

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue 3-2017
October

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



We Serve a Mighty God!

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Issue

3-2017 (October)

On our Cover

PMF Ministries: Baptism in
Yap and VBS in Pohnpei

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Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA)
is incorporated as a non-profit
Christian mission organization
by the Government of Guam,
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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 Assistants for Guam and Pohnpei
Youth Workers for island churches
Boat Captain for medical ship M/V Sea Haven
Boat Mechanic for medical ship M/V Sea Haven
Missionary Pilots/Mechanics for Micronesia/Philippines
Computer personnel for radio, media and print ministry
Short-term Technician for Heidelberg GTO 52: for
repair, maintenance and calibration at Good News Press.
Please contact PMA Headquarters for job descriptions.

Infrastructure Needs:

Palau Hangar Project: With the property lease signed we
are underway to construct the hangar. For the funding of
the Palau Hangar Project, we need to raise the following:
Phase I: \$300,000.00: Raised. Phase II: \$300,000.00: Raised,
Phase III: \$400,000.00: still needed.

Outer-island airstrip in the Philippines: The Lord has
provided land for an airstrip centrally located for easy
access to all our island stations. **Needed funding for this
project: \$70,000.00.** We thank God for His provision of a
Cessna-206 for the Philippines.

*“Now He who supplies
seed to the sower and bread for food
will also supply and increase your store of seed
and will enlarge the harvest of your righteousness.”*

2 Corinthians 9:10



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PMA President Nob Kalau

*“The LORD has done
great things for us,
and we are filled with joy.”*

Psalm 126:3

Dear Friends,

As you read testimonies from islands where PMA/PMF serve, I pray you will be filled with joy as the Lord moves through His people and answers prayers.

First and foremost, we thank God for all those who have stepped out in faith and have put their trust in Jesus after hearing the Good News of His amazing salvation. They continued this step with baptism, indicating publicly that they belong to Jesus. Many of them who made this important decision will receive opposition from their family, friends and community. Hence, please be in prayer for each of them as they grow in their new found faith and stand on the Rock which is Jesus!

PMA is embarking on another project, one which only the Lord can provide for. A 122' by 120' aviation hangar. Pray with us for the remaining funds still to be raised. We are thankful for our orphanage staff who care for children as their own and have the joy of seeing our adopted children again as they visit years later with their adoptive parents. One of our pastors in the Philippines is having an impact on his island community by leading in “values training” among the police force and giving hope through God’s Word to those who want to have a new life after years of drug addiction. We praise God for opportunities to reach children through Vacation Bible School, and training/discipling youth and adults through teaching ministries. We realize that we need to make the most of our time while it is day. Pray that we may not grow weary in doing good.

We also would like to praise God for 40 years of PMA Germany’s existence. Their faithful and committed partnership and support of PMA’s work in the islands has been a great encouragement to all of us. We thank God for them!

Thank you dear friends for your faithfulness through the years. Your partnership has enabled us to continue to build His Kingdom, until He comes in glory! God bless you!

Nob Kalau

Palau Hangar Project

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

*“Some trust in chariots and some in horses,
but we trust in the name of the LORD our God.”*

Psalm 20:7

When we look back at what the Lord has accomplished in PMA's flying services in Palau, we cannot help but be in awe of His work. For over 40 years, PMA has been serving the Federated States of Micronesia, and in Palau through our PMF church ministry for 31 years. Our aviation services in Palau only started 4 years ago. A dream realized at last!



PMA's temporary hangar is made up of shipping containers, barely protecting the aircraft from the severe tropical storms and typhoons that frequent the region.

PMA provides transportation to the outer islands, free medical evacuations, free referral of patients to the hospital, search and rescue for those lost at sea and air drops of medicines. We also have sightseeing tours for the tourists to help generate revenue so that we can continue to provide our free humanitarian services to the people of Palau.

Last year, PMA signed an MOU with the Palau Ministry of Health, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Public Infrastructure, Industries and Commerce, and the National Marine Sanctuary office. This MOU was put into place to establish clear protocols for the various services in this partnership.

