

Pacific Missionary Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

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August

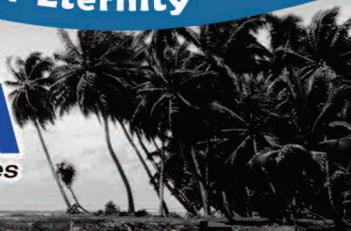
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Building for Eternity

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Letter from the President

To our Faithful Mission Friends,

“Those who wait on the Lord will find new strength.” Isaiah 40:31

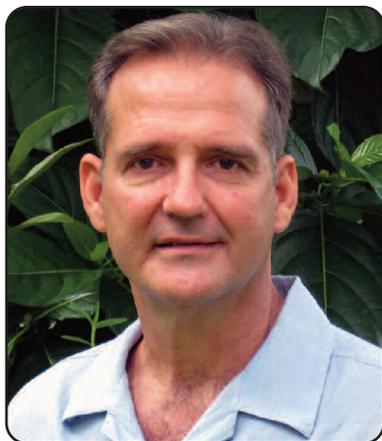
One of the most valuable lessons we continue to learn in the mission field is waiting – waiting on the Lord. As we wait and do our part, He produces endurance, He provides strength and He builds character and hope in us. As you read over the stories in this issue, you will learn how:

- God worked miracles for a vision to be fulfilled
- God answers our prayers ... His way... to rescue people lost at sea
- God provides in His time
- God uses us to meet the needs of desperate children
- God encourages new believers in their spiritual growth
- In the fullness of His time, God works for our good and for His glory

Once again, we are privileged to share these stories with you as we experience God in the waiting times and as we remain committed to serving Him in the island world.

Your partnership and prayers encourage and empower us to continue on until every island may hear the Gospel message.

God bless!
Nob Kalau



PMA President Nob Kalau



As we bade farewell to Barbara Pace in our last issue, we now welcome Sabine Musselwhite from PMA Germany as new co-editor. Sabine became acquainted with PMA through Pia Kaufmann who serves in Pohnpei. She has visited the Micronesian islands where PMA serves and has been Island Echo translator for the German issue since 2006. Sabine serves PMA with her knowledge in computer science and languages.

Summary of Ministry Needs

Personnel Needs:

Missionary Pastors
Administrative and Ministry Assistants
Youth Workers
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 Learning Center
Patnanungan, Philippines
Complete Construction of Multi-Purpose Center
Jomalig, Philippines
Complete Repair of Hangar, Philippines

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered.”
Proverbs 11:25



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and click on the Facebook picture.**

ISLAND ECHOES

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3-2010 (August)

Cover Pictures
Construction Project
in the Philippines

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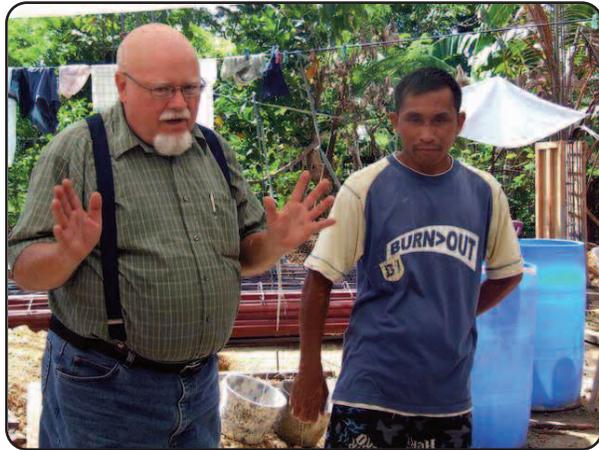
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Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA) is incorporated as a non-profit Christian mission organization by the Government of Guam, Territory of the United States. All donations are tax-deductible under section 501(c)(3). PMA is governed by a Board of Trustees. Our business office is located in Guam and a field office in Pohnpei.

Building for Eternity

by Harry Cawood, PMA Chief Development Officer



Pastor John Dreisbach updates the Arizona Team on the construction project while PMF Jomalig's Pastor Jun Mandreza listens carefully.

by Pastor Jun, had been meeting in a small thatch-roof structure, badly storm damaged and barely usable.

