

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines

PACIFIC MISSION FELLOWSHIP
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PATNAMUNGAN QUEZON



Encouraged in Heart, United in Love



Issue

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On our Cover

Encouraged in Heart,
United in Love -
a Philippine Experience

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Pohnpei.

Summary of Ministry Needs

Personnel Needs:

Missionary Pastors
Administrative and Ministry Assistants
Youth Workers
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
Construction of Multipurpose Center
Calutcot, Philippines
Construction of Parsonage
Calutcot and Jomalig, Philippines
Engine Overhaul for Queen Air N45MA
at a cost of approx. \$55,000 for each of the 2 engines

*“He who supplies seed to the sower
and bread for food will supply
and multiply your seed for sowing
and increase the harvest of your righteousness.”
2 Corinthians 9:10*



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Letter from the President

by Nob Kalau



PMA President Nob Kalau

*“This is to my Father’s glory, that you bear much
fruit, showing yourselves to be my disciples.”
John 15:7*

I have found much joy working in our garden. It seems that the challenges of the day just dissipate when I can get my hands in the dirt, pull the weeds, water the seedlings, cut and prune. The greatest part of course is picking the ripe fruit or vegetables. Reaping the rewards of my labor!

How do you know when a papaya tree is mature? It bears papayas. How do you know when an avocado tree is at it’s prime? It produces avocados.

How do you know when you are spiritually mature? You spiritually reproduce, you “bear much fruit”.

God wants Christians to bear much fruit... to reproduce many Christians. This includes people in your family, in your community, and in the whole world. He is building a kingdom, a church, a spiritual family for all of eternity. He wants his lost children found. The more we make God’s agenda our own, the more God is going to bless our life.

In this issue of the Island Echoes, I am excited about the fruit: 15 people from our young PMF church in Yap followed the Lord in water baptism. I am inspired by the courage of a young woman sharing an intimate part of her struggle to show how incredibly great and powerful our God is to produce lasting fruit in her life.

You will read how PMF churches joined together to celebrate the joy of the Lord in their lives, and how island people continue to stay strong in their faith as they face new challenges and life outside of their islands. A couple will share a new Valentine’s experience which was a blessing to them. You will be introduced to our youngest worker in the Polillo islands and thank God that He indeed uses anyone who is humble, teachable and makes himself available for His glory. He indeed equips whom He calls. We also look to fruit in the past as we remember a little baby, together with her siblings, facing a hopeless future, who through the ministry of our Orphanage, today enjoys the love and security of a family.

We are so thankful to God for all of His ability to make us grow and bear fruit and also to you, our dear partners, who stand with us in the spiritual harvest... Until every island will hear!

Nob Kalau, President

Pressing On!

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

Pohnpei, August 2012 – the PMF church had a farewell party for the PMF youth who graduated that school year. It was a time of celebration, for some it would be saying good-bye to home, family and all that was familiar. Looking forward, albeit with trepidation, but excited to be on their own, anxious to try their wings and study in far-away places. I was in Pohnpei, completing my annual internal audit and review of our operations, and was there to be part of the festivity. At the end of the program, Pastor Nob Kalau asked me to pray for the youth. What a great opportunity that was to pray for them and to speed them on with blessing and encouragement.

Back in Guam, Pastor Nob made sure to notify me of all the students who would be coming to Guam for further studies. As soon as they arrived, they were followed up and I made arrangements for them to be picked up for Sunday services. Praise God for PMF Guam members who were willing to do this.

We met once a week with other college students from PMF Palau and Yap. We learned from God's Word, prayed for one another, shared burdens and encouraged each other. And yes, we had fun times too. Being away from home presents itself with many challenges and temptations. Being accountable to one another enables one to focus and be reminded to be consistent in our daily walk with the Lord. During the week, phone calls, emails and messages through face book keep us connected and aware of prayer requests and needs to be met.

Please pray for these young people as they press on to complete the studies they have begun and that they will remain focused and consistent in their daily walk with the Lord, purposing in their hearts to honor Him. Pray for me that I would be a good mentor/example and not grow weary in teaching, encouraging, praying and following-up. For all of us that we will, *"encourage one another daily, as long as it is called 'Today', so that none of us may be hardened by sin's deceitfulness."* Hebrews 3:13

Learning, obeying and growing in Jesus is a daily step of faith - as our young people have learned in our Bible studies. Pray for an undivided heart, seeking to honor Him.



