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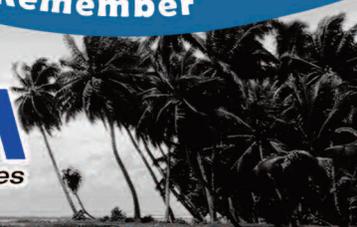
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



A Visit to Remember

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Issue

3-2012 (June)

On our Cover

Pastor Jose Tayangona leads
in worship at PMF Amaga
Church.

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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

Capital needs:

Learning Center, Patnanungan, Philippines
Turbine Aircraft for Micronesia
Acquisition of Land for Churches
150 KW Generator for Pohnpei Station

*“Not that I am looking for a gift,
but I am looking for
what may be credited to your account...
They are a fragrant offering,
an acceptable sacrifice, pleasing to God.
And my God will meet all your needs
according to His glorious riches in Christ Jesus.
To our God and Father
be glory for ever and ever.
Amen.”*

Philippians 4:17, 18b-20



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Letter from the President

by Nob Kalau, PMA President



PMA President Nob Kalau

To our Faithful Mission Friends,

*“Trust in the Lord and do good; dwell in the land
and enjoy safe pasture.” Psalm 37:3*

This year, PMA celebrates 37 of years serving in the islands of Micronesia and 29 years in the remote islands of the Philippines. Being a faith mission, we take it to heart when the Lord asks us to trust Him, occupy the land and do good until He comes. His promise of enjoying safe pasture as we place our confidence and hope in Him is a daily reality. Through the years, no lives were lost as we flew our planes to the outer-islands and sailed thousands of miles of ocean on the medical ship, Sea Haven, bringing physical help and spiritual hope. We have seen the fruition of the work we do as people realized their need for Jesus, followed Him and are active members of PMF churches. God has been and will continue to be faithful!

In this issue of the Island Echoes, you will learn about what is happening in our island churches in the Polillo Islands, Philippines; how a young girl found healing and hope in Christ amidst struggles and challenges; a testimony from our missionary as she witnesses the island people's stand for Jesus; PMA through the eyes of a German guest visiting the islands for the first time; remembering the time when Edmund and Elisabeth left Pohnpei to “retire” from active service with PMA; and the challenges a missionary worker experienced while allowing God to be praised and honored in his life.

We are indeed grateful to our Living God who has never let us down. “Delight in the Lord and He will give you the desires of your heart.” (Psalm 37:4) We pray that as we delight in God's ways and His will for us, we will continue to taste and see His goodness in the land of the living.

Thank you and may God bless you for your faithful partnership!

That every island may hear,

Nob Kalau

A Visit to Remember

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

I remembered our last visit to our stations in the Philippines – stormy, rainy, the seas were rough and because of that, we were not able to visit all our stations in the Polillo Islands. Our prayers this time were more specific concerning the weather and the ocean and for a great, encouraging and productive time with our PMA missionaries. God answered each request!

Nob Kalau, our CEO, Dr. John Escote, his assistant, Geneziel Tandoc and I, made up the team. We made Katakian Island our base for the first two days, traveling to neighboring islands and visiting PMF churches in Amaga, Catmon, Kilogan, Calutcot and Maybobon. Pastor Jose Tayangona wanted us to attend the worship service in Amaga and so there we were bright and early Sunday morning! And what a blessed time it was we spent time with them!

From Amaga, we once again rode a banca to Calutcot. It was a sad sight that greeted us. Where once the church building stood, was now just six poles holding up a tarp for a roof. The whole structure was recently blown away by destructive typhoons. The church family asked us to start re-building the church. Please pray for this important building project!

From Calutcot, we set sail for Maybobon to visit a group who have asked Pastor Ed to come and minister to them. “Maybobon” means many wells. And sure enough, the island boasted of many fresh water wells. We are thankful that the Living Water, our Lord Jesus Christ, can truly satisfy the thirst of these people as His Word is preached. Nob was asked to preach, with Dr. John translating his message, to a church that was thirsty. Praise the Lord!

Our Island Team: Front Row: Adarna and Pastor Jorie, Pastor Ed and Beth, Joy and Cesar. Second Row: Pastor Jun Mandreza, Dr. John Escote, Pastor Jun and Mercy Sulad, Pastor Jose, Geneziel.