The Republic of Palau National Marine Sanctuary office has asked us to partner with them in protecting their Marine Sanctuary. To date we have flown many sorties in coordination with their Department of Safety, Department of Justice, and the Australian Government Department of Defense in surveillance efforts to catch and apprehend poachers and illegal fishing boats that are invading Palau's waters. Some very successful sorties have resulted.

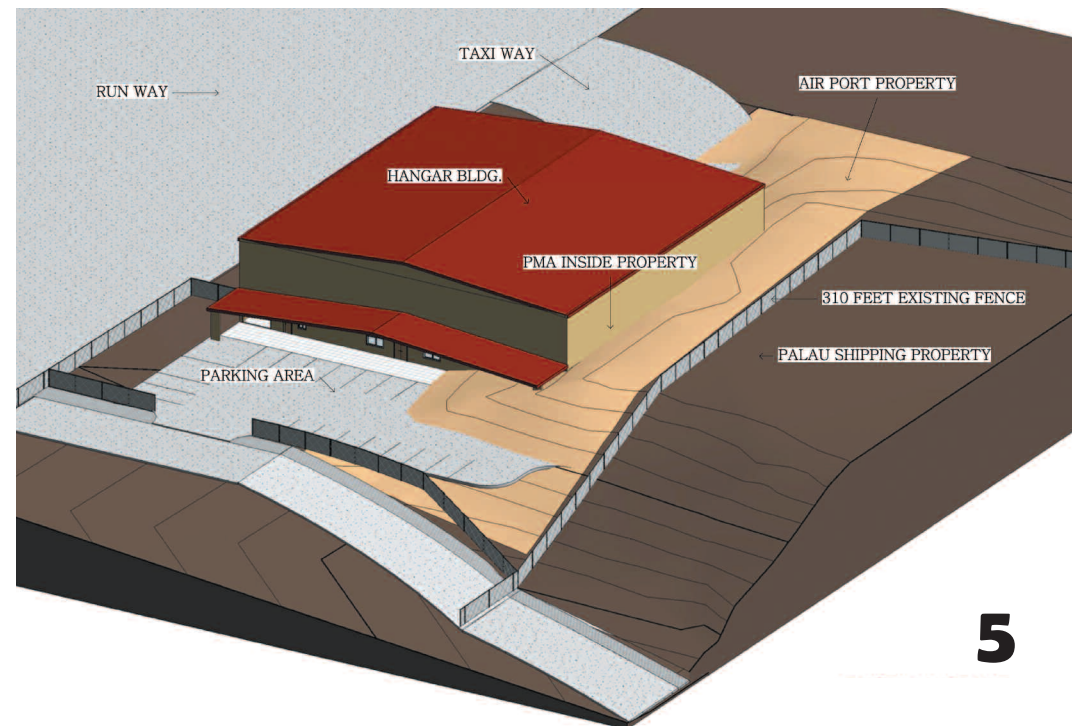
In order to better serve the Republic of Palau in protecting their Marine Sanctuary, the first of its kind in the world, along with our other services, we were awarded a lease at the new apron across from the Palau International Airport for the construction of a 122' by 120' hangar. At this time, we are operating and maintaining our aircraft out of two 20' containers on the ramp.

This is a big undertaking for us at PMA as we are a non-profit mission organization. But as in the past, we are trusting in the Lord for provision and the realization of this project. At the moment, we are at 57% of the needed funding of \$1,000,000! The Lord is faithful!

As always, God has already been using people and companies to partner with us in this project. Support donations from friends and partners are being received. Higher Power, a company who builds hangar doors has donated a 100' by 24' hangar door. Dick Ruckman of Superstructures has been a great help in the fabrication of the hangar. The CAT team in Palau is helping us in the preparation of the construction site. And of late, Matson Navigation has approved for us to ship all containers stateside to Palau at half the cost!

Yes, as we trust in the Lord, He will touch hearts so that this project will come to fruition and it will be for His honor and glory!

Pacific Mission Aviation's new facilities at Palau International Airport will be a major milestone in growing the aviation ministry in this island paradise, where many remote islands are dependent on air service. Pray with us for the remaining funds for this project.