A five-man team from Trinity Baptist Church in Mesa, Arizona, was headed by Merle Cressy, who leads volunteers in mission projects all over the world. He was joined by fellow Trinity members: Tom Rivers, C.J. Porter, Eric Johnson and Charlie Johnson son of PMA Board Vice President, Rick Johnson. The team combined with pastors from the Manila area provided the expertise and hard work necessary for the initial construction work. In three weeks the walls were erected, and the foundation for trusses and beams for the roof were in place.



Working under the heat of the sweltering sun, the team presses on and is rewarded by seeing the walls come up as they work together.

A unique combination of Arizona and Filipino men with extensive construction experience combined forces and talents to construct a new building for a PMA church on the island of Jomalig, Philippines.

Jomalig is one of the Polillo Islands east of Luzon in the Philippine Sea, about an hour by air from Manila. Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF), led

Pastor Jun was quoted as saying that he and the church members had prayed for a long time that resources and knowledge would be provided to assist in the construction of a new church building. Working side by side with the Americans, the Filipino's daily singing, laughter and hard work had an impacting testimony of Christ's love and unity to the villagers of Jomalig.

For Eric, a native Arizonian, worshipping with his brothers and sisters in Jomalig was an uplifting and unifying experience. C.J. spoke of one Jomalig man who worked hard every day. In his goodbye, the man proudly brought his young daughter to thank the Arizona team who had helped build a new church building for her generation. Merle was overwhelmed by the love and generosity of the Jomalig church members. Both Tom and Charlie spoke of the blessing of this experience and how they grew in their understanding and appreciation of God's working in culturally different settings.

Today, the Jomalig congregation is meeting in their new building with a tarp stretching over part of the open area to provide shade and shelter. The challenge now is to find the provisions to "raise the roof" over the 30' by 60' concrete block church that will also be used as a community center for the village. We would like to finish this project as quickly as possible. May we ask for your prayers and contributions?

Not only has this new building impacted the lives of the Filipino congregation by giving them more confidence about the church's role and witness to their village, but it has also changed the lives of five Arizona men. Each returned to their homes and well appointed USA church facility, with a greater appreciation and understanding of how our God works and lives among island people in a small Filipino island village.

The Team returns to Arizona with great memories of their blessed experiences in the Philippines.



Welcoming a Little Child

by Jesse Tubigon, Social Worker,
Bahay Kalinga Orphanage, Philippines

“and whoever welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me.” Matt. 18:5

As I look at the children that we are caring for right now, this verse comes to mind. These children – averaging from 2 to 4 years of age have no one to provide them the proper love and care they need in their formative years.

I am so thankful to God that Bahay Kalinga is able to care for them. Many of these children come from broken homes where the single parent is unable to care for them while trying to eke out a living. They would otherwise be left without adult supervision, care and love if they were not with us here at Bahay Kalinga. Here they indeed have found a home – a place where they are comfortable, safe and free to be children.

One of our children, Bong (not his real name), four years old, is the youngest among six siblings and is left all alone while his mother goes to work and his siblings go to public school. He wanders about in the streets until the time his siblings come home from school. With a meager earning of \$100 a month and no relative to care for Bong, his mother sought for temporary shelter for him at Bahay Kalinga. Here, he receives care 24/7 and can attend the nursery school nearby. Most importantly, he gets to know about Jesus, the One who loves him completely, from the stories he hears at Sunday school and at the Orphanage.

I know that these children are with us only for a short time, but I would like to make that time count for eternity! Please pray for our children that God would keep them healthy. Pray for their families who struggle with life and difficulties, that they may



seek God’s grace and mercy. Pray for us who care for them, that we may have the passion and love for the children and that they may see Jesus in us.

Jesse Tubigon (left) with some of our orphans. We thank God we can care for them.

God is the Strength of My Life

Testimony by Rufina Melve, PMF Palau Youth

It was the week before the Youth Concert, (Jesus and Me – JAM 4), and the pressure was starting to kick in. Some of us still needed to learn the lyrics, sequencing of the songs, dance moves, positioning, and hand movements for our hand mime before JAM night.