We returned to Katakian by sundown. Pastor Jorie and the PMF church had prepared a special program for us. The church was packed. Many had to stay outside, peeping into the windows and standing at the entrance. The ladies, young people, and children, all presented special numbers after our worship singing. With Dr. John as his translator, Nob was able to share from the book of Isaiah, to proclaim the kindness and goodness of the Lord – for the many things that He has done for us.

Rising early the following morning, we again rode on a banca, this time to visit Kilogan. Timing was essential to go in and out of the island. We could only go there during high tide. We thank God for the right time. From the sea shore, we walked a few kilometers to arrive at our church. Pastor Ed, Beth and some church members were there to meet us. Pastor Ed introduced us to “Paula” the horse (after NT Paul) that was provided for by friends in Germany and the States. She has been a great help for Pastor Ed to visit neighboring villages.

From Kilogan, we sailed to Catmon. This is where the indigenous tribe, “Dumagats” have settled, a place with much ministry potential. From the shore, we climbed up the hill and trekked through the village, coming out into a clearing, and there we saw the church, high up on a hill like a beacon. What a sight it was for us! Brother Polo and wife Rosa, daughter Joy and husband Cesar were there to welcome us. The church was made of local materials, very airy and well made – a great testimony it was of perseverance, industry, faithfulness and love.



PMF Catmon Church – a place of worship where many people find rest for their souls.

Then we were on our way to Patnanungan to spend the night there. The following early morning, we all boarded the banca and set sail for Jomalig. The seas were a bit rough, but manageable. Pastor Jun and wife Baby, and all the PMF members were so happy to see us all. The new church building was being given finishing touches. We thank God for all the hard work of everyone involved in this project and for those who provided for this.

Back in Patnanungan, Nob and I spent time with each of our mission staff – listening, sharing, evaluating personal and ministry endeavors of our staff, discussing plans, goals and vision, encouraging, and praying together and dreaming dreams that only a Big God can fulfill. We knew that it would take a lot of prayer and hard work, but we were all prepared to do that and to trust in the Lord. It was also a time to appoint Pastor Jorie Bonggoyan to oversee all of our missionary pastors and church workers for the Polillo Islands. He accepted the challenge with humility and joy. Already he is training and discipling 20 men and women to serve effectively in our island churches. He will be visiting the churches, engaging and encouraging our Pastors and workers – pray for strength and protection for him and wife Adarna. We finished the meeting with prayer and praises. A great end to our visit to the Polillo Islands!

Redeemed and Rescued

by Chelsea Isao, PMF Member, Palau

Before I came to PMA/PMF I was a 10-year-old kid trying to fend off school bullies and find a friend. The first time I joined on a Wednesday night prayer meeting, the parents would bring their kids along and I was afraid that these kids might not like me, or worse they might bully me like those other kids at school. Pastor Bambit had all of us sit in a circle and introduce ourselves. Everyone seemed friendly but I was a little wary, most kids would act nice in the presence of an adult, but soon afterwards Pastor Bambit left and the kids started playing. I sat down on the bench and got ready to sit alone. Imagine my surprise when Kim Misajon came up to me and said, “Wanna play freeze tag with us?” I was so shocked! Soon I was happily running around and laughing with the rest of the group, when time came to leave I didn’t want to go, but I was promised that I could come back next time. Later, I started attending Achiever’s Club and Sunday services.



Chelsea enjoys singing with the worship team.

In my first two years of high school, I struggled. There was this certain group of upperclassmen who I thought were going to be my friends, but it turned out they thought that I was copying whatever they said and did. They didn’t bully me in an obvious way, they did subtle things like put rocks in my school bag, steal my things, send me hate letters, sometimes they’d throw a pebble at me when I wasn’t looking. I was at an all time low and started questioning God why these things were happening to me. I also questioned His love for me. I didn’t know where to turn or who to talk to. One day I was at home alone, lying on my bed and started thinking that my life had been nothing but a waste. I thought God had abandoned me, so I got up and went to the kitchen. I reached for one of the knives and placed it on my wrist, I was crying, silently saying goodbye to everyone and praying that God would watch over them.

But right before I cut my wrist our car drove into the driveway and I froze. My mom called from downstairs to help her with the groceries. With shaking hands I returned the knife to its proper place, wiped my face and went to help her.

