

Pacific Missionary Aviation's  
Quarterly Magazine

Issue 2-2009  
July

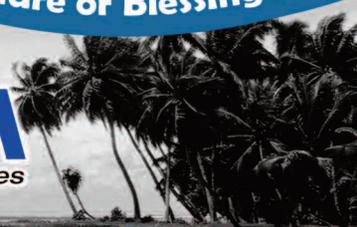
# ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Tropical Nightmare or Blessing?

 **PMA**  
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Dear Friends,

In Psalm 63:1, David, cries out to the Lord: “God - you’re my God! I can’t get enough of you! I’ve worked up such hunger and thirst for God, traveling across dry and weary deserts.” These “dry and weary deserts” also challenge our missionaries to depend on God’s help and strength as they carry out the ministries of PMA in the islands.

Even though David is hiding out from King Saul in the wilderness of Judah, and King Saul is feverishly pursuing David, he is talking to His Father with gratefulness: “If I’m sleepless at midnight, I spend the hours in grateful reflection.” - Psalm 63:6

How many times have we stayed awake long after we should have been asleep, troubled with what’s going on in our lives, sometimes forgetting to cry out to God instead, telling Him our concerns? We may not be struggling with problems as big as David’s but even the small concerns threaten to rob us of the grateful, praise-filled reliance upon our God.

But David continues, with joy: “Because You are my help, I sing in the shadow of Your wings. My soul clings to You; Your right hand upholds me. In Psalm 63:7, 8 David is modeling to us that right thoughts and right praise toward God have an amazing way of transforming the dry deserts to refreshing streams of water.

As you read this newsletter, you will find specific ways to pray for our PMA staff members and volunteers. We thank you so much. We remain incredibly grateful for your continued steadfastness to PMA, through your letters, your emails, your packages, your ongoing prayers and your support.

As I close, I want to tell you that we are encouraged, and hope that you are as well, with these words:

“God can do anything, you know - far more than you could ever imagine or guess or request in your wildest dreams! He does it not by pushing us around but by working within us, his Spirit deeply and gently within us.” - Ephesians 3:20, 21

That every island may hear,

Nob Kalau



**PMA President Nob Kalau**

## Summary of Ministry Needs

“The Harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into the harvest field.”

Luke 10:2

### Personnel Needs:

Missionary Pastors

Administrative and Ministry Assistants

Youth Workers

House Parents for Bahay Kalinga Orphanage

IT for Media Ministry

Facility/Equipment Maintenance Personnel

Boat Captain

Boat Engineer

Pilot/Mechanics

### Infrastructure Needs:

Repair of Boys and Girls Dormitory  
Patnanungan, Philippines

Repair of Multi-Purpose Centers  
Patnanungan and Kilogan, Philippines

Construction of Multi-Purpose Center  
Jomalig, Philippines

Construction of Learning Center  
Patnanungan, Philippines

## ISLAND ECHOES

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### Issue

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Sceneries of Pohnpei

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# Bringing the Bright Truth of God's Word

by Cameron Fruit, Wycliffe Bible Translator

*Editor's Note: American, Cameron Fruit, contacted PMA to ask if he could assist in translating the English Bible into the Woleaian language, as he was already on the Island of Saipan at work on the Caroline Islands' translation.*

Martin Luther, alone in a cell in Wartburg Castle, (Eisenach, Germany), translated the New Testament from Greek into German from 1521 - 1522, while hiding out from his enemies. In the 1600s, King James I of England commissioned 47 Anglican scholars to translate the Bible into the English version bearing his name, the "King James" version. But how do Bible translators work today?

Some of Yap's Outer Islanders began translating the New Testament into Woleaian in July 2008. With the help of PMA members Melinda Espinosa, Amos and Heidi Collins, I had the privilege of being present for the birth of this new project as part of my work with Wycliffe Bible Translators.

**Some of the Translation Team members: Santiago Hagiltaw, Peter Haleyalgiy, Pastor John Malimai, Peter's wife Queentina, and John's wife Johanna take a break after a long day of discussion on the Book of John.**



PMA's Pastor John Malimai told me the local church, which had been praying for two years to somehow create a Woleaian translation, didn't know how to begin. But they had the most important resource of a Bible translation project - willing, motivated followers of Christ. Ones who loved the Word of God and were willing to sacrifice time and energy to translate it into their language. These days, it's not usually advisable for just one individual to translate the Scriptures. About fifteen Woleaian speakers are involved in this translation. Their individual strengths and gifts all work together to make the translation successful.