Blessed Home Visit!

by Jeny Flores, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Center Head

Arjay was admitted into our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage on July 9, 1999. He was 1 year and 10 months old at that time. He did not look well as he had a large spleen that gave him a protruding belly. His biological mother, provoked by continuous physical abuse and neglect from her husband, fought back and caused his early death. She surrendered to the authorities, but after a week, she was sent out of jail because there were no complaints against her.



Bahay Kalinga Orphanage children and staff with Casper and his brother.

The mother continued to have bad relationships and into one of those relationships, Arjay was born. Life was getting too hard for this mom, consequences of wrong choices overwhelmed her, until she had to make a decision to give up Arjay for adoption. And this is where Bahay Kalinga opened its arms to care for and love Arjay. His health and demeanor improved. He was responding to the love and care the caregivers gave him.

At age 3, Arjay was adopted by a Danish couple, Johnny and Tina, and with his acceptance into this family, he acquired an additional name: Casper. He is now 19 years old and has just finished high school. Tina shared that his first three months in Denmark were tough. He was very frustrated because everything was new. But soon, he developed an understanding of Danish and could have small conversations. He also learned to be a responsible member of the household and took part in small chores.



Casper's visit to his former orphanage home was a joy for him, family and caregivers alike. A story with a happy end!

Teenage Casper shared that he was not stuck in the past, however always thought about visiting the orphanage where he had come from and also learn who his relatives were. On July 17, a day before going to BK he was able to meet his biological mother and his sister. It was a great reunion, and he had a hard time saying good-bye to them.

His message to us was: "Thank you all at BK for taking care of me, and giving me this life. You will always be a part of me." As a simple thanksgiving, he gave BK a gift card. We are truly thankful to God for this visit. This is once again a testament that our labor in the Lord is not in vain.

We Serve a Mighty God!

by Bryan Bantucan, PMF Pastor, Patnanungan, Philippines

We have been asked to conduct a "SIPAG" a faith-based, 12-week recovery program in the islands. SIPAG means "Simula ng Pag-asa" (Beginning of Hope). Our church welcomes this opportunity to minister to surrendered drug dependents and their families. Hearts are open to the Gospel and we pray that each person who goes through the program will indeed surrender their lives to Jesus and have Him transform their lives for eternity. Lord willing, the first batch will complete their sessions by end of August. We pray that they will continue to grow and mature in the Lord.



Pastor Bryan leads Pacific Mission Fellowship Church in reaching out to the community.

We have also been asked to conduct a Moral Recovery Program for the Police officers and personnel every first and second Monday of the month. We pray for their faithful and continued participation and that they indeed will be changed for God's glory.

Meanwhile, my wife, Fretzel, and her co-teacher Mae, are conducting a discipleship campus ministry in the High School where they teach. What a joy it is to be able to share with young people who desire to make right decisions and choices through studying the Bible, our manual on how to live in accordance to God's will.

Please pray for the ministry here in Patnanungan that God will touch more lives, who would become Christ followers, and who will have the desire to worship, love and serve the Lord with us here at the PMF church. We trust that He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly more than all we can ask or imagine.



“Everest VBS” – Snow in Pohnpei?

by Sabine Musselwhite, PMA Pohnpei Missionary

Every year, about 170 children attend the PMF Vacation Bible School in Pohnpei. As early as May the older children and the parents inquire about the VBS date. Under no circumstances do they want to miss the registration date! Many months before, Sylvia Kalau starts researching for curriculum. This year would be the theme of “EVEREST” – imagine... snow in tropical Pohnpei!

It just so happened that the 2015 Everest program was no longer available. Sylvia was able to send a request out for the curriculum in March using Facebook. She received positive replies from 3 churches in the US who would be willing to send their used materials to Pohnpei.

Early June we recruited the volunteer helpers. About 50 youth signed up as team leaders for the individual children’s groups. The teen volunteers were dedicated in coming to practices weekly to prepare for the singing, dance moves and leadership skills training. Nob Kalau and his A-team built huge cardboard snow mountains for the stage and hung numerous paper snow-flakes. 7 Sunday school teachers prepared the Bible lessons depicting the story of Elijah. During Bible lesson rotation, the children learned that God:

- Provides – He sent ravens to Elijah to bring bread to him
- Comforts – He comforted Elijah and spoke to him when he was desperate
- Heals – He healed Naaman from leprosy
- Forgives – Jesus dies on a cross to take away our sins
- Loves us forever – Jesus promises us an eternal home

The church production at Pacific Mission Fellowship Pohnpei involves the whole congregation, as they reach out to the community in message, drama and song.