After that incident I didn’t want anyone to talk to me and neither did I want to talk to anyone. I didn’t want to tell anyone what I was going through, not even God. But He knew and He was waiting for me to come to Him. Yet I was too caught up in my own problems, in my own fears and troubles that I did not even think about God. He was there and I did not even know it. Pastor Bambit and Joy talked to me, and listened. They said that God will always hear our prayers. They were the ones who helped and encouraged me. My PMF family in Christ was always there. Realizing all of this, I asked for God’s forgiveness and then asked Him to come into my life and take full control of me. I gave Him all of my problems, worries and cares. On April 12, 2009, I followed the Lord in water baptism at the beach in front of the PMF church. I was tired of being afraid, I was tired of worrying about my problems, and I was ready to commit my entire life to God, to put Him first.

Since that time, He has turned my life around. Right now I’m helping the youth as we prepare for our JAM (“Jesus And Me”) concert mid April. Our theme is “State of Emergency” it’s about the issues of the youth today, where they are troubled with violence, physical abuse, drug and alcohol use and other negative things. We want to introduce the young people to God, and all the great things He has done for us. To show them that there is hope! Even when we are down or at our lowest point, God is there, to help us through and give us hope, healing and freedom!

Chelsea (second from left) has found true friends at the PMF Church.



Growing the Seed

by Heidi Collins, PMA Missionary, Yap

In March, we celebrated a very special occasion – the baptism of 13 outer-island Christians including Pastor Petrus’ oldest daughter and several teenagers from our youth group.

Our PMA president, Nob Kalau, was in Yap on his annual visit, and was able to perform the baptismal ceremony with our Pastor Petrus assisting him.

We gathered at Sunset Beach and listened to Nob preach about the meaning and significance of baptism. Contrary to the commonly held belief in the islands – baptism does not save a person; however it is an important step of obedience that a new Christian takes. Alvina, a youth group member and Sunday school teacher, shared how she used to feel hopeless and depressed in the years before she came to know the Lord, even attempting suicide twice. But then Jesus Christ changed her life. Despite experiencing hardships (such as the recent death of her sister), she testified to how Jesus has given her new hope and she knows He is with her always.

After the message, we all gathered at the edge of the ocean and watched these dear people step into the water one by one to be baptized. They publically restated their trust in Jesus Christ and their desire to be baptized.

After being lowered into the water a beautiful flower head wreath (mar-mar) was presented to each person as they came up out of the water. It was a very moving scene to see these people carry out their resolutions with determination and joy. After the baptism, we all celebrated with a shared meal under the shady trees in a good time of fellowship. Most of the kids and youth went swimming in the ocean and had a lot of fun.

Please join us in praying for these young Christians who have taken this courageous step of faith. Many of them have already experienced the sting of persecution in the form of gossip and unfriendliness from their community for the stand they have taken. There is great cultural and familial pressure in Yap, and those who choose to follow Jesus are mocked. These 13 people will need our prayers as Satan tries to discourage them in their walk with the Lord.

Soon after the baptism, Jon Taylor began teaching a “New Believer’s Class”. The people who had recently been baptized and other interested folk were invited to attend and learn more about the basics of the Christian faith. In his first class, Jon taught on the parable of the sower, and encouraged each one to keep growing in their faith and not be discouraged by trials or persecution. He also taught that the way to fight the schemes of Satan was with Scripture, and gave them Bible verses to memorize. Please pray for the Gospel message to take root and flourish in the hearts of those attending this class, and for wisdom for Jon as he teaches.

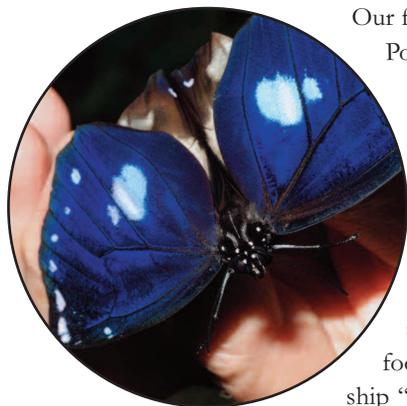
A happy occasion! Nob Kalau baptizes Rodriguez, who is an active member of the youth ministry led by Amos and Heidi Collins.



