

Pacific Missionary Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

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November

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Bahay Kalinga Community Outreach

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives

Issue

4-2010 (November)

Cover Pictures

Bahay Kalinga
Community Outreach

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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.

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

"Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,
and one who waters will himself be watered."

Proverbs 11:25



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Letter from the President

by Nob Kalau



**PMA President
Nob Kalau**

To our Faithful Mission Friends,

"Give thanks to the LORD, call on His Name;
make known among the nations what He has
done." 1 Chronicles 16:8

Having just completed a back to back tour with the M/V Sea Haven, visiting 16 tiny atolls and islands, covering 2097 nautical miles of ocean has reminded me once again, how great our God is. In the vastness of the ocean, we were just a speck, yet – He cared for us, provided us good weather, calm seas, health of the crew and great times with the island people as we delivered needed text books and educational supplies, chairs and desks for schools, pallets of medicines and medical supplies

for island dispensaries, 3000 rubber shoes, boxes of clothing, food and solar water stills so that they may have available drinking water. And then I think of those who partnered with us to make this happen: Guam's Ayuda Foundation, Pacific Island Movers, Matson Shipping Co., Rotary Clubs of Japan and Micronesia, and you dear partners and prayer warriors – who followed us through it all. Thank you!

In this issue, God will once again show Himself mighty as He heals a lady from a deadly disease, miraculously rescues a little girl from a perilous accident, brings a fruitful ministry service to the next adventure, allows an Orphanage to be part of reaching out to a community, transforms the life of a leading public servant, and fulfills a dream of a girl to be a missionary. We will also remember how Sea Haven's ministry began.

In all these – we can say – the Lord has indeed done great things in our midst and we are humbled and are forever grateful to Him.

Thank you dear ones, your partnership has allowed all of us to see the marvelous things God has done through PMA as we expend our lives in ministry and service to island people. God bless you!

That every island may hear,

Nob Kalau

A Great Flight!

by Malcolm and Mary Cleope, Missionaries, PMA Philippines

We are back “home” in Iowa. About 10 years ago, we started talking with friends, family, and churches to gather a special group to help serve the people in remote places of the Philippines. We thank you for stepping into the boat with us... or should we say airplane... it has been a great flight! (A little turbulence here and there, but we have landed.) We would like to share some lessons learned in the Philippines:

I. It is not all fun and games being a missionary in Asia, or anywhere as a matter of fact. It is a call to obey God and trust Him each morning, to stay close to Him, and to serve with Him heartily within His provision. We think of Manila with the pollution, the quick sand and low tide out on the remote islands, or how about the frequent typhoons? We remember driving an hour in Manila to the ATM machine, through traffic and sweltering heat, only to find it “out of stock.” Almost everyday there was something like that. Ah, the grace and supernatural stamina that God has given us.

II. Filipinos have this great way of enjoying life, no matter what happens. There is always a smile, laughter, plenty of time to talk, and of course – food to share. It resembles the “slow down and smell the roses” attitude, and why not have fun while you are there. We cherished our time with the believers and they taught us a lot of about worshiping Jesus.

III. “Missions” is about building relationships. We flew out to remote places with doctors and medicine. The villagers came by the hundreds. What mattered the most was GOING there, talking with the people, caring for them, and seeing them again the next time. And the next time. Greeting them and loving them. It costs a lot to fly an airplane out to these places. However, the return on the investment is way off the chart. The villagers remember PMA; they remember the pastors that live among them and organize the outreach. Some see these pastors in town everyday, and Filipinos are curious. So when they are invited to study God’s word, they want to be there. You have supported the airplane fuel, the pilot, the pastors, the Bibles, and even the food.

The Cleope family (Lauren, Chris, Will, Malcolm, Mary and Mark) facing another adventure in their lives.

IV. It is about building relationships in your everyday life. Much of Malcolm’s life was spent around the Manila airport, meeting airport officials, talking with local mechanic trainees, greeting the guards, teaching student pilots, and conducting business with the neighbors. These people notice that PMA is different. PMA has high standards in daily transactions. PMA strives to do what is right. These day-to-day interactions make a difference for God.

V. If you feel that God is calling you to overseas missions, GO FOR IT. Do not wait; there are workers needed in EVERY area of specialty, in almost every country. The jobs are plentiful – caregivers, teachers, organizers, engineers, photographers, writers, maintenance workers, personnel directors, food distributors, computer programmers, and everything in between. In the Philippines, we send out Filipino missionaries to places where no one else can go. For sure, if you are unable to GO, keep encouraging the folks that are there. Tell them that you are praying for them. They love their work and they need your support.