Over 5 weeks, a team of helpers prepared the crafts which always related to the individual topic of the day. 3 strong men prepared the games which challenged the teams with lots of competitive fun. A special highlight for me was the coconut husking and grating. The girls won that competition! 10 ladies prepared snacks for refreshments daily and at the end of each day, the more that 60 helpers received a substantial lunch.

We started VBS at 8 o’clock in the morning. While the children were being registered, the volunteers and leaders had a devotion and prayed together for God’s guidance for the day. Smaller children who on the first morning would shyly hide behind mom, ran to their team leader and were completely part of the action from the second day on.

In the weeks before our big event, we had prayed for no rain between the hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. The first day during VBS registration, it was pouring rain Pohnpei-style. I sat on the porch outside the Bible room and once more prayed intensely. 10 minutes later, the children would be coming out of the church from the “Base Camp” and be guided to the various stations. Our God is so great! The rain stopped just before the kids lined up to go outside. It was as if God had closed a faucet and the sun came out.

On the last day, in Bible class, many children said the prayer that they wanted to live with Jesus. To hear that gave me a special feeling that I can hardly describe. God be praised who gave the volunteers, the strength, the joy, the resources, and the weather that His seed could be planted in the hearts of many Pohnpei children. Our God is great and “wants everyone to be saved and to understand the truth”. 1 Timothy 2:4.

To Him be the glory and honor!



Summer 2017: God at Work!

by Heidi Collins, PMA Yap Missionary

Every summer, the PMF church gets involved in several outreach events. Our summers are full of activity and also of blessing as we see God at work here!

The first was a VBS put on by all the Evangelical churches in Yap. Children from Yapese, Outer Island, Palauan, and Western backgrounds came together for the week to learn about the “I AMs” of Jesus. They loved the music, games, crafts and stories, and the leaders did too!

Following close on its heels was the annual Youth Retreat, again organized by the evangelical churches in all their cultural diversity. The topic mirrored Jesus’ “I AMs” of the VBS but went into more depth with speakers and discussion groups. A team of young people came from the United States and shared their testimonies and their lives with the youth all week. It is always an encouragement to the local youth and the leaders when U.S. teams come; their contribution to this event is huge.

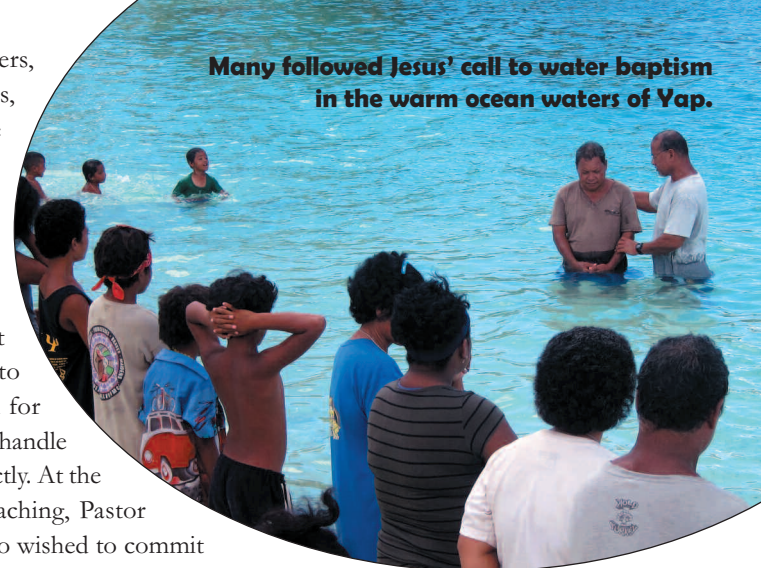
Not long after the Youth Retreat, the PMF Church held its own VBS outreach for the Outer Island children living on Yap. This is a little different than the combined VBS, in that it specifically seeks to reach unchurched Outer Island kids in their own language. About 90 children came this year, and they had a fun time learning about the God who loves them and playing in a happy, healthy environment. The theme was “Jonah”, and each day Pastor Petrus explained a little more of the story to the children, teaching them about obedience to God and daily memory verses. A lot of love and muscle was put into this event, and the PMA aviation crew even found time to construct a giant fish out of sheet metal for the children to crawl in and “play Jonah”! Many of these children come from difficult family situations or feel neglected. They really responded to the attention lavished on them during this week. On the closing day, parents were invited to watch their children share what they learned during the week. And they heard the gospel.