In the Woleaian translation, three individuals volunteered to create first drafts from one or more English translations. They type their first draft into a computer. (Brother Martin Luther would have loved having a computer back in his corner of the castle!)

Next a group of about ten people - young, old, male, female - gathers together in the PMF church to review and revise that first draft. The review/revision meetings are interesting and lots of fun. We look at each verse one-by-one, projected from a computer onto the wall where everyone can see it.

Our team has also had the gift of working with John Malimai's oldest brother, Woleaian Camillus Tayogmai. He is the designated spelling expert, and has helped compile the Woleaian-English dictionary! A University of Hawaii graduate, he has taught in several schools in the Yap Islands. He has most recently retired from the Department of Education, where he developed new curriculums.

To clearly understand the meaning of each verse, we first look at different English translations, or even the original Greek text. Then everyone discusses the best way to express that meaning naturally, clearly and accurately. Sometimes the translators spend as much as a half-hour on one verse, or even part of a verse, while each makes suggestions. As a result of many discussions, the translation's quality, after the review and revisions, is already quite high.

Next, the translators distribute the revised translation to members of the community to proofread, asking for comments on anything that sounds wrong or strange to the ear. Once the changes are completed, a Bible translation consultant (a specialist usually from Wycliffe Bible Translators or United Bible Societies) checks the whole translation yet again, suggests any needed changes, and then, hopefully, approves the translation for publication. We do hundreds of spelling checks, then the New Testament goes to the publisher, and finally, a beautiful book is created.

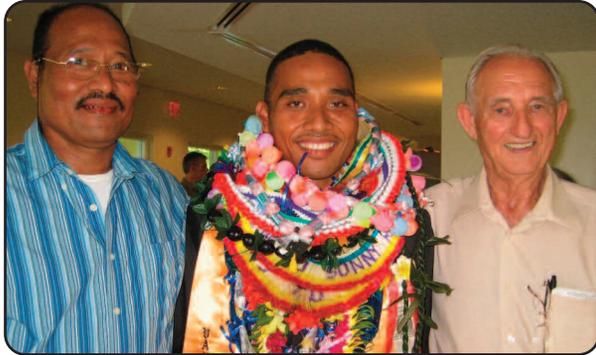
There is a song from the past that reads, "Book of grace and book of glory, Gift of God to age and youth. Wondrous is thy sacred story, Bright, bright with truth." With the Lord's great help, this fine group of Woleaian translators is bringing the bright, bright truth of His Word to the islanders in their own language for the very first time.

# God's Perfect Plan

by Sonny Kenbaroy, Pacific Mission Fellowship Member, Guam

*Editor's Note:*

*Sonny, a Bible School student, pursued his B.A. in Biblical Studies and graduated Valedictorian this past May 2009. Sonny has been a vital member of PMF's Worship team playing guitar and piano. Following is a portion of his Valedictory address.*



**Sonny celebrating his graduation with dad Ken and Pastor Edmund Kalau.**

When I arrived at Pacific Island Bible College (PIBC) in 2004, my goal was an A.A. But a significant visit to the school office changed all of that. Two professors challenged me to pursue a B.A. degree instead. So, like many Micronesians, I changed to the four-year degree just to appease them. I knew I'd change back to A.A. later.

During the following semesters I learned so much as I studied the Bible. The more I studied, the more I realized that what I knew wasn't enough. A professor summed it up succinctly: "Studying the Bible is fascinating because, the more you think you know, the more you find that you don't know." It made sense. I realized the truth about what my two professors had told me earlier. I had to pursue my B.A. and forget about completing an A.A. only. When I think of that time, Proverbs 19:21 comes to mind, "Many are the plans in a man's heart, but it is the Lord's purpose that prevails."

To my fellow graduating seniors I say, "Job well done!" But I can't forget to say, "Hello, World!" too, because this is only one chapter's end and another chapter about to unfold. We've come so far and experienced so much through our journey.

I hope and pray, as we enter the next chapter, that we will respond to God's call. That we will serve Him with gladness, wherever he places us: in a church, school, social services or somewhere else. We can trust that He will remain faithful to His promises as we walk alongside Him and serve Him. Our class motto has been "Building Servant Leaders." Our desire is that wherever we serve, others will see Christ in us.