Visiting Micronesia

February 13th to March 9th, 2012
by Marianne & Andreas Beck, Aalen, Germany

Inspired by Sabine Musselwhite's PMA presentations in Germany, we took the opportunity to join a group of 5 on a trip to Micronesia. During almost four weeks we travelled from Frankfurt through Taipei (Taiwan) to Pohnpei, Guam, Yap and Palau.



Our first stop was the tropical rainforest island of Pohnpei. Hardly a day goes by when there is not a heavy rain shower on this lush and green island in the Pacific! Sylvia and Nob Kalau were terrific hosts. Nob took our group on many excursions and Sylvia kept spoiling us with her culinary delights. We got to meet the PMF congregation during their worship service and were blessed by a striking musical program and Sunday cultural food potluck. Nob took us to visit the medical ship "Sea Haven" enlightening us with numerous fascinating episodes of his ministry on the boat trips through the outer islands. The high degree of matter-of-factness with which he pursues the solution of problems was very impressive to us. We got to meet PMF Pastor, Epel Ilon, the former first secretary of state of the FSM, who gave us a first-hand report on the development and unification of the separate islands into the young nation of the Federated States of Micronesia – a highlight in history lesson.

On Guam, we got to know PMA's founders – Edmund and Elisabeth Kalau – who hosted us in the evenings with spectacular 16 mm movies from the early times of their ministry and ever interesting stories of their life experiences. As in Pohnpei, we were greeted heartily by all church members and, thanks to Melinda – the organizational backbone and energetic spirit of PMA in Micronesia – we spent a wonderful day on a drive around the island. Being insect friends, the observation of the blue-banded king crow butterflies (euploea eunice godart) was especially interesting to us; masses of these butterflies can be found at many places, including the Tumon Bay Preserve.

The small island of Yap was presented to us by experienced pilot Peter Reichert, who spared no effort in showing us the beautiful parts of the island. One evening he took the time to tell us about his adventure-filled, piloting experiences in Micronesia. The highlights on Yap were the PMA plane trip to the outer islands of Fais and Ulithi, with pilot Jon and wife Linnea, a coconut-crab-lunch arranged by Peter with pilot Amos and wife Heidi, and the cultural dances during Yap Day.

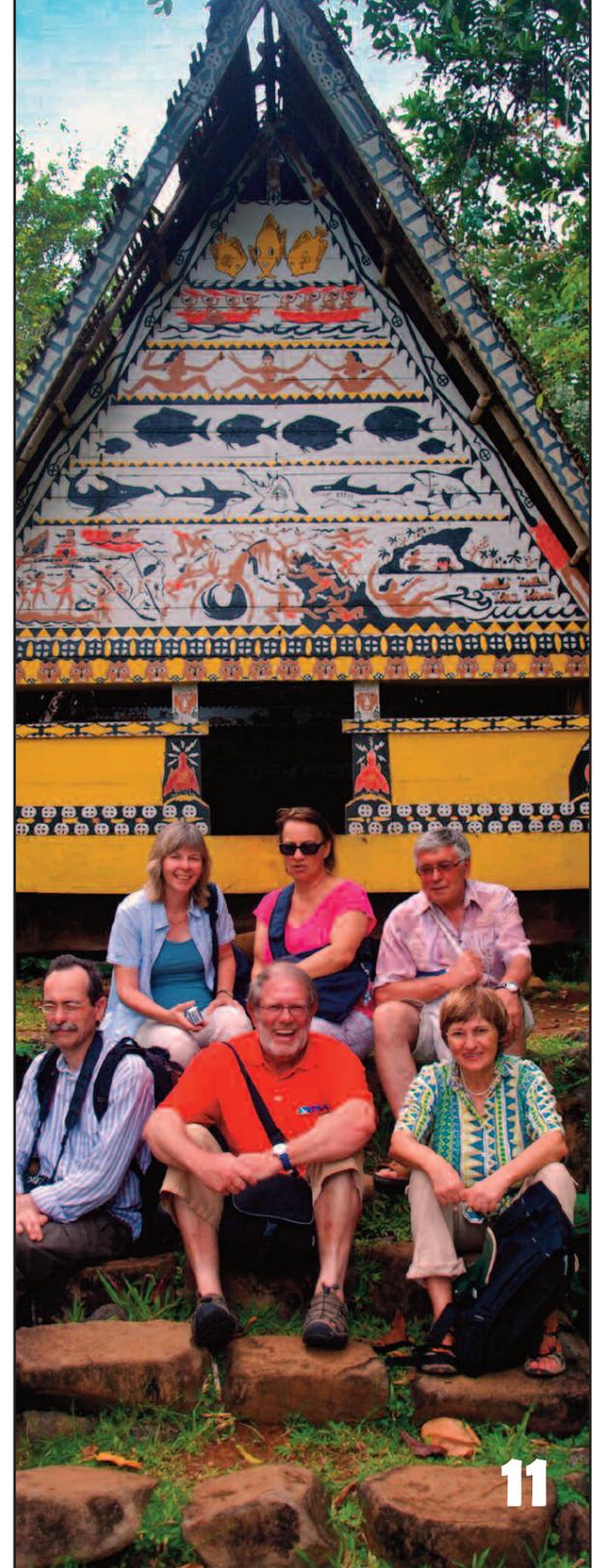
Last but not least, we enjoyed the island of Palau where Pastor Bambit and wife Joy pastor a congregation of Filipino and Palauan nationals. We had the joy of fellowshipping with the congregation on Sunday, and were all invited to attend evening Bible studies. The beauty of Palau is spectacular and we enjoyed a trip to the Rock Islands including Jelly Fish Lake and the 7 ft. tall Ngardmau Waterfall. The personal and organizational assistance of Pastor Bambit was an exceptional help.