While the VBS program went on in the mornings, the afternoons and evenings were devoted to another outreach: a Bible Training Workshop to explain and teach the Word of God to adults. A three-man team of Bible teachers from Lance and Lana’s sending church, Centerville Christian Fellowship, flew to Yap to help lead the training. Thankfully, the ship from the Outer Islands arrived on time, bringing some people who wanted to attend. Additionally, PMA flew in two plane loads of adults and their children from Ulithi, and several people already living in Yap also joined the workshop. In all, there was a total of about 30 people attending faithfully every night to learn the basics of the Christian faith. Volunteer drivers picked up and dropped off the attendees every day, the PMF ladies cooked delicious meals, and church members provided babysitting for more than 20 kids so the parents and other adults could soak up the teaching content without distractions.

The three Bible teachers, Eric, Dave and Chris, explained the foundational truths of the Christian faith backed up by Scripture. Biblical illiteracy is widespread in these islands, and that makes it easy for cults to proliferate, so it is vital for people to be trained to handle the Word of God correctly. At the end of the week of teaching, Pastor Petrus invited those who wished to commit their lives to Jesus to come forward. About ten people responded, and many more recommitted their lives to following him! It was a wonderful way to finish the week. Pastor Petrus and his wife Queen have continued to disciple the new believers, and several chose to be baptized in the ocean here in Yap. A Bible study group has now been established in Ulithi with many of these same people attending, and more are being added to their number! Every fortnight, Petrus and Queen fly with PMA to meet with these Christians and disciple them in their faith. Recently, 11 more new believers were baptized in Ulithi amid much rejoicing. What an honor it is to see God at work in the lives of people who are so hungry to know Him! Please pray for them to grow deep roots in their faith in Jesus Christ.

Many people worked hard for this outreach, and we praise God for their servant hearts and desire to reach the lost and strengthen the “found” with the love and truth that are in Jesus Christ. This summer reminded us once again that when Christ’s body works together, His name is glorified in the islands!

Pastor Petrus teaches a Bible story at Vacation Bible School, showing them the love of Jesus.



Many followed Jesus’ call to water baptism in the warm ocean waters of Yap.

Summer Mission – Yap Experience

by Jonah Jones, PMA Volunteer

I am Jonah Jones, a resident of Guam, and son of PMA board member Jeff Jones. I am starting my first year of college at the University of Guam, and attend Bayview Church in Guam. I have recently come back from Yap, where I worked for three weeks with PMA missionaries, Amos and Heidi Collins, Lance and Lana Ferguson, and Simon Hämmerling. I stayed with Simon in the second floor of the PMA house, I was very thankful to have such a nice place to stay while there.



Jonah co-piloting PMA's aircraft on the way from Yap to Ulithi Island. Jonah has built many friendships experiencing PMA's multi-faceted ministry and was of great help in the areas he served.

During these three weeks in June I was interested in learning and experiencing hands-on work of a missionary pilot, and also being a helping hand in the church activities such as the youth retreat, VBS, and adult Bible training classes.