This was my second time to join this ministry. Through JAM, the Lord continues to build my confidence, so I can boldly share Him with others. JAM 4 was unique in that we included worship dancing, and hand mime. The fear of standing in front of a large audience was on my mind. But as I remembered to trust God, faith replaced fear.

JAM time had come! We were excited to share with the audience the joy and love of praising God through our talents. When we got on stage, all our fears and nervousness melted away. We sang our hearts out that night, danced with joy, and performed our hand mime with love and patience. The audience responded enthusiastically. We were encouraged.



JAM 4 participants praising God for a successful outreach.

One of our songs “Savior Please” especially touched the hearts of many, including mine. It’s telling me that I’m not strong enough without my God. God is the strength of my heart! Being one of the youth leaders, I find it challenging leading a group of young people, each different and imperfect in personality, just like me. There were days I would be discouraged or disappointed, but the Lord, with His gracious guidance, used this song to remind me that it’s not about me or someone else, it’s about Him!

Our Volunteer Time in Micronesia

by Tamara Haller and Christine Walser,
Swiss Missionary Volunteers

After graduating in Switzerland from our three years of training in home economics, we were led to take a year off and explore the world of a missionary. September 3rd we arrived in Guam. Our main projects were helping with the PMF Kids' Club on Saturdays, Sunday school preparations and teaching during the week. After two months in Guam, Christine proceeded to Pohnpei and Tamara followed a month later.

As in Guam, we were warmly welcomed to Pohnpei with fragrant flower leis. We immediately got used to the high 98% humidity and the heavy tropical rains. We thoroughly enjoyed the warm weather. Christmas was a new experience for us Swiss girls – warm weather and no snow! However, we didn't come all the way around the world to tour the island or have a vacation. We came to help the Mission.

We settled in fast. We assisted when help was needed at the Good News Press, were involved in Bible All Stars (Bible ministry with children) and wherever help was needed. We soon started teaching Sunday school.

When youth missionary Pia Kaufmann left for her vacation, we took over her responsibilities. We led the Bible All Stars group and prepared a lesson for one and a half hours for about 20 kids each week. The kids were enthusiastic and most of the time well behaved.

Another Bible Study was the Girls' Discipleship. On Thursday afternoons, 14-15-year-old girls would meet for studies and in the evening the discipleship classes would be for girls 16 years and older. We studied "Pilgrim's Progress" by John Bunyan. It was a good experience for us and quite challenging. We are thankful for God's wisdom and grace.

With Pia gone, Christine took the responsibility of uploading radio programs into the computer for the daily broadcast of PMA's "The Cross" radio station. We had fun preparing for this year's Vacation Bible School by painting the VBS picture mural and preparing the children's crafts.

Tamara: It was interesting living in a country with a different culture. Even if I was far from home, it was encouraging to know that I had a family in Christ who welcomed me warmly, and made me feel at home immediately. One of the best experiences for me was to teach the girls' discipleship group. I liked to prepare the lessons and I was always looking forward to teaching and being with the girls. God really helped me at times when I could not remember the English word. Either one of the girls would help me out or I would explain the word in another way. I learned a lot from these Bible Studies for my personal spiritual growth. But the most outstanding thing I learned was to always focus on God! I experienced His love and care as He provided for all my needs! I'm really thankful to God for this experience! I got to know many amazing people not to mention being able to live in a beautiful island for 10 months.

Christine: These 10 months in Micronesia were very special because it was the first time that I was so far away from home for a long period of time. I had to get used to living in a place with a different language, customs and third world living conditions where everything I was familiar with in Switzerland was not always available. The most challenging thing for me was the language, especially when I taught Sunday school. But through working with the kids I experienced God in a special way. Everyday I had to rely on the Lord and my faith in Him grew as I applied what I had learned. I have seen how people with so little in life are happy and willing to share with others what little they have. I thank God everyday for my time in Guam and Pohnpei and for every person I met. I thank Him for every situation whether good or bad... He was with me through it all.

Tamara and Christine prepare the backdrop for Vacation Bible School activities.



In Desperate Times, God Delivers!