Lenlen

A Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Story

A baby was heard incessantly crying in a nipa hut. The midwife in the village heard this cry and went to investigate. Left alone, lying on an empty flour sack which served as her mat, little Lenlen was suffering from third degree malnutrition.



We are so very thankful for the opportunity to influence the life of a child: body, soul and spirit. Watching them grow healthy and strong is a great joy for all of us. What a great blessing they are!

The case was reported to the local Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) office. Together with PMA's Bahay Kalinga staff they went to the nipa hut where the baby lay.

Subsequently, it was learned that her mother had died and the father had left the child in the care of her grandmother. She was elderly and did not have any means to properly care for the child. She gladly surrendered the child along with two brothers aged four and five to Bahay Kalinga (BK).

Lenlen and her brothers, Jason and J.R. were promptly moved to the BK Orphanage, where they received the medical attention and food which they desperately needed. Under the care of orphanage staff, they slowly became healthy and strong.

Editor's note: Lenlen and her brothers ultimately found families that adopted them. We thank God for using Bahay Kalinga to rescue them from their heart-breaking situation, giving them the nourishment, love and care and providing them a place in this world. Caring for children abandoned to poverty and desperation is an important PMA ministry in the Philippines. Thank you for standing with us in prayer and financial support so necessary in order to continue this work among children.

Encouraged In Heart, United In Love

by Rida Mae Bonggoyan, PMF Katakian

In April, we held the Second Integrated PMF Fellowship for the seven PMF churches (Katakian, Jomalig, Calutcot, Amaga, Guinayagan, Poblacion/Patnanungan, and Catmon) in the Polillo Island group. It was truly an encouragement to see brothers and sisters from neighbouring islands gathering together for a time of fellowship, fun, instruction and growth.

The theme was “Press on Toward the Goal”. Day one was travel to Patnanungan and preparation as we excitedly anticipated the days ahead. The following day we paraded beautiful banners around the island representing each church. Adults, young people and children joined in. There was laughter all around. Then started the competition in basketball, badminton, chess, Scrabble, table tennis, Kristyanong Henyo (Christian Genius), singing contests, and other Bible games which continued on to the third day. I was very excited that we would have a worship service every night where a PMF church leader would share a message.

Every game was about winning and losing. In our Christian life, we experience the same thing. How we respond to the challenge is most important. I am always reminded of the beautiful verse that was given to me by Ms. Melinda, found in Philippians 3:13-14: *“Brothers, I do not consider myself yet to have taken hold of it. But one thing I do: Forgetting what is behind and straining toward what is ahead, I press on toward the goal to win the prize for which God has called me heavenward in Christ Jesus.”*

Many times in our race we face temptations, trials, problems, unresolved issues in relationships, pride, self, and sins that beset us. God wants us to be strong in our faith, founded in God’s Word of mercy, grace and love. We need His power. We should continue to live in humility, seeking to please God, serving and encouraging one another. It’s all about pressing towards the goal that God has prepared for us.

A mother of six children told me how happy she was to be able to attend the Fellowship. She was so burdened and tired when she decided to come with us. The Lord rewarded her with happiness and refreshment. “I am filled with joy!” she said. Indeed, fellowship is vital for us believers. Through it, we can help, encourage, build and love one another. What a privilege for us to be part of God’s ministry. It is all about Him and not about us.

Colossians 2:4: *“The purpose is that they may be encouraged in heart and united in love, so that they may have the full riches of complete understanding in order that they may know the mystery of God, namely, Christ.”* May this be our prayer. To God be the Glory!



*“Behold, how good and how pleasant it is
for brethren to dwell together in unity!”
Psalm 133:1*

Following the Lord

by Heidi Collins, PMA Missionary

On a beautiful Saturday afternoon in April, the PMF church gathered by the water's edge to witness a special event: the baptism of fifteen children of God. Eight adults and seven youth made a public declaration to their friends and family that they belonged to Jesus and decided to follow him. Our PMF Pastor Petrus Haleyalgiy and PMA President Nob Kalau shared in the joyful task of baptizing these men and women.