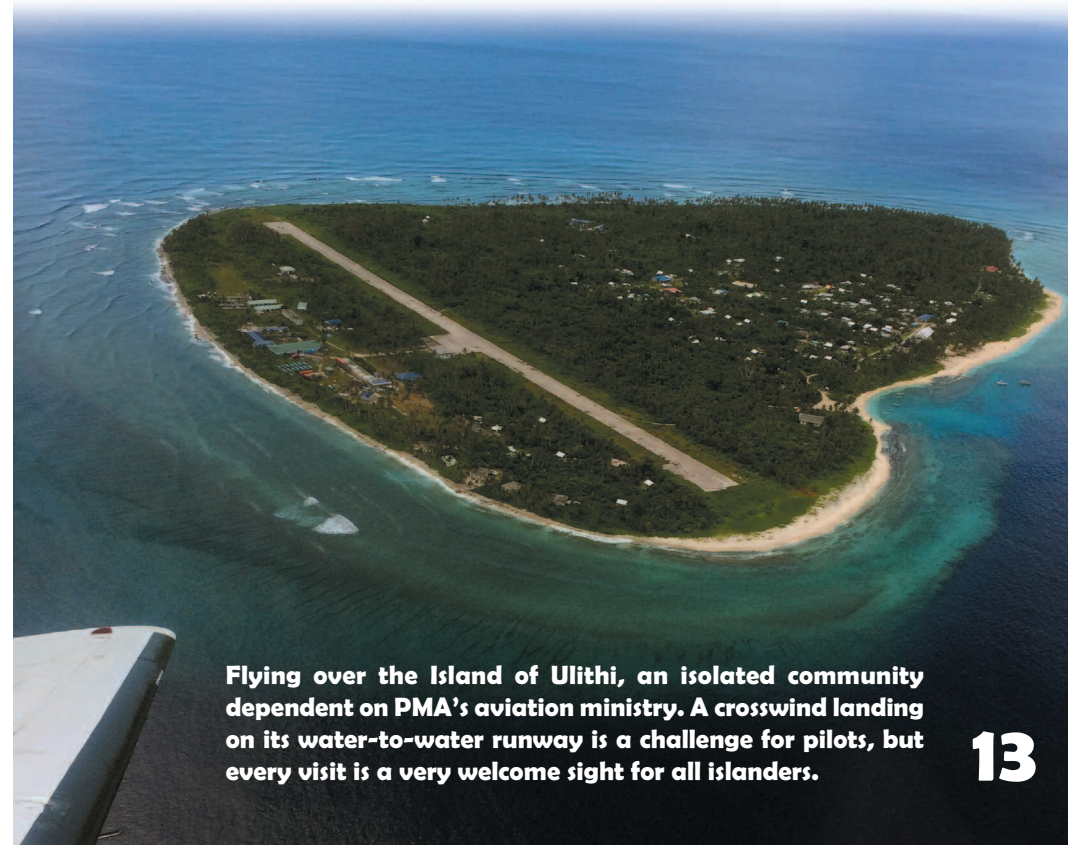
The first week consisted of working in the airplane hangar, doing everyday aircraft maintenance, cleaning of the hangar, and any other tasks needed. In the afternoons, I could attend the youth retreat services happening at the PMF church. The youth retreat consisted of teams and leaders from all over Yap, Palau, and one USA team. I loved working with the teenagers in games, swimming, singing worship songs, and getting to know each other.

The second week, one of the Queen Air aircraft required a 100 hour inspection, which means that all parts of the plane required to fly are in working and good condition. I enjoyed this very much, working on the plane and seeing how everything works together.

The first week, I became sick with fever, cold, aches, and other symptoms of what I thought was Dengue Fever, but after a week of working some and resting as much as I could, the sickness subsided.

As my final week approached there was intense planning going on for the upcoming VBS and Bible teaching classes. Another USA team from Ohio arrived that weekend. They were going to be the teachers for each session that week. Each day consisted of shuttling kids from the village to VBS in the morning, and then back home at lunch. And then we had a couple hours to work in the hangar, or do any other tasks needed until adult Bible training class started late afternoon and went until 8. All of the teachers from Ohio had great and powerful testimonies and lectures. I hope someday they can come teach also at Bayview Church. The week was possibly the hardest but most rewarding. It was amazing to experience a third world church work to full capacity and teach the Gospel to children and adults. I especially enjoyed working in the VBS and interacting with the kids games and activities. I was sad that I had to leave the next Saturday night due to College events coming up, but hope to come back very soon and work with hard working and God-loving men and women of PMA and PMF. I plan on studying Engineering at UOG, then moving on to another school for a more focused concentration. My goal is to use my gifts to however and wherever God wants them.