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

The two canoes were loaded on the ship and the crew said goodbye as they left Yap Island for an atoll 500 miles away to recreate a voyage from the past. As we watched them pull away from the dock, someone jokingly said to me, “Maybe they’ll be calling you to go search for them if they get lost.” This voyage was to begin on the island of Lamotrek, sail to Guam and then back to Yap Island. The veteran navigators each took a crew of young apprentices, who would be trained in the lost art of celestial navigation. No GPS, and no compass, just the sun, stars, currents and waves would lead them to their destinations.

The 400-mile-trip to Guam was uneventful for both canoes. They then left Guam for the second and final leg of their voyage. One day away from Yap, the weather turned sour and the two canoes lost sight of one another. On Sunday night, a lone canoe entered the main harbor in Yap with the second one expected to soon follow. A day passed and still no sign of the second canoe. On Tuesday afternoon, PMA was called to go out and search for the missing canoe.

Desperation is the word that comes to mind when I think back on the sea searches we’ve done. Everyone involved: the family, the searchers and of course the ones who are lost, are all desperate with little or nothing solid to grab a hold of. For us at PMA, it is important that we get as much information on the situation as possible before we launch. On a small island like Yap, news travels quickly and as a result, everyone has their own suggestions as to where we should search. We asked to speak to the navigator of the first canoe and gathered information from him and his estimation as to their current location.



We started a 4-day-search for the lost canoe which was actually very hard work for those involved. Some of the volunteers we brought along to be extra “eyes” found that it was certainly no pleasure trip. We fly at about 700 ft. above sea level and our eyes are always scanning. Flying

Searching for the canoes throughout the day was strenuous to the eyes and quite a chore. But we were thankful we could help the families find their lost loved ones.

at a low altitude is very hot, and after one hour of searching everyone is exhausted with 3 to 5 more hours to go. When the “crew” in the back starts to doze, we open a small storm window which makes a really loud noise and they get back to work!

By the third day of searching, the rumors around the island were rife. Some worried about the health of the navigator which is pivotal for the canoe to get home. Others feared that they may have gotten hit by a ship in the night. For us, it was so frustrating to know that all those hours spent searching were still just a drop in the bucket. How can we possibly know to choose the very same quadrant at the very same time and location the canoe is in? The ocean is so vast and in 16 hours of searching we didn’t even put a dent in the proposed area they might be in.

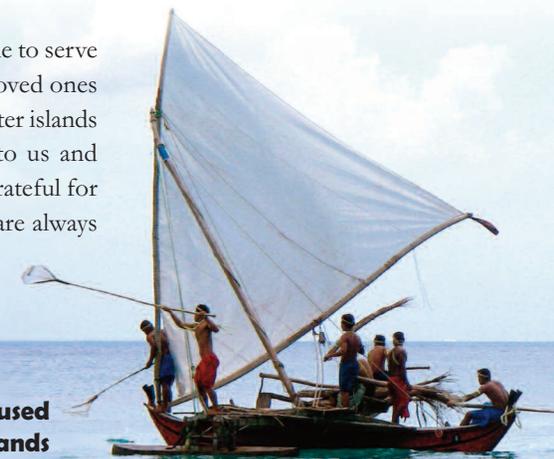
To their advantage, the lost canoe had Ali, one of the most experienced navigators from Yap. Being confident in his abilities, someone informed us, “Ali knows where Yap is.” The canoe was equipped with emergency flares and even an Emergency Locator Transmitter (ELT). They had enough food and water on board to last them a very long time. These islanders can survive a long time, even without water. They get their hydration from the fish they catch as expert fishermen.

On the fourth day of searching we received a call – the canoe had been found! They were being towed into the harbor... in PALAU. Palau is an island almost 300 miles southwest of Yap! What a relief and answer to prayer.

After resting over the weekend it was back to “business as usual” on Monday. We had a flight ready to go to Ulithi with a full load carrying students returning home for the summer, and parents going out for graduation. We had the plane almost loaded when we received a call from the hospital. “A woman in Ulithi with gall bladder stones needs to come out right now and she needs a stretcher.”