We're excited with our degrees, of course, but the more important thing is who we are in Christ Jesus and the relationship we have with Him. Let us not forget to put Christ first in everything we do, that we may always have servant hearts. It is amazing the way He works through a person to confirm or change his plans. Today I am a testimony to that - when God changed my plan several years ago.

# Knowing True Joy

by Mary Cleope, PMA Missionary, Philippines

After our "Boatman" Bayani Urive - a resident of Jomalig, Polillio Island - and I arrived following our boat crossing from the tiny island of Jomalig to Patnanungan, we sat down to lunch with a few of the local islanders. Bayani, an active member of Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) Jomalig, faithfully attends the Sunday church services here, often assisting by reading the Word or assisting with music. The weathered face of this fisherman accompanied a quiet, introspective demeanor. Occasionally he would smile as he shares a story... today he would tell us his personal story.

Just a few years ago, Bayani was very angry with his gambling wife. His life consisted of illegal fishing (with dynamite), heavy drinking, and arguments with his wife. It was a never-ending battle. In his quiet village of Jomalig, he would sometimes greet the PMF Pastor Dolauta, who regularly walked through town, carrying his Bible and talking with others. Bayani was very curious about just what was in that Bible.

One morning he woke up with a picture of that Bible in his head; he had a strong desire to read it, and get to know God. He said he prayed that very day for God to save him from the life he had, and his life did, indeed, change.

Bayani said he figured there was "still some goodness left in his life" despite the way he'd lived. At that point he knew nothing about God. He decided to tag along with Pastor Dolauta as often as possible. He learned he could be saved only by God's grace and not by the "goodness" of his life. As he shared his story, Bayani then smiled and added, "Suddenly my wife just stopped gambling without a word from me." She is now a member of our PMF church, too.



This humble boatman was lovingly "caught" by the Lord, and has been a Christian for four years. He's been selected as a village councilman. He now fishes legally with hooks, and catches tuna and squid daily. I asked him, "How much do you catch every day?" He shrugged his shoulders, "Sometimes one kilo (about 2 pounds) and sometimes dami (many)."

He wore a peaceful expression that afternoon, and showed no signs of anxiety. Bayani now knows the joy of living each day with whatever God provides.

**Knowing true joy and Jesus Christ gives Bayani Urive a peace that passes all understanding.**



# Tropical Nightmare or Blessing?

by Dierk Frenzen, PMA Missionary Volunteer, Pohnpei, Micronesia

What an honor it is to serve as a PMA volunteer on the beautiful island of Pohnpei. When the Lord led me to come to the islands from Germany, my prayer was this: that He would use this time to teach me about Himself, give me wisdom, and grant me a deeper understanding of what it means to fear Him.

I had been in the tropics for two months. The ocean, the rivers, and the waterfalls are places that any swimmer would be attracted to - I'm a swimmer and I certainly was! But I didn't realize a strong 20-year old could be the target for a water-borne, deadly bacterium called Leptospirosis.

After a two-week incubation period, I began experiencing flu-like symptoms. When the high fever and severe headaches continued, Pia, a PMA missionary, took me to the doctor. Because the clinic building had no power that day, I was referred to the main clinic emergency room. They took a blood test, a urine test and then sent me home. At this point I didn't know what was wrong. Within 24 hours, my symptoms had gotten much more severe and my urine was bloody. It happened to be Sunday morning and everyone else was at church. Alone and quickly getting weaker, I slipped in and out of consciousness. Collapsing, at any attempt to walk, I was unable to even crawl back to my bed or get up for a drink of water. It all happened so fast. I thought, "I can't walk, I can't think straight and I'm all alone. This is it... I'm going to die." I said a simple prayer re-dedicating my life to God... no matter what happened I knew I had God's peace.

After church, Waldemar, PMA's youth pastor, came to check up on me; he found me unconscious in my room. He picked me up, carried me to his car and quickly drove me to the hospital. Later he told me that, the whole drive to the emergency room, I was delirious, and shouting nonsense. Waldemar prayed over me and asked God to show His power by healing me. At the small hospital they diagnosed my illness as Leptospirosis. They also found that my blood count was dangerously low. On Pohnpei they don't have a blood bank, so now the search was on for a donor. Unfortunately, I am "blessed" with a rare blood type: one not found on this tiny tropical island. By this time our PMF church members were praying, and my parents in Germany, along with our church there, had been notified. It was extremely sobering to hear the doctor tell our missionaries that my blood count was so low; I wouldn't survive a 1,000-mile emergency flight to Guam to get the life-saving transfusion I needed. And so... they continued to pray and, once again, God did what He always does... He worked!