Editor's note: Jonah has done volunteer service with PMA on the medical ship Sea Haven and has been a great help to Melinda at the PMA Headquarters in Guam. We appreciate the servant heart of this young man who is eager to prepare himself for a lifetime of serving our Lord!



Flying over the Island of Ulithi, an isolated community dependent on PMA's aviation ministry. A crosswind landing on its water-to-water runway is a challenge for pilots, but every visit is a very welcome sight for all islanders.

One Thing after Another

by Prisca Klassen, PMA Palau Missionary

In June we began preparation for the farewell of the family Schulz and for the arrival of the new missionary family Ferguson. Simultaneously we started planning for Vacation Bible School, which was a three-day children's outreach program with games, dances, music, Bible lessons and crafts. Almost 90 children were able to hear about God's love for them and how they could live in active relationship with Him. They learned that they can grow deep roots in the Word that would make them steadfast when the storms of life come, like a coconut tree.

After the VBS we concentrated our energy into the preparation for the family Ferguson. Lance and Lana with Liam, Lili and Luis were on Yap Island for 8 months and transferred now over to Palau. Our church family, led by Pastor Mike Hammond warmly welcomed them.

Markus temporarily led the aviation ministry for a couple of weeks, while Lance was getting his "feet wet". Lance has now taken over the lead. Markus still likes the new challenges, the change of routine at work and is continuously passionate at work. It's nice to see how he blooms in this ministry, enthusiastically jumps in wherever needed, is reliably at work and always seeks the best for everyone.

At the PMF church, we continue to be involved with the young adults and we've started accountability partnerships in small groups. Now we try to gain in-depth relationships and encourage each other to good deeds. Currently we are in the midst of intense planning for our first retreat together with the young adults and the youth. We're super excited!

The Angaur Bible study, conducted by Pastor Mike Hammond and the Aviation Team, is one of our new outreaches to the people of Angaur. Every Saturday, Pastor Mike teaches a group on Angaur in between our scheduled Angaur runs as we drop off and pick up passengers. There is also a men's retreat coming up, where the men of the PMF church once again will be practically serve the community there. Please remember the people of this isolated Island in your prayers as we reach out to them.

The Ferguson family after their arrival in Palau. Lance is leading the aviation ministry in Palau, a growing operation with the building of the new hangar.



Our Merciful God

by Jonathan Soriano, PMF Patnanungan, Philippines

I had a simple life until I became addicted to alcohol. It came to a point where I experienced constant stomach ache and would be in great pain because of drinking too much wine. My Aunt who was then serving at the PMF Patnanungan Church prayed for my situation. Gradually, I saw my life turn around and I accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I then started to attend church and started growing in my new-found faith. It was March 2011, Pastor Nob Kalau was on island, and I was part of those from our church who followed the Lord in water baptism. I truly understood what it meant as I decided to follow Jesus.

I found a job, married and soon my family grew. I became busy working and taking care of my family. I was so occupied in many things that I did not notice that little by little my relationship with the Lord grew colder. I did not have time to attend church services because I was focused on earning a living and providing for my family.

Then, my 2-year old son Lorence accidentally fell from 8 feet and hit his head. It was a miracle that nothing serious happened to him! In hindsight, I know that this was a wake-up call from God, yet at that time the incident did not bring me back to Him. And then another accident happened to Lorence. He was hit by a motorcycle with three passengers. It was a direct hit to his stomach and I thought it would be fatal! But again God showed mercy. My son got up as if nothing happened! We were amazed at his recovery and gave thanks to God for His goodness. We prayed that his internal organs were not adversely affected. God was merciful. Lorence checked out fine!

For the mercy and grace the Lord showed us, I humbly returned to God and my wife turned her life over to the Lord and accepted Jesus as her Lord and Savior. My whole family became active churchgoers and regular members of PMF Patnanungan. We are now eagerly serving God with all our hearts and undergoing discipleship training. To God be the glory!

Jonathan and his family are thankful for the new lives they have found in Jesus.





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