Ten years went so fast! It was a great flight – especially as we had God’s promise: “And surely, I am with you always!” (Matthew 28:20b)



Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Community Outreach

by Jesse Tubigon, Social Worker, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage

We were all excited when our Administrative Officer, Rosemary Velasco and Dr. John Escote, PMA physician, visited us to touch base with our local government officials and the Department of Social Welfare (DSWD) for the possibility of starting a community outreach in Naujan via an eye clinic.

Before their visit, I approached the head of DSWD and the village captain. According to them, this was a great help to Naujan, especially as there has never been an eye clinic before. When they needed an eye check up, they had to travel far and pay a lot. Many could not afford the cost of check up; hence, most of them would not even go.

We started the eye clinic in the afternoon, but some people already arrived around 6am. As the word spread, people came from far and near. Those who live in another part of the island traveled by boat and others by passenger jeepney or motor tricycle. By the third day, Dr. John and his assistant, Geneziel, were able to serve 96 patients, and dispensed 68 eye glasses.

People were asking why the eye glasses were not expensive and Dr. John explained that this was to help them. Many asked Dr. John if he could operate on those who had cataracts. Dr. John explained that there was no operating room in Naujan and he encouraged them to go to Lopez Quezon, where he serves four days a week, performing cataract surgery for those who need help. Dr. John visits the Orphanage on a monthly basis to check our children. And so, he will continue with the eye clinic on a monthly basis as well. The people were glad and thankful for the compassionate heart of Dr. John and his assistant Geneziel.

The community and its leaders know that we are more than an Orphanage. PMA is an organization with a passion for helping those who are in need.



Dr. John Escote has his work cut out for him as he begins an Eye Clinic in Naujan, Mindoro. A community outreach that has allowed the people to know more about PMA, its work in the area, but most importantly, God's love shown in action.

Committed to His Call

by Epel Ilon, Elder, Pacific Mission Fellowship, Pohnpei, Micronesia

I was born on Oneop, a small coral island $\frac{1}{2}$ mile long and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile wide, in the Mortlock Region of Chuuk, Micronesia. German missionaries were the first ones to bring the message of Christ to our islands and my ancestors were instrumental in welcoming them. I was exposed to the things of God at a young age, yet, my immediate family didn't make God a priority and I soon followed their example.



Epel and Benina with their daughters Nadya, Tanya, Annjeanette and Herpelynn.

When I left the islands for an education in the U.S., I became more interested in getting a college degree and landing a government job later.

After getting my degree, I returned to the islands and landed the government job I wanted. My wife, Benina, constantly encouraged me to go to church and read the Bible. Thinking that my spiritual life was just fine, I never took her urging seriously. I would choose to go to the office and work instead on the weekends. But Benina never stopped praying for me.

In 2001, a major crisis hit my life... I resigned from government after twenty years of continuous service. With an uncertain future and many questions, I began to seriously examine my spiritual life and became closer to God in the process. Several months later, I decided that what I really needed was God! I invited Jesus Christ to come into my life and become my Lord and Savior.

Another crisis hit in 2003 – a major heart attack! This brought me face to face with the reality that life is really short. I began to think of the people that were very dear to me, especially family members and friends who needed Christ's salvation before it was too late. I became very serious about my Christian life and committed to my church family.

After several years of discipleship and mentoring at Pacific Mission Fellowship, I was called to become an elder and then later ordained as a pastor. God has given me a real passion to share my faith with people, especially those in government where I have been employed again. Whether through my work in government or through the PMF Church ministries, I believe God wants me to do my best at every opportunity to reach people and to make Him known to them. I am committed to that call.

Bringing Hope, Changing Lives

by Norma Nerequita, PMF Palau Member

The word “cancer” has a way of putting fear into your heart. When it strikes, you will feel so helpless. Thoughts of pain, anguish, misery and long, costly treatments run like never-ending scary movies in your mind. You feel so desperate, all-alone, abandoned, and crushed.

I received the devastating news that I had a solid mass on my right breast. The attending doctor recommended an immediate biopsy and then mastectomy. I wrestled with fear for my life, anxious of the costly, invasive and long treatment involved and struggling to keep my job in Palau.

