

Pacific Mission Aviation's  
Quarterly Magazine

Issue 4-2017  
December

# ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Immanuel - God is with us!

## Issue

12-2017 (December)

## On our Cover

PMF Patnanungan  
Celebrating 31 Years!

## Editors

Melinda Espinosa  
Sylvia Kalau  
Sabine Musselwhite

## Layout

Roland Weibel

Pacific Mission Aviation  
P.O. Box 3209  
Hagatna, Guam 96932  
Phone: (671) 646-6464  
Fax: (671) 649-6066  
guamhq@pmapacific.org  
<http://www.pmapacific.org>

Pacific Mission 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 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.

*“You will honor God through this genuine act of service  
because of your commitment to spread the Good News  
of Christ and because of your generosity in sharing with  
them and everyone else. With deep affection they will  
pray for you because of the extreme kindness that God  
has shown you. I thank God for his gift that words  
cannot describe.”*

2 Corinthians 9:13-15



**Like PMA on Facebook!**  
**Visit our website:**  
**<http://www.pmapacific.org>**  
**and click on the Facebook icon.**



**PMA President  
Nob Kalau**

*...And they shall call His name  
Immanuel, which translated means,  
“God With Us.”* Matthew 1:23

Immanuel: God is with us – God came to us. What  
an amazing thought. What an incredible plan! It is  
really the center of the Christian faith and life. All  
other religious ideologies essentially tell you that you  
must do something: Do this, and maybe you will  
make it to heaven, do this and you can find inner  
peace... Practice this, and you will find your higher  
power... Read this, and you will discover the new  
truth. But Christianity says it is all done – done for  
you at the Cross, paid for by the precious blood of  
God Himself, Jesus Christ.

Being a Christian is not merely following a set of dos and don'ts; it is having Christ  
himself live in you and through you, giving you the strength to be the man or woman  
He has called you to be. Jesus said in Matthew 28:20; *“Lo, I am with you always, even  
to the end of the age.”* The message of Christmas is God with us. And we can  
proclaim that amazing truth throughout the whole year. It's important to remember,  
especially during those times when we are going through great difficulty and challenge.  
The psalmist said, *“If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost  
parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold  
me.”* Psalm 139:9-10.

It is especially reassuring and encouraging for us at PMA to know that God is with  
us on tiny islands sprinkled across the vast Pacific Ocean. God is with our caregivers  
at the Orphanage as they love the babies and little children day in and day out. God  
is with our pastors in the Philippines who live in remote villages on isolated islands  
and preach from makeshift bamboo pulpits. God is with our pilots as they fly over  
ocean, ocean, ocean delivering passengers, flying cargo, searching for missing boats  
and people, bringing patients to the hospital, dropping much needed medicine via a  
parachute on an island with no runway. God is with us we sail with Sea Haven over  
formidable reefs to get to outer islands. God is with us as we carry out medical clinics  
for remote villages. God is with us as we build friendships, lead Bible studies, send out  
the good news via radio, work in the office, live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God is  
with us... and in this fact, we rest and continue to serve.

I just returned from the Philippines and a short retreat with our Filipino pastors and  
co-workers. What a great group of men and women. As they serve in the isolated  
islands of the Philippines, how important for them to know that God is with them.  
The Bible never teaches that we will have problem-free lives as followers of Christ.  
But the Bible does teach that we will never be alone. That is the message that this sin-  
sick world is longing to hear: Immanuel – God is with us.

Thank you for being a part of the PMA Family!

# Palau Hangar Update

by Nob Kalau, PMA President/CEO

For over 5 years PMA's Aviation Ministry in the Republic of Palau has been operating out of a temporary hangar made of two 20ft. containers and a tin roof. This hangar has served its purpose, but we are looking forward to a safe, efficient, and permanent hangar that will withstand and protect us from the types of weather we experience in the Western Pacific. In 2016 PMA was granted a lease on the newly constructed secondary apron of the Palau International Airport. If you read our Island Echoes, you will know that PMA has been raising funds as we move forward to build this hangar, trusting the Lord for His provision and timing.

Thank you to those of you who have been praying and supporting this project. I would like to update you with the current progress.

The 120ft. x 122ft. hangar has been designed, ordered, and fabricated in the U.S. and is being packed into 40 ft. shipping containers ready for shipping.

The massive 100ft. wide hangar door was provided as a donation from a Christian company called Higher Power in Michigan. It is currently being prepped for shipping.

The concrete slab and walls have been engineered and designed to handle the structure.

All the windows, and doors have been ordered and are being packaged for shipment.

The prep work at the leased lot of the airport is progressing:

We have been delayed a couple months due to weather and finding a suitable contractor to move the earth, but we finally have a company who started two weeks ago and is progressing wonderfully. We expect to have the ground cleared by the end of the year. Once the ground is clear, the foundation work can begin.

Shipping containers will start arriving in Palau at the beginning of the year.