After almost four weeks we ended this strenuous, exciting and eye-opening visit of our lives. Thanks to the friendly welcome and assistance of all friends and church members – not all of them can be mentioned by name here – this trip will always remain a very special experience in our memories. Last but not least, our special thanks to Sabine Musselwhite for her exceptional management of the trip. Our respect and admiration goes out to the PMA missionaries in Micronesia for their selfless, untiring and loving ministry to the islanders in body, mind and spirit.

The German guests enjoy a bit of culture in Palau as they pose in front of a community house.

Front row: Andreas, Michael Lange (PMA Germany Manager), Marianne.

Back Row: Elke Rathgeber, (PMA Germany Accountant), Sabine Musselwhite (PMA Germany Coordinator), Horst Schroeder (PMA Germany Board).



“Thank You, Elisabeth Kalau!”

by Good News Press Staff, Pohnpei
with Notes from Melinda Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

During one of our prayer meetings held at Pastor Edmund and Elisabeth’s home, while waiting for the men to complete their prayer, I spied an album entitled, “Good-bye to Elisabeth Kalau”. Curious, I opened it and read the heartfelt testimonies of Good News Press (GNP) staff of what “Mom”, as she is fondly called, meant to each one of them.

“Mom, you are such a gracious woman and I have learned a lot from you. Not only with my work, but also showing me what a Christian wife and mother should be. You are a good role model for me. Thank you for all the 22 good years that I have worked with you. Those years were special and will always be in my memory. GNP is one of the places that God has used to bless me, as we pray together and lay our burdens before Him. You remind me of His love as you encourage me never to give up. Thank you for what you have given me. I will do my best to use what I have learned so others will be blessed. I love you and will pray for you.” Love in Christ, Julia Skilling.



Mom Elisabeth and Julie Skilling as they work together at Good New Press.



Raynold Jack.

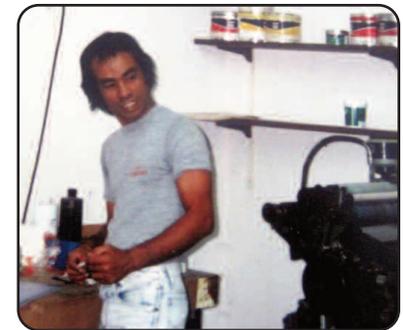
“I would like to thank our heavenly Father for allowing me to work with you for the past ten years and five months. For all this time your life has been my guide. Every single day you have shown me how to live a patient, kind and honest life. Every day I will try my best to do whatever I have learned from you. I also would like to say that when dad (Pastor Edmund Kalau) visits us at GNP he always takes the time to talk to me and provide good advice. Thank you both so much. There are no words to express my sincere appreciation for you. Please remember to pray for me and my family.” God bless! Raynold Jack.