Where do I find hope and strength when cancer strikes? I have been attending the PMF church for so many years now and learned of all the wonderful plans God has for His people. But, if God loves me, why do I have cancer? Why me of all people? Why now? In my desperation, I even questioned God’s existence.

I wrestled with these questions, seeing the long stretch of utter darkness. But hope was born with the light of one star – the Pacific Mission Fellowship.

Words of encouragements poured out from my church family. Inspiring messages came in through emails. Prayers for my healing and provision were a regular item in the prayer list for our church. These gave me hope to live and assurance of God’s presence in my life. I was touched by the message from Jeremiah 29:11: “For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.” Though I may not comprehend God’s plans, He always works for our best.

With renewed strength, I emailed my employer asking for some medical assistance. It was so encouraging to get immediate action from them. No less than the Corporate President requested our health provider to take care of me and my referral to a hospital in the Philippines. Further, during my treatment time, they continued to provide my monthly salary – so my needs were met.

God is good all the time and answers prayers! I had a successful operation on July 30, 2009. Despite the diagnosis of breast cancer stage 2A, I felt better than when I had my diagnostic tests and was able to cope with the 1st of the battery of treatments.

In and out of the hospital from August to January, I truly experienced the life changing power of Christ. His presence in my life is so real. I cried out with sheer joy that I was able to complete one cycle of treatment after another with the least side effects of the drugs. The complete hair loss and all others side effects were minor to me.

I went through 33 sessions of radiation therapy since February 1, 2010. I have learned to trust God completely and have given Him full control of my life. He fought my battle against cancer and He has also conquered my fear of it.

I had my first visit with the oncologist last June. All results of my imaging and laboratory tests were inspiring, no recurrence or metastasis were noted. I thank God, I survived. I would still need to visit my oncologist regularly for the next four years; however, I am no longer scared. God is with me. I am deeply thankful to God for the prayers of His people and my employers’ generosity. I am cancer-free now!

What is so important is that I have come to experience the abundant life in God’s grace which is not dependent on my feelings or circumstances, but anchored on the truth of God’s Word.

Being under the ministry of PMF Palau has born rich fruit in my life. You have brought me hope, and continue to change and make a difference in my life. Sharing the faith, I would like to re-commit my life to Him. My hope is built on nothing less than Jesus Christ, the Big “C” – not on the small “c” cancer! In Him, I have passed from death to life.



Norma with daughter Charlene. How she praises God for another lease in life and for teaching her to trust Him always.

Miracle on “Clean-Up Day”

by Peter and Esther Reichert,
Director for Aviation Ministry, Yap, Micronesia

It was a Saturday in June, our congregation's monthly clean-up day. Most of the members of our congregation were there. The next two weeks would be busy with the facility being used for VBS (Vacation Bible School) followed by a week long youth retreat. Inside, people were sweeping the hall and setting up chairs and mats for our church service the next day. Window louvers were being cleaned. The kitchen area was being wiped down and scrubbed with clorox. Outside

a couple of weed eaters were buzzing, rakes were scraping across the newly cut lawn, people were picking up trash, bushes were being trimmed, kids were running around having great fun together, when suddenly everything stopped. One of our little Sunday school girls, four-year-old Catherine, had been hit by a car while running across the road. Every one started running in her direction. She lay crumpled on the road. She had been hit broadside and thrown onto the hood of the car from which she rolled down onto the road. Queen got to her first and picked her up. Pedrus, her husband, rushed her to the hospital in our PMF flatbed truck. Catherine's mother went along with them.

In the meantime, the driver of the car staggered out of his car and collapsed on the road. He was shocked and so worried about what had happened. She had suddenly appeared in front of his car and he was unable to avoid hitting her. We calmed him down and wiped his face with a wet cloth until he was able to sit up. By now the police had arrived and neighbors had gathered round. Someone took the driver to the police station. Pastor Asael and others drove to the hospital to be with the family.

All of us were shook up. Some were crying. We gathered in a big circle on the lawn, holding hands, and prayed for Catherine. Our tears were rolling down our cheeks as we beseeched God to let her live. Having witnessed this awful thing, few of us expected her to survive. And if she would, we feared she would be left with serious permanent injuries.



A Happy and grateful family – John and Adelina enjoy Catherine, knowing how precious life is.