Well, it couldn’t have worked out better logistically. I made a few changes by removing cargo to accommodate the extra weight of the stretcher, and we were ready to go. After unloading in Ulithi, I configured the plane with the stretcher mount and loaded her into the plane. A short 45 minute flight back to Yap, an ambulance trip to the hospital and – less than a week later she was discharged!

As busy as we were, it was fulfilling to be able to serve the people with aviation, by searching for loved ones and bringing patients in quickly from the outer islands for medical care. Many people came up to us and thanked us for our help. They are so very grateful for the role PMA plays in the islands, and we are always pleased to serve them.



Traditional Yapese canoes have been used for hundreds of years to travel thousands of miles across the Pacific Ocean.

Birth of a Vision for the Philippines

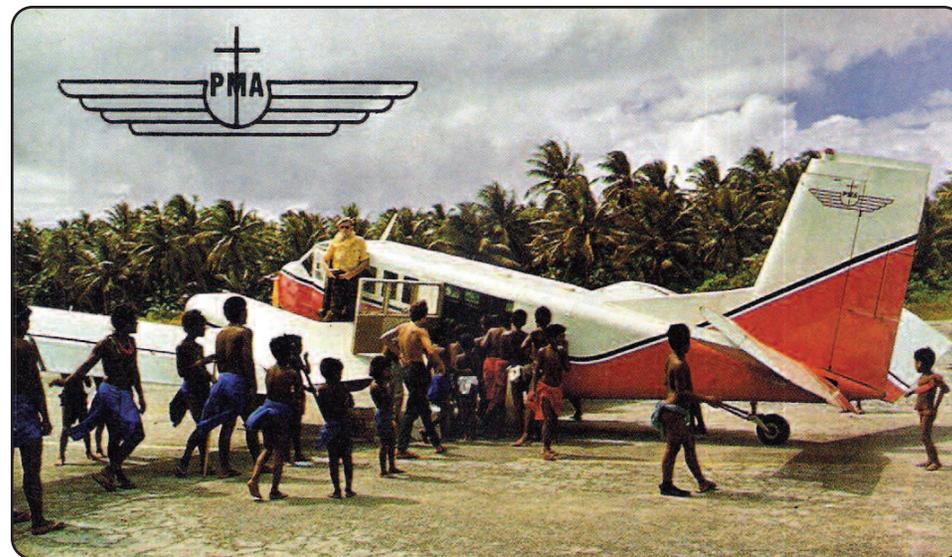
an Excerpt from
Former PMA Missionary, Rev. Erwin Ray's Article – IE April 1982

The series of divine-directed circumstances for the work of the Flying Medical Samaritans (now PMA, Philippines) took place back in 1974 when Ed Kalau and Maurice Pickard were flying PMA's first airplane, the Evangel, from Germany, through Asia and then to Micronesia. Prior civil permission had been obtained to make a technical/refueling stop at the commercial airport in Zamboanga City – south of the Philippines (island of Mindanao). However, unbeknownst to the two pilots, fighting between rebel forces and the Philippine military had broken out and the island was under martial law. They were forced to land without military permit and were immediately placed under house arrest, while the Evangel was impounded. It took several days of negotiations through the US and German embassies for them to be released. Meanwhile, Ed's family back in Yap was not informed of the delay and Elizabeth Kalau feared for the worse.

While waiting for his release, Ed Kalau was able to slip out from the hotel where they were held. He came upon one of the villages built on stilts over shallow water – typical of the Muslim people living in the area. The Lord immediately touched his heart as he observed the poverty stricken conditions under which these people were living. An intense vision was born out of the compassion he felt. Someday, somehow, by God's will, these people must be helped! That vision never dimmed. It was committed to the future and to the Lord's timing during long periods of prayer.



Pilot Edmund Kalau and Co-Pilot Maurice Pickard with the Evangel – PMA's very first aircraft.



Landing of the Evangel (First PMA Airplane) on Falolop, Ulithi, Yap

In 1981, God seemed to be directing our minds back to the Philippines. Ed embarked on an exploratory trip to Manila and Zamboanga and made a second trip the following year to finalize the legal requirements for the incorporation. God's directing hand was even more evident. What would have taken months to accomplish was completed in a week's time.