Meripha Lipai.

and lifted me when I fell. You helped me in my responsibility as a wife, a mother, a grandmother. Mom, there were many times I could not make it, but you were always there to help me through difficulties. I am going to miss you. But what you gave me and planted in my life will remain until I meet you again.” In Christ, Meripha Lipai.

“Mom and dad, I will never forget you for helping me, my wife and children. I still remember the day when I asked if I could work for GNP. I was so nervous, but you were so kind. You encouraged me in all my work, even trained me so that I could work the machines. I was sad when I had to leave GNP for ten years, to do my own thing. But you welcomed me back when I asked to work for you again. You gave me a second chance. Thank you, I will try again to do my best.” Oscar Sonden.



Oscar Sonden.



Esther Petrus.

“I would like to express my sincere appreciation for giving me this opportunity to work for GNP. It has been a wonderful experience. Thank you mom and dad for everything, especially for my spiritual life that you have been helping me with. I will miss you. Please remember my family in your prayers.” Love always, Esther Petrus.

What a blessing it was to read all these, written in 2004 when Ed and Elizabeth left Pohnpei and settled to retire in Guam. Julia and Meripha have since retired, while Oscar went to be with the Lord. Elisabeth’s life has been an inspiration to many and she still continues to inspire us all to be faithful. Praise the Lord!

My Testimony – His Love Endures Forever!

by Pastor Jun Tayangona, PMF Amaga, Philippines

I came to know the Lord, in 1998, in Paete, Laguna, where I was working in a furniture factory. My employer was a Christian, so every Saturday, we had Bible Study and all the workers participated. Every time the Pastor taught us, I would experience an ache in my heart as though what he said was meant for me alone. I would find myself convinced and moved to tears. And so one day, I asked Jesus to forgive me of my sins and invited Him to be my Lord and Savior.

The sea was my source of livelihood, so I decided to leave Paete and go to Real, Quezon, where I had grown up. While fishing one day, my friends and I were caught in a storm and we finally found refuge on the island of Calutcot. During that time, there was no church on the island. By God's grace, I met a young woman there who soon became my wife.

As a couple, we began to pray that there would be a chance for us to work for the Lord at Calutcot. After a year, my wife wanted to return to visit her grandmother. While we were on the island, a strong typhoon ravaged the island and many perished, among them our neighbor. Miraculously, the Lord spared our lives. I had to leave my wife on the island in order to earn a living. A few weeks after, when I returned, I was surprised to find a church started by Pastor Ed Genotiva. Pastor took the time to disciple me. My wife and I stayed to help the small congregation and I became the guitarist.

Time flew by so fast as I was heavily involved in attending Bible studies with Pastor Ed. He then pointed out that God might be calling me to serve Him. It was perfect timing as PMA had sent leaders to teach us. I completed my studies in Manila at the end of 2008. When I got back, I had made my decision to answer God's call. Pastor Ed saw a need in the village of Amaga for the Word of God to be preached. He asked me to start a Bible study there. So, by faith, my family and I went to Amaga.

We brought nothing with us except for a few clothes. I was renting a house for my family while building a new one. When one-half of the building was completed, the owner of the rented house told us we had to move out... there were no walls nor floors in the new house. I had to improvise in a hurry. It was not a healthy situation and we became sick, especially my daughter. I feared she would die. I declared to the Lord, "I will still praise You, oh Lord, even if you take my daughter." She recovered but could not walk for two months! Now, Praise the Lord, she is totally healed and can run fast again! Whenever I see my daughter, she reminds me of God's faithfulness... that He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, beyond all we can ask or think.

Upon Pastor Ed's recommendation, PMA started supporting my family financially and sent me once again to another Bible training which lasted a year. My family and I continue to experience challenges here in Amaga, yet, we see the hand of God in everything we do. We have a house, a church with faithful members, and will be celebrating our 5th Anniversary in May. I am certain now the Lord will never abandon me no matter what the situation. Praise the Lord Jesus Christ!

Pastor Jose and wife Gemma with their children: Jonas (7); Mika Joy (5) and Daniel (1 yr and 3 months), serve with joy in Amaga.





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