Then we got the good news. PRAISE GOD! No broken bones, no internal injuries, no serious head injuries, but a lot of bruising and swelling. It was a miracle!! Little Catherine was admitted to the ward with an IV and oxygen. Her parents and other family members stayed at her side as she was very restless and agitated.

As is custom in the islands, the driver of the car and several members of his family came to Catherine's family a few days later with food, gifts and an apology. They also offered to pay for her hospitalization. Her family accepted the food and gifts but also acknowledged their part in the accident and so it was agreed that the hospital bill payment would be split between the two families.

After just a few days, Catherine was allowed to go home. A few days later she was again running around and playing. She is back in Sunday school with no apparent side affects from the accident. The Lord's name be praised, it was indeed a miracle on clean-up day!

Catherine with her cousins and friends – enjoying life because of God's miracle.



Remembering the First Sea Haven

by Edmund Kalau, Founder of PMA

What was just a vision to reach islands without airstrips, to help them in their needs, became a reality in 1987 – the medical ship, M/V Sea Haven. We lost our first Sea Haven during Typhoon Yuri while it was docked on its mooring. Through the generous donation of FHP Foundation in California, proceeds from FEMA for the loss of the ship, and our friends in Germany, we purchased another vessel, and named her “Sea Haven” as well. This is the vessel that currently visits the outer islands of Micronesia. Edmund Kalau remembers the first ship:

“The Medical Ship, Sea Haven is another milestone in PMA’s history, and another challenge to be met in reaching the smallest and most remote atolls of the Micronesian Islands. This opportunity of a medical and ministry boat was made possible by a generous donation of Mr. Robert Jackson, a concerned



The first Sea Haven anchored in the lagoon of an atoll.

Christian businessman from Southern California. He had used this 80-foot long vessel in evangelistic outreach to young people in California and wanted to continue utilizing this for reaching young people, and those in need of the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Mr. Jackson and his family crewed the boat from its former home in Long Beach, California to Hawaii. Accompanying them was my son, Nob Kalau who received valuable on-the-job training from Mr. Jackson on sailing the vessel. This was the Jacksons’ last voyage on this vessel and in Honolulu it was turned over to Nob who would sail this kind of a vessel for the very first time.

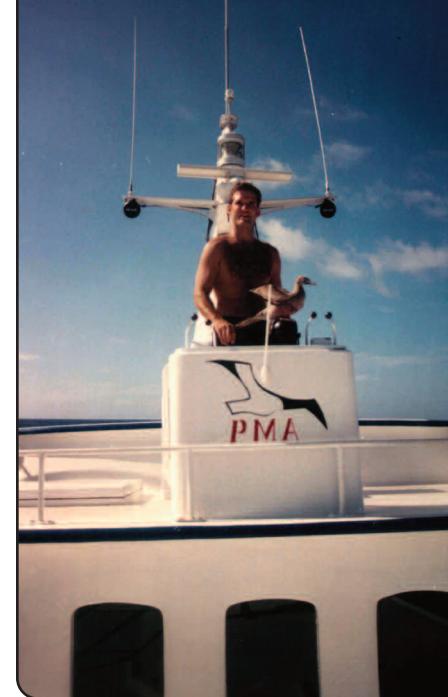
From Honolulu to Pohnpei, friends generously donated time and energy to assist Nob in his maiden voyage. Teo Ceelen worked day and night with Nob on the engine room and bridge. His wife, Hildegard made sure that the crew was in “good running order” as she served as chief cook and bottle washer. Then there were Kent Knopf, Greg Hamer and Jeff Del Nero who performed as all-around seamen taking turns at the wheel or wherever else needed. All of them did not have any experience in running this Ship, but their determination, hard work, commitment and faith in God enabled them to successfully cross the 2,700- mile gap between Honolulu harbor and Pohnpei.

Nob, Captain of the first and second Sea Haven invites a seabird to rest awhile as he brings the medical ship into the lagoon of an island. The islanders look forward to the help Sea Haven brings.

What a great rejoicing it was when they arrived in Pohnpei! The weather was excellent – Peter Reichert and I flew over the vessel and buzzed them, exciting the crew all the more. As soon as we landed, we hurriedly joined the rest of the PMA staff and the brass band in greeting the Sea Haven and her crew. The brass band, made up of Pohnpeian children who were taught by PMA teachers lent a festive and joyous note to the occasion.

As soon as the docking was completed, and the boat secured, the moment came for father and son to shake hands and silently embrace. The father so proud of his son’s accomplishments, the son elated to have his mission accomplished.”

