway is lined with tall coconut palms on both sides, the ocean on both ends, and it has no lighting. We issued special instructions to the islanders on Falalop to position vehicles with headlights illuminated at each corner of the runway. Several dozen reflective cones were also placed along the edges of the airstrip to provide us with visual cues.

Knowing this trip would have its special challenges, we joined together in prayer before departure and committed our flight into God's hands. As soon as Dr. Peter Gimotz arrived, we loaded his medical gear and took off into the night. As we progressed into the last half of our flight we began to encounter the thunderstorm

which had moved into our flight path. A slight deviation to the south helped us stay "in the clear" and out of harm's way. A strong crosswind generated by the storm to the northwest made the landing a definite challenge, and the meager lighting available to us didn't help.

After we landed safely, the medical team was driven to the village by pick-up truck to attend to the patient and prepare him for the flight back to Yap. Dr. Gimotz found the patient, 19-year old Kesner, in very serious condition. The knife stab to his chest had caused a lot of blood to accumulate in his pleural cavity, threatening to collapse one of his lungs. An old dilapidated pick-up truck served as the ambulance, a woven mat as his stretcher. Transferring Kesner from the truck to our plane was extremely painful for him. To get him back to Yap for a blood transfusion, along with necessary treatment, would be a race against time. As we watched him suffer, we prayed, "O Lord, let him live."

Looking back over my shoulder into the dimly-lit cabin I saw bloody sheets, syringes, rubber gloves and a very pale patient who we all expected could die at any moment. The doctor worked feverishly. At first light we lifted off from Ulithi. Thankfully, the storm had dissipated. Forty minutes later we touched down on Yap, where the ambulance awaited us. By radio we had requested that blood type O+ be available for an immediate transfusion, but none was available at the hospital on such short notice. Vince, one of our pilots, promptly volunteered to donate his blood since he also has type O+ blood. Stepping out of the plane, he headed straight to the hospital in the ambulance.

Later, while eating breakfast together, we talked about our early morning experience. We continued to uphold Kesner in prayer. Eager to find out how our patient was doing, we dropped by his hospital room later that day. There we found Dr. Gimotz attending to him. He assured us that Kesner's condition was improving and that the crisis was over. Grateful for our part in saving a life, we now continue to pray for Kesner and for opportunities to share God's good news with him.

**Pilots Peter Reichert and Vince Davis with Kesner, a patient whose life was saved through an emergency medivac, pose for this momentous picture. Thankful to God for allowing PMA to yet again save another life through its aviation ministry.**



# Mission Possible With God

by Amos Collins, PMA Missionary Pilot/Mechanic, Yap, Micronesia

What seemed like a routine visit from Nob, our CEO, and Melinda, our CFO, to our Yap station at the end of August, completely changed any plans I would have had for September. A generous donor had donated his Twin Comanche (PA-30) aircraft to our station in Manila, Philippines. The airplane was sitting in Washington, needing to be disassembled, loaded in a container, and shipped across the Pacific to the Philippines.

Within a week of their visit to Yap, I was on a plane to Seattle. The decision to send me to Washington came about mostly because that was where I had lived and done most of my flight and mechanic's training. Logistics would be easier as my family lived close by, and I also had contacts that could help as the need arose.

We estimated about one month to do the whole job, with a back-up plan of extending my ticket if we needed to. But to accomplish this, things had to be set in place before I even arrived. Malcolm, Officer in Charge, PMA Philippines, had lined up a shipper in California, who was familiar with shipping planes to the Philippines, and knew how their customs agents liked to see the paperwork prepared.

Two major components of the Comanche that needed overhaul: the engine cylinders and the propellers. They needed to be taken to overhaul shops immediately so that they would be complete by the time the container doors were closed. Through talking with contacts in Washington, I received recommendations of reputable shops in the area, and before I left Yap, I already had a slot in their schedules for my first week in Seattle.

The donor of the aircraft, Lawrence Campbell, put me in touch with Norman Aviation, a maintenance shop on the airfield in Everett, Washington. A Christian couple, Mark and Lisa Norman, have a heart for helping missionaries. Although they had to run their own shop, they were a tremendous asset to me. Mark aided me in ideas for building a cradle, and loaned me tools, like hydraulic jacks and engine hoists. Lisa helped me with ordering parts and getting the lowest prices. They also gave me free reign of their office to make phone calls and use the Internet.

I arrived in Seattle on Friday, September 5th and delivered the props to the overhaul shop. By Tuesday the engine shop was ready for the cylinders, and an instructor from my old flight school volunteered to fly them across Puget Sound to the overhaul shop. By Friday, I had the engines and tail removed, a cradle built for the fuselage, and was ready to remove the wings. A group of family and friends showed up, and despite a few hang-ups, we had both wings removed in three hours!