God had a different plan and I did survive! I was given the medication that arrested the bacteria and amazingly my hydration level soon returned to its normal level. I realized, as never before, how very close each one of us is to eternity. It is foolishness to put your trust in your youth or your fitness level, for any moment could be your last. Jesus' advice in Matthew 25:13 is so clear to me now, "Watch therefore, for you know neither the day nor the hour in which the Son of Man is coming." I experienced the reality of the power of prayer for healing, that God is faithful, and that He alone knows the plans He has for me for today and tomorrow. God used a very unexpected tool, and one that could have proven fatal, to teach me about His greatness, His protection and His faithfulness to me, His much-loved child.

**Dierk at his swimming form. Pohnpei has been a great place to enjoy this sport as well as serve the Lord with his varied talents.**



## “King Louie” is a special little guy...

Praises from Bahay Kalinga Orphanage  
by Mary Cleope, PMA Missionary, Philippines

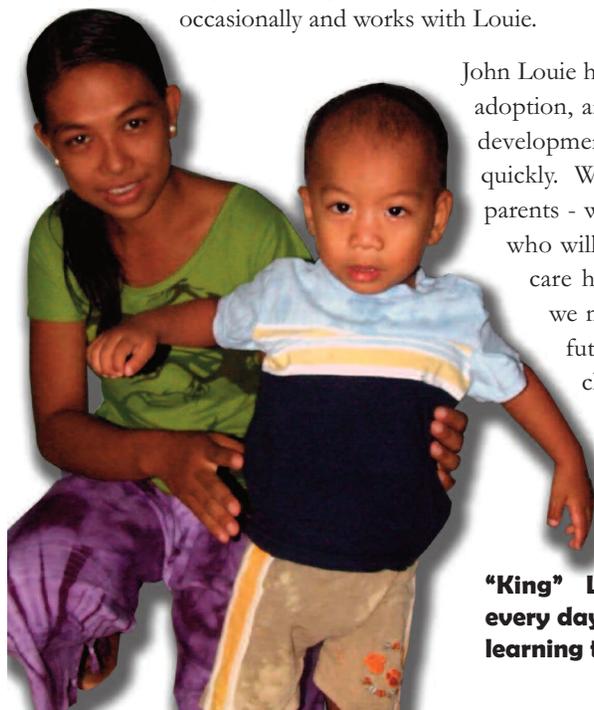
John Louie came to our Orphanage in 2006 as a severely malnourished baby. He was immediately placed on a “Special Needs” list because of his delayed development. He’s had numerous medical problems in his short life; yet thanks to the generous financial support of our friends around the world, we’ve been able to take him to see many medical specialists here in the Philippines.

Our caregivers have fed him, bathed him, hugged him, talked to him, traveled endlessly with him to doctors’ appointments, and have helped him learn how to walk. He is now progressing well, and grows stronger each day.

In 2007, another care facility graciously took care of Louie for over six months while he had numerous medical appointments in Manila. We really appreciate their partnership in Louie’s life.

John Louie is now 3 years old. You should see him: full of personality, walking, and echoing whatever he hears. He loves music, going to the beach, and thrives on attention. He lets us know immediately, and loudly, if we forget him for even a minute!

Pray that he will get the therapy his doctors have prescribed. Unfortunately, there are no occupational or speech therapists in Mindoro. However, a physical therapist comes occasionally and works with Louie.



John Louie has now been approved for adoption, and because of his delayed development, he can be adopted quickly. We pray for his adoptive parents - who wait somewhere - and who will give him all the love and care he wants and deserves. As we make decisions for Louie’s future, we wait for God to choose the right parents, meanwhile, we will nurture him and keep God at the center of little Louie’s life.