The day before, Nob had spoken to these people during a special "baptism class" about the meaning and reason for baptism. With Petrus' help in Woleain translation, he explained that baptism was a step of obedience for a Christian upon being saved, referring back to Jesus' words in the Great Commission: *"Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you."* (Matthew 28:19-20). Rather than being a ritual that saved you, Nob explained, baptism proclaimed "I belong to Jesus now. I want to follow him with my whole life." Time was given for questions after the baptism class in case people wanted to clarify anything they didn't understand.

Juliana, whose husband and two daughters were also baptized with her on this memorable day, boldly gave her testimony to the watching crowd just before going under the water. She said "I make this decision to follow Jesus and be baptized freely; I am not being forced; it is my decision." It was a powerful example of God's grace in her life!

Everyone clapped happily as Juliana and each baptismal candidate stated their trust in Jesus Christ and were baptized by Petrus and Nob. Some of the women from the church had made beautiful flower leis (head wreaths) to put on each person's head after they came out of the water. The church then shared in a fellowship meal afterwards, enjoying the beauty of their surroundings as they laughed and chatted together. Little children laughed and frolicked happily in the warm blue water nearby.

We praise God for this wonderful day, and for leading these people to make this important commitment to follow Him! Please pray for each one of these people including the members of the PMF church, to be *"rooted and built up in Him, strengthened in the faith ... and overflowing with thankfulness"* (Colossians 2:7) that we may grow in our love for the Lord and bear fruit that will last! Please also pray for Pastor Petrus as he shepherds the PMF flock, that God would supply him abundantly with everything he needs to carry out his ministry.

What a glorious day it was as God's people boldly stepped out to declare to the whole island that they belong to Jesus Christ!



Love Banquet

by Eileen Uyehara, PMF Palau

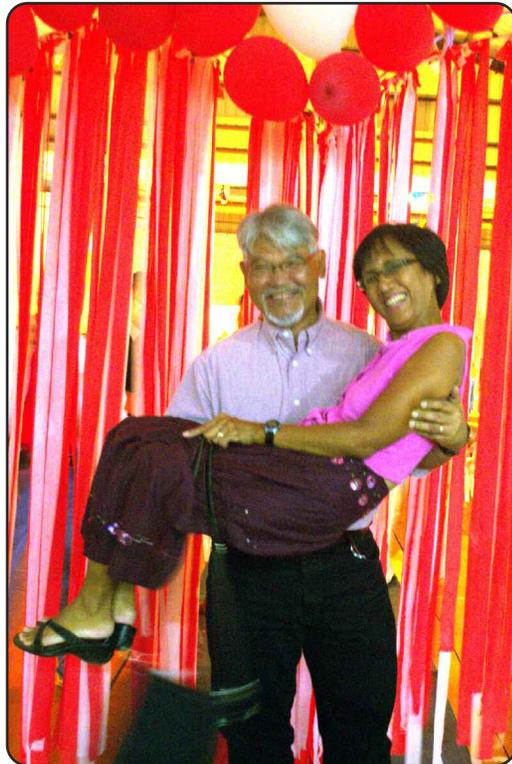
With 32 years of marriage, how does a couple celebrate Valentine's Day? My husband, Ken, and I have always opted for a quiet dinner out and we were planning to do the same this year. Then came an invitation for a "Valentine's Love Banquet" for couples sponsored by the Youth of PMF-Palau. Youth? Banquet? Surely this would not be a quiet evening!

With the arrival of Pastor Marty Lumigis, the youth have been looking forward to fellowshiping and growing in the Lord together. Unfortunately many activities entail expenses. So the youth came up with a fund raising activity that would enable them to work together in order to give couples another option for a Valentine's Day celebration.

In the weeks preceding the event, we could see excitement growing in the youth as they rehearsed a program and began selling tickets for the dinner celebration. Their excitement was so contagious that they were able to entice not only married couples, but also unattached individuals, to attend the "Love Banquet."

Of course Ken and I couldn't pass this up! Something different. The idea of spending the evening being entertained and pampered by the youth and sharing the evening with fellow believers seemed worthy of sacrificing an intimate dinner for two. After all, it was for a good cause.

When we arrived at Kalau Gym, the site of the banquet, we immediately knew it would be a special night. The place was completely transformed. Who would have thought the gym could become a romantic venue? But that was what it was.



Eileen's husband Ken re-enacts the carrying of his wife of 32 years through the threshold. What fun!

The PMA Multi-purpose Center "Kalau Gym" was transformed into a romantic venue for couples.