(A note about the disassembly of this plane: I needed to take digital pictures of every component before I took the aircraft apart; I then documented anything that might

be confusing when the plane was reassembled. This would be a great help to PMA's mechanic Fred, because I probably wouldn't be in the Philippines to assist him with this. And it's always more difficult to put something together, especially if you weren't the one to take it apart! I'll be on standby in Yap in case Fred and his crew are overwhelmed.)

The following week I spent regrouping, building a cradle for the wings, and preparing a list of new parts to purchase. By Tuesday of the third week, I had the container delivered to the airfield. My brother Micah and friend Jed helped me load the wings and fuselage, and secure them for that long trip. By that Friday I had all the parts ordered and loaded, and closed the container doors. My part of the project was finished. On the following Monday, September 29th, I boarded a plane and returned home to Yap.

God's hand in this project was very evident throughout the whole process. Having the shipping pre-arranged and a vacancy in the overhaul shop's schedule are things that one cannot take for granted in aviation, especially at summer's end. Also, with the restrictive level of security at most airports these days, I was very fortunate to have the airport management allow me to park the container right in front of the hangar that last week. God brought along people to help me when I needed a group, and others who knew details about this type of airplane that will aid us as we begin to operate it. The Lord definitely had His hand guiding me every step of the way, giving me wisdom, and just fitting the pieces together so that the project was completed smoothly and on schedule. Thank you, Lord.

**Amos between two aircraft wings that he successfully took out of the Comanche - careful to make sure no damage was made to the aircraft during the process.**



**Amos skillfully uses a forklift to load the body of the aircraft into a container.**



# What A Wonderful God We Serve

by Wai Yi Ma, PMA Volunteer, Guam

I am a University of Guam student. It was in the fall Semester of 2007 in my Communications internship class, when our professor Dr. Somera told us that we needed to look for internship opportunities. I wasn't prepared for that, but God was prepared for me!

Some companies were willing to take students for internship programs, but I was neither good in writing or in speaking English (not my first language), as I'd been born and raised in Hong Kong. But I had to look for a communications-related job and finish ninety working hours to fulfill the class requirement. What could I do? I prayed: "Surely God is my salvation; I will trust and not be afraid. The Lord, The Lord, is my strength and my song; he has become my salvation." Isaiah 12:2. I told Him that day, "Yes, I will trust and not be afraid."

Then I heard about PMA through a class project. And at that time, Hawley Iseke, a Communication classmate, worked with PMA. I sent him an email about PMA and told him of my hopes. Soon I received an email that Melinda was willing to take me as an intern and I met her the next day. The duties Melinda assigned to me met the requirements for my Communications major since my duties involved radio broadcasting and bulletin printing.

Hawley patiently taught me how to download radio programs for PMA's Radio Station in Pohnpei. That's how I started serving with PMA through its radio ministry. In December 2007, I finished my internship hours. When I asked Melinda if I could continue to volunteer and download programs for PMA, she was so happy that I could continue. Although my time is limited due to my class schedule, I thank God for an opportunity to be part of His ministry.

From Melinda and other PMA missionaries I've met, I've learned what it means to live by faith. Their joy - even at times when workloads are heavy or work hours are long - has been a great testimony to me. While serving with the mission, I have witnessed how God takes care of His faithful servants. I've seen how He always provides.

Downloading radio programs in Guam is only a small part of our radio ministry on the island of Pohnpei. However, it is my prayer that God delights in my small effort. One September day, I met Nob Kalau at the PMA Guam office. He told me that the people in Pohnpei love the programs. I was so happy! He told me that they not only listen to the Christian music, but also to the preaching/teaching programs. His words really encouraged me. Melinda further encouraged me with these words: "One day in heaven, people whom you've never met before will greet you and thank you for what you call your small service."

I never imagined being a part of missionary efforts in this part of the world. But as I look back at the people and events that brought me to PMA, I know that it's God who directed my steps. Isn't He wonderful?

*Editor's Note by Melinda Espinosa:*

*I first met Wai in an interview when she applied for a volunteer position with our office to complete her internship studies at the University of Guam. I was impressed by her smiling face and sweet demeanor. As we worked together, and I became more acquainted with her, I was struck by her motivation, dedication and a sincere desire to do a good job. When her time of internship came to an end, and she knew that we continued to need a volunteer to download radio programs on to CDs, Wai decided to continue serving with us. This showed to me that indeed, her desire to serve went beyond grade credits - but a great desire to be available to the Lord. I am thankful to God for sending Wai to PMA. She indeed is a precious gift from Hong Kong.*

**Wai downloading Christian radio programs that will be sent to PMA's broadcasting station on the Island of Pohnpei.**





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