**“King” Louie grows stronger every day, walking, talking and learning to love the Lord.**

## All Things Work Together for Good

by Rea Joy Lumawan, PMA Missionary, Palau

Who would think that out of a difficult situation God could turn it around for good and for His glory? This is what happened to Macnalty. He came to PMA because he was required to perform 60 hours of community service as a discipline given by the Probation Office of the Supreme Court of Palau. He served with us this year from February to April. From the very beginning we saw God working in his life. His parents, Mike and Audrey, saw these changes, too, and are so thankful. One of Mac’s closest friends in our youth group has been amazed at his transformation. And this huge change has been noted by everyone, especially Pastor Bambit, who continues to counsel Mac and his family.

The Church family has become his family, too. Here he has big brothers and sisters who understand him. He has a little brother Jaeden (Pastor Bambit’s son) to play with. More important, he’s nurtured spiritually as he meets with the Men’s Bible Study. We are thankful for the opportunity he’s had to express himself through the ministry of sports and worship dance.

One of many things he learned through PMA was to work with his hands, and to serve God by serving other people. I asked him what he planned to do after completing community service with us. His response: he wants to enroll in a special program for out-of-school young people, and receive vocational training.

God is in the process of transforming Mac’s life. We are confident that God will bring to completion what He has begun in this young man’s life. (Philippians 1:6) As we look at Mac’s recent experiences we can see that God works all things together for our good and His glory! For that’s exactly what’s happened in his life!

**Mac enjoying his service with PMA. He has learned the joy of serving others.**



# Breaking Down Prison Walls

by Simon Hämmerling, PMA Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

This April marked 4 ½ years since I first joined Falrog to visit the inmates of Yap Prison. Falrog, a 73-year old Yapese Christian woman, has been faithfully ministering to these prisoners for many years.

On this island of 6,000+ people, as in other parts of the world, imprisonment can come in many forms. For these inmates, they are not only held captive by prison walls, but also by sin and spiritual darkness. It's to these people that the Lord has called Falrog and me to preach the Good News and to proclaim freedom in Christ.

What a great joy it is for us to be able to visit the prisoners regularly, giving them encouragement and hope. Falrog is still very active, despite her age and the pain she feels in her joints whenever she walks or moves about. She hasn't missed a Sunday afternoon for a jail visit, and her committed example encourages and motivates me to do the same.

In February we began studying the Book of John, chapter by chapter. We meet inside the prison and invite all the inmates to join us. The inmates total 25, but at this time, only three attend. Yet it's very heartening to listen to the questions of Mingfel, Alloy, and Toni because they show their desire to understand God's Word. Mingfel told us he reads his Bible every day. I pray that God's Word will set him free: to know Him and understand His purpose and the next steps for Mingfel's life.

One of the inmates, Ayin, was released earlier this year. I try to visit him occasionally during his lunch break at work. But it can be a challenge after a person has been released from prison, trying to follow up with him. Many released prisoners return to their villages and, then, perhaps on to another, so it can be very hard to find them.

Despite these challenges, I truly thank God for this opportunity - I can't get enough of sharing God's words of life and hope. Thank you for praying that we can continue to visit these inmates. Especially pray that God's Spirit continues to work in the lives of those we are attempting to reach.

**Simon, Alloy, Falrog and Ga'ag discussing what they've learned during the Bible Study session for the day.**



# Delivered from Darkness

by Elisabeth Kalau, PMA Missionary



**Elisabeth (second from the right) ministering to Falrog, Lydia and Tiro.**

Many years ago, from humble beginnings, our church in Yap began to grow, and by God's grace, more and more people experienced deliverance from their old ways of living and began following the Lord. Lydia was one whose family practiced witchcraft. But when she allowed the Lord to take over her life, her dramatic transformation was noticed by many villagers.

However, all at once, she stopped coming to church on Sundays and failed to come to participate in other church activities. One morning, a jeep drove up close to our house. Two men jumped out of it and dragged a woman before us. Grinning with malicious laughter, they presented her to us: "Here, you can have her back!" And they quickly took off.

As Edmund and I took a closer look at this woman, we recognized her - it was our faithful Lydia. Her demeanor, however, was so different. She wasn't the Lydia we'd come to know and love. We immediately knew that her family had used magic or witchcraft to confuse her mind, for now she was totally mixed up. We were shocked at what had happened. We took her into our home and cared for her. What could we do? We followed God's Word: we prayed and fasted. Little by little Lydia came back to her senses and, after three days, she was finally delivered from her darkness.