While sitting down to a delicious dinner, complete with service by courteous junior waiters and waitresses, we were entertained with a program put on by the youth. From an original skit about love and marriage to the numerous musical numbers, the youth along with their fearless leader, Ptr. Marty, showcased their gifts and talents. The love songs, many of them being "oldies," conjured up the days of young love which just continues to grow, by the grace of God.

Also evident was the hard work and contributions of the young adults/singles who are great mentors of the youth and are prime examples of true servants. The church has a lot to thank God for, especially how our youth and young people are using their gifts and talents to glorify God. They were all so impressive.

Indeed, it was not the quiet Valentine's evening Ken and I are accustomed to, but the blessing we received by the efforts of Pastor Marty, the youth, the singles and all others involved made this one of the most memorable Valentine's celebrations we've experienced. For how much more can God's love shine than through the genuine sacrifice, efforts, and love of young people?

Young people, served, presented a skit and serenaded the couples making the event an evening to remember.



Learning to Think on What is True

by Madelene Rayel, PMF Pohnpei

I have struggled with depression all of my life. Living on the island of Pohnpei, my Chuukese parents were strict and I always felt that I had to live up to the expectations of my family, my clan, my community. At the age of six I remember being depressed when I felt anger towards my mother. I didn't know how to express myself and internalized my feelings and frustrations.

At this young age I remember hearing voices in my head that bothered me, but I didn't tell anyone. I thought it was normal and that everyone struggled with it. I attended church but didn't understand God's plan of salvation. I was fearful of many things, one being that I would not go to heaven. My greatest fear was that of going to hell. The thoughts of such a place tormented me.



Madelene has come a long way through the grace and strength of the Lord.

At 19, I was given a scholarship to attend a university in China. I had been there for a year when the voices in my mind became overpowering. Tormented night and day by negative thoughts, I couldn't focus on my class work. I was unable to sleep at night and the voices just kept bombarding my head. The school decided that I could not stay in China with this problem and I was sent home. Referred to mental health in Pohnpei, I was diagnosed with Schizophrenia. The next few years I began the roller coaster of antipsychotic meds, but things got worse before they got better. I experienced daily hallucinations, lock jaw and stiffness, insomnia and my eyes rolling to the back. Finally I was placed on 2 medications that didn't plague me with so many side effects. The voices and negative thoughts did become less, but never disappeared. I wanted to commit suicide many times, but was afraid of God and still the fear of hell bombarded me.

At age 21, with the help of the meds, I was stable enough mentally to focus on my college education again, and moved to Hilo, Hawaii. I joined a Bible Study, worked at McDonalds, had many friends, and things were going pretty well for me. One weekend I attended a healing conference and was told by the leaders there to stop taking my meds and trust God instead. Now I understand that they were false teachers. Wanting to please God more than anything else, I followed their advice and within a week plummeted into severe mental torment once again.

Teaching young girls the truth of God's word is just one of the joys Madelene has in the Lord.



I was sent home again to Pohnpei and this time was violent, hallucinating and refused to go back on medication. In desperation, my mother brought me to Pastor Nob for counseling. He spoke God's truth to me and countered all of the accusations and lies I said about my family and myself with the Scriptures. He convinced me to go back on the meds that had helped me and to accept the medication for my problem. I wouldn't listen to my parents, but I listened to him and followed his instruction.

He spoke God's truth to me and countered all of the accusations and lies I said about my family and myself with the Scriptures. He convinced me to go back on the meds that had helped me and to accept the medication for my problem. I wouldn't listen to my parents, but I listened to him and followed his instruction.

I began going to PMF church and was touched by the love of the church family. The songs, the Scripture, the sermons would bring me to tears and I kept coming back. Sylvia was teaching a Bible Study based on Nancy Leigh DeMoss' "Lies Women Believe; and the Truth That Sets Them Free". I was searching and learned from her how I could take God at his Word and ask Him to be Chief of my life. I didn't have to doubt His presence anymore and I didn't need to fear hell. What the Bible said I learned to believe and trust in ... not the lies that so often plagued me. Sylvia also taught me to be disciplined in what I think about. I carried verses in my pocket or purse and would read them aloud when the voices started condemning me in my mind. I chose instead to think on what Phil. 4:8 says... "*Fix your thoughts on what is true, and honorable, and right, and pure, and lovely, and admirable. Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise... Then the God of peace will be with you.*"