Editor’s Note: The present Sea Haven is a 189-ton ship based in Pohnpei. It is outfitted with an operating room, dental clinic and an eye examination room, enabling crew and volunteer medical personnel to perform on-board surgeries, medical care and routine healthcare. The Sea Haven also delivers supplies, equipment, provides disaster relief and logistics for training and logistical help for local dispensary managers, pastors and church leaders.



The present Sea Haven – based in Pohnpei, Micronesia.



In the Fullness of Time, God is Out to do Us Good

Part 2

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

Having received the Lord and experiencing the joy of knowing Him, I thought that my family and my fiancé would be happy for me, but I was wrong. In my eagerness for them to be saved, I shared the gospel with too much zeal, that I drove them away. Misunderstanding my motives, they must have thought that I was out to “convert them” to another religion, but I was sincerely thinking of eternity and where they would spend it. Later, I realized that salvation comes from the Lord, that it is He that convicts man of sin and gives him the desire to know Him. I needed to live out my faith with perseverance and authenticity before their eyes. I needed to wait on Him.

Then there was my fiancé of five years, he could not and would not leave his own religion. After praying and bargaining with God... I realized that it was a matter of obedience. In the middle of the word of obedience is the word “die” - to obey God meant for me to die to self, to deny what I wanted and to allow God’s will to be done in my life. I had to trust God’s Word in Psalms 84: 11, where it says: ‘For the Lord is a sun and shield, the Lord bestows favor and honor; no good thing does He withhold from those whose walk is blameless.’ If this person was God’s good gift to me, then He will give him to me in His own time, if not, then it is for my good and for His glory. I asked God for strength and that He would take Him out of my life and God did, a week after I prayed – God was so fast – He did not want me to change my mind nor vacillate over this decision. I realized that God was just waiting for me to surrender this area of my life. I will not say it was easy – it took me a long time to “mourn” the death of this relationship – but I know if I did not obey God, He could not be my Sun and Shield – I could not expect Him to enlighten or illuminate me (sun) or protect (shield) me from my mistakes when I am disobedient.



One of Melinda's responsibilities is to visit PMA's Mission Stations for annual internal audit and review of operations. Her favorite time though is being able to share God's Word, encourage, pray and fellowship with PMA mission staff and island friends. Here she is shown with faithful Falrog of Yap.

God always keeps His promises. He never left me and I experienced His unfailing love. Despite a loss in relationship and the distance of my family, I experienced a fullness of life – like rivers of living water running through me – I knew this was God working in my life. But most of all, in the fullness of time, one by one, my family came to know the Lord.

After a time, God called me to full time ministry – out of the business world into His Business. I had to surrender myself and my plans to Him so that I would realize another dream I had as a child – that of becoming a missionary. God does not withhold our heart’s desire. God is out to do us good. And do you know what, ever since I started serving Him full time, I have had no bout of asthma attack. The Lord has healed me completely!

Serving with PMA as CFO and Administrator – one may think that it is just a change of one company to another – with the same job title – like one of my friends asked – what is the difference? Let me tell you: the difference is PEOPLE. Serving with PMA is all about people. Not bottom line. Not profit or loss. Not about income or cash surplus. It is expending resources for eternity – It is serving people where they are, reaching the lost, hurting and in need, and helping them so that their lives may be transformed. It is also full dependency on God alone. It is trusting God for every need. And He has indeed provided for every need be it for the Mission or for personal. There is never a dull moment in my life – everyday is a new adventure – anticipating what God will do. Most of all, it is serving God not man. I think that is the most fulfilling task of all: knowing that I serve the Living God, the King of Kings and the Lord of Lords!

God’s plan and purpose will all fall into place in the fullness of time. Meanwhile, we are to wait upon the Lord, know His promises, and anticipate His actions – expecting great things from Him and attempting great things for Him. Do you believe that in the Fullness of Time, God Is Out to Do Us Good? Yes, I do believe this – not only because I have experienced His being on time in my life, that His promises are true and He acts on His promises– but more so because His Word tells me so and He always keeps His Word.

My prayer for all of us is that we trust in God’s timing, His promises and His actions – He is trustworthy and able to do exceedingly abundantly more than we can ask or imagine!



Being able to visit the Bahay Kalinga Orphanage in Mindoro is always a joy for Melinda. Holding the children in her arms is quite a special treat for her and for them as well.



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