After several years, we left our island home in Yap and moved to Pohnpei Island. Twenty-eight years later, Edmund and I returned to Yap for a visit. We not only wanted to visit our daughter Esther and husband Peter Reichert, one of PMA's missionary pilots, who, along with their children, were assigned to serve there, but we also especially wanted to visit the Christians that we had ministered to years before. And, of course, we visited Lydia. She lived alone in a hut where we found her lying on her bed, for she could no longer walk. But she was overjoyed to see us. After greeting and hugging us, she said, "I always thought that I would never see you again until we met in Heaven. And now it feels like Heaven because I am with you again!"

Although Lydia lives alone, she doesn't complain. Her son comes to visit her and helps her. But more importantly, our Lord Jesus has been her constant Companion. Through all these years she's remained faithful to her Savior, and now she waits to go home and live with Him forever.

# Vincent and Molly Davis

Missionaries serving in Yap, Micronesia  
by Molly Davis

“Thank you, Vincent, for the Bible - I read it every night,” our neighbor called across the yard a few evenings ago. Her thanks has been echoed many times this past year by national Bible study leaders, prisoners, young people, our PMF church members and Yapese friends. Thanks to the donations of faithful and supportive partners and friends, we have been able to hand out many copies of God’s Word in a plain English translation.

Vince grew up in a loving Catholic family in the Maryland suburbs and came to know Jesus in a personal way in college in 1980. He’d dreamed of being a pilot since the age of 7, and worked intently to achieve that dream by attending a Florida aeronautical university, and building up flight time over the next seven years.

I was raised on a sheep farm in Maryland in a wonderful Christian home and gave my heart to Jesus at a very young age. I was strongly influenced by missionary biographies and longed to serve Jesus as a missionary someday.

In 1985 Vince and I met while serving as youth ministry leaders and were married the next year. We moved 9 times in 4 years as we pursued Vince’s dream of becoming an airline pilot. In 1988 a major airline hired him, and by 1990 we were able to move back home to be near our families.

Vince traveled to Lebanon in 2001 on a short-term mission. His heart was touched by testimonies of the Christian missionaries and other Christians there. He came home with his heart on fire for missions (I was thrilled), and we started praying for God’s direction. Later that year, we discovered PMA. We were impressed by their work in the islands of Micronesia. We completed applications, talked with our families, and prayed some more. At the end of 2003, Vince flew to Pohnpei, Guam, and Yap for interviews, and we were accepted as missionaries by PMA in the fall of 2004. After many personal ups and downs, and asking hundreds of churches and friends for their prayer and financial support, in March 2007 we finally arrived on Yap.

While the decision to leave a comfortable life and 19-year dream job would be considered a horrible career move, and did raise some eyebrows, this decision has also been a huge blessing to us in so many ways.

Vince and I both really appreciate how PMA has been able to come into a people group with a very strong culture, and concentrate on changing hearts, not the culture.

The Pacific Mission Fellowship church in Yap is growing and flourishing; it’s a beautiful example of God’s faithfulness. Our five children enjoy participating in the various activities, I enjoy working with the Sunday school children, and Vince co-teaches a men’s Bible study on Monday evenings.

Vince is grateful that God is allowing him to use his love of flying to further His kingdom. Every time he loads one of our planes with much-needed cargo or flies a medivac or medicine drop, he’s thankful to be used in this way to serve others.

God has blessed us richly: giving us such faithful family, friends, and church families who provide financial support, prayer support, and many wonderful packages of necessities, treats, and things I have been able to pass on to the children of our church. We’ve also been able to purchase Yapese Bibles for our Yapese neighbors and friends.

Most everything seems to take a little longer here on Yap, and personal relationships are not formed easily. But anything that requires more effort is always considered more precious. It’s how we view every single relationship and opportunity. We know that God has given it to us.

Isaiah 55:11 promises, “So is my Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” (NIV) This is our prayer: that God will accomplish His desires and achieve His purpose through His Word and through our lives.

We thank God for allowing us to serve the people of Yap and its outer islands. We claim another promise for them as they grow in the knowledge of His Word: “I will bless the thirsty land by sending streams of water; I will bless your descendants by giving them my Spirit. They will spring up like grass or like willow trees near flowing streams. They will worship me and become my people. They will write my name on the back of their hands.” - Isaiah 44:3-4 (CEV)

**Jack, Corban, Victoria, Andrew, Nathaniel, Vince and Molly thank God for allowing them to serve Him in Yap.**





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