Speaking the Scripture has been a life-line for me. I depend upon it daily for mental stability. I've worked at the bank for 3 years now and am able to do my daily work with a goal of excellence. I teach a Bible Study group for young women and enjoy helping others learn the things that I've learned from the Scriptures. I'm in the exercise class at church, too. Jesus is truly the greatest thing that has ever happened to me! Even though mental illness may be a condition that I will have to deal with all my life, I can say that now I am truly free. Free to be in control of my thoughts, free to call upon the mighty name of Jesus, free to obey and do what God tells me to do in His word. Today, I can even thank God for my sickness because it caused me to depend on Jesus for my every breath. He is my Hero, my Savior, my Truth, my Good Shepherd, The Great I AM!



God is Gracious

by Bro. Cesar Foster Jr., PMA/PMF Catmon

Being the youngest among ten siblings, I always got my way most of the time. Whatever I wanted, my parents would give to me. I was fond of going out with my friends instead of studying so I ended up not finishing High School. I found work. The money I earned, I spent on vices and soon became a problem to my family.

But I always prayed before going to bed, most especially if I had placed my bet on the Lotto that day. Even when I was drunk I still prayed before sleeping. I remember the first time I went to church in 2005. My friends brought me along with them. The message of the Pastor was about: The Feast. After that, I did not go back to church because our youth leader had challenged us to memorize the books of the Old Testament. He told us that we will be called one by one to the front and recite. I was afraid to recite in front of people so I did not go back.

I continued my lifestyle of vices and confusion. I could no longer sleep without alcohol; I became emaciated. I was alive but without direction. Eventually I cried out to the Lord not to forsake me. I promised not to drink anymore and to change for the better. I succeeded for a week only; then I went back to drinking.

At one time in Amaga, I was invited to go to the PMF Church. I didn't want to go, but one of the members stopped by to pick me up. I cannot remember the theme of the message delivered by Pastor Jun Tayangona. All I can remember is about "what is wrong and what is right." These words kept ringing in my mind over and over again until I reached home. I came to the knowledge that I really needed Jesus in my life because I could never do this on my own. In October 2009, I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I experienced persecution from my own family. My mother forbade me to go to a Christian church because according to her, we already had a religion. She did not want me to read the Bible because she said people go crazy from reading the Bible and that she had dreamt about me becoming a demon. But I read my Bible in secret. When Sunday came and I wanted to go to church, I wrapped the Bible in my shirt which I placed at the window sill at the back of our house so that when I was ready to leave, I would just take it and when I was far from the house, I would change into my nice shirt. While walking from my place to the church, many friends of mine would make fun of me and call me "Pastor Cesar" or "Imposter" which really hurt. Some would even insinuate that what I was hiding was a bottle of alcohol. One by one, I lost my so-called friends. But then I had Jesus as my Friend because with Him, I am complete. On September 11, 2010, I followed the Lord in water baptism.

The big difference that Jesus made in my life was to take away my desire for drinking alcohol. One by one, other bad habits were taken away by the Lord Jesus as I obeyed Him. My parents saw the difference in my life. They accepted me and my faith, so did

my friends. Pastor Jun continued to disciple me.

God called me to serve at Catmon where I met and married my wife, Joy. There are so many things that the Lord has done in my life for which I am so thankful and so blessed: foremost of which, I thank the Lord He is my personal Savior and Lord.

Last March 2012, I was introduced to PMA President Nob Kalau and Ma'am Melinda when they came to visit Catmon. They challenged me to attend the Discipleship Training under Pastor Jorie. I and my wife Joy attend every month. This has encouraged us to grow spiritually and has deepened our knowledge of the Word and our relationship to God.

On September 27, 2012, PMA Philippines received a letter from PMA Headquarters, stating that Catmon was no longer an outreach of our PMF church in Patnanungan, but a full-fledged PMF church. I was assigned as the full-time church leader. Thank God, I am now living a peaceful and joyful life in serving our Lord Jesus Christ. I am so grateful for God's graciousness – once a drunkard, now a servant of God. What a transformation, what a God! To Him be the Glory!

Cesar and wife, Joy, with baby Jihoo are still amazed by God's wonderful grace - calling him out of darkness into His wonderful light, and now serving Him full time in Catmon Village, Patnanungan, Philippines.





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