In the Application to Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC), Ed inadvertently used PMA's Pohnpei address instead of Guam. The SEC lawyer in charge placed PMA's application at the bottom of her pile and sent word that she needed to talk to Ed Kalau. Thinking he would be able to explain more about PMA's work in the island, Ed invited the lawyer to lunch. There he found out that her husband had worked in Pohnpei years before and that she herself had lived there. She was eager to learn of the changes that had transpired since they had departed the island. Ed was able to share with her not only about Pohnpei but also about what PMA is doing in the islands. As a result of this encounter, a special note was attached to PMA's incorporation application and exactly after 2 ½ hours, the Commissioner himself signed the approval! Ed was called in personally by the Commissioner to be commended for offering to help "our poorest of the poor".

Editors' Note: God continues to show Himself powerful and mighty as we continue to serve in the Philippines. He indeed is a God of miracles and we can attest to that as He has faithfully provided for the past 28 years in the Philippines!

In the Fullness of Time, God is out to do us Good

Part I

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

As a child, I dreamed of being the Bride of Christ and becoming a Missionary. Growing up in a religious home, the only way I knew how to achieve my goal was to become a nun. I prepared myself for the vocation and was active in the practice of my religion and involved in the work of the church. I tried to follow all the rules of the church and live a good life. But if someone would have asked me then if I knew where I was going after I died, my answer would have been “no”, nor did I believe that anyone could know for sure. If anyone told me that they were sure that they were going to heaven – in my heart I would believe that person to be proud and deceived.

Finally, I passed all entrance tests, except the physical exam. I suffered from chronic asthma since childhood, and the mother superior informed me that I could not be accepted, as I would become a burden to the congregation because of this illness. I was devastated. But my father encouraged me saying I could still be anything I wanted to be. God repaired my broken dream and gave me

another. I decided to concentrate on my career and made a goal to have a responsible position in finance. I worked hard, attended training programs and seminars, studied for and passed the C.P.A. exams, began my Masters degree studies and became part of the management team of a multi-national company. The Lord allowed me to fulfill my dream. On top of that, I was engaged to a responsible, caring and religious man. Yet, my life was empty and held no meaning for me.



Melinda loves to share the Bible with kids. Her prayer is that they will come to know and love the Lord Jesus and will grow in their faith.



Melinda with the Swiss Team that came to serve in Guam and Micronesia. Her life is enriched by the many mission volunteers who come and share in the work of the ministry.

Needless to say, I did not talk to my sister about her changing religion, because I saw that she had changed for the better. When I got back to Manila –my Mom asked me what happened – and I shared with her my experience. If what happened to my sister is not of God, it will pass. But if it is of God, it is best that we leave her be.

Unbeknownst to me, my sister had her church start praying for me. Her friends invited me to a Bible study and worship services at their church in Manila. I went and started reading the Bible and listening to Christian radio. Ten months later, as the Pastor preached on Romans 8, the Lord allowed the words in verse 1 “Therefore, there is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus...” to suddenly make sense to me. Everything in His Word became very clear. I realized that I did not need to work for my salvation. In Jesus, there is no condemnation. He paid for my sins and all I needed was to trust His Word. What’s more, I can know for sure that I had eternal life. This was all the more clear when I read 1 John 5: 11, 13. That same morning, I gave my life and my heart to Jesus. The following week, I submitted to water baptism. Importantly, I realized that as a believer, a child of God, and as a church – I am the Bride of Christ – one of my dreams was fulfilled in a way that Only God can – more than I ever imagined or dreamed.

Melinda is living her dream as she serves with PMA in the island of Guam.

But God is really good. His timing is always perfect. It was at that time that my elder sister from Zamboanga City, Mindanao, (an island south of Manila) started writing to all of us in the family saying that she was “born again”. My sister was now considered an apostate and my mom asked me to visit her to persuade her to go back to our faith. I thought this was the easiest assignment in my life. The first thing I observed was that my sister had changed her lifestyle. Every evening during the week she took me to a bible study where they were studying the Book of John. The Lord began to open my heart and reminded me of the many things I learned as a little girl attending Sunday school.





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