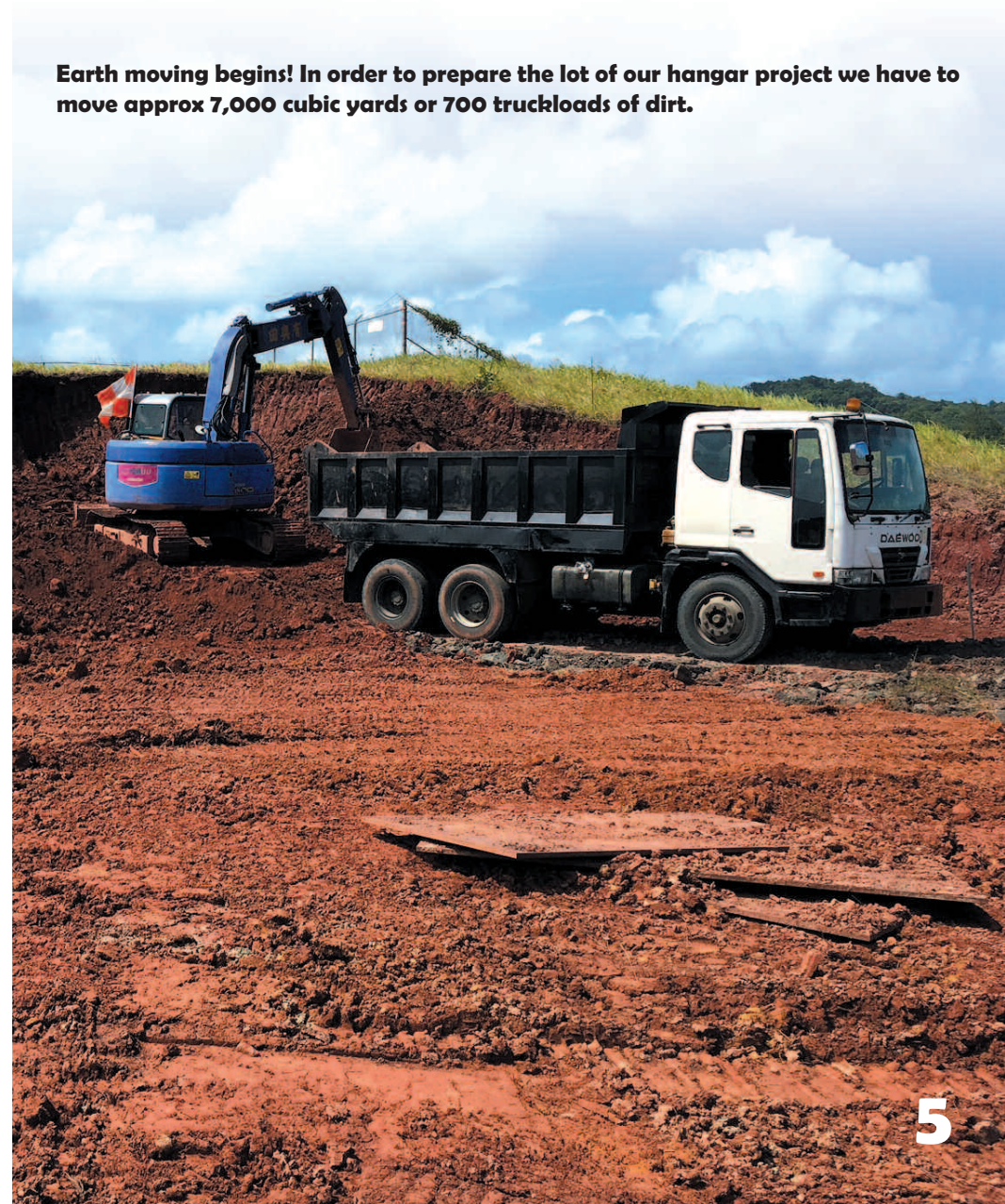
Funding: To date we have been able to raise 70% of the total cost. We remain debt free and are trusting the Lord to still provide the remaining 30% as we proceed with the construction of this hangar.

Even before we began this project, we had a friendship with a Christian engineer, Dick Ruckman, who has decades of experience in hangar structures. He not only is supplying the building, but he also has all the contacts for providing all the miscellaneous parts of the building. From engineers to draw our floorplans, to window and door suppliers, Dick has poured all his energy into making this project come together and we would not be where we are today without him.

We have also been blessed to find an American engineer who lives in Palau who is willing to work with us to accomplish this monumental project. He has a very good reputation in Palau and knows his way around every aspect of construction, from foundations, to septic, to electrical and plumbing. We could not be where we are without his help.

We want to thank you, our partners for faithfully standing with us. We will give you another update as we finish the next phase.

**Earth moving begins! In order to prepare the lot of our hangar project we have to move approx 7,000 cubic yards or 700 truckloads of dirt.**



# Refreshing Time!

by Melinda R, Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

It is always a great encouragement to visit our brethren in the Philippines. Dr. John, his assistant Geneziel, Pastor Marty, and I were prepared to leave for the island of Poblacion, Patnanungan to celebrate the 31st Anniversary of the PMF Church there and attend the second quarter recognition of our PMA Academy early Friday morning. However, the night before, signal number 1 was raised in the area and no boats were allowed to sail that day. But God's delays are not His denials. Dr. John had an emergency to attend to, and I received communication, which I had to take care of – and I would not have known about and dealt with if we had travelled that day. The following morning the strong winds and heavy rains had died down. We heard that the boats were sailing once again and left at 4:30 AM by land to reach Real, Quezon and catch the 11:00 AM boat. The seas were calm and we arrived safely at 3 PM. I was informed that the heavy rains the day before contributed to the calm seas. Praise God!

Sunday morning, the sun was up and the cool breeze was felt. The roosters' crowing woke us up! We prepared for the first part of the day's program. Twenty-three children arrived with their parents to receive their certificates for having passed the second quarter at PMA's Academy. Some received awards for excellence in Scripture memorization, behavior, academics, and talents.

I was privileged to share the message which I took from Samuel's life. First, with his mother Hannah who faithfully prayed for a son and who gave Samuel back to the Lord. The challenge for the parents was to faithfully pray for their children, bring them up in the fear of the Lord and surrender them to God's holy will for their lives – and for the children to seek the Lord, listen to His Word and obey Him. The children presented two special numbers, some shared their memory verses, and others shared poems. It was a great blessing to everyone.

By afternoon, people began arriving to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the PMF church in Poblacion .

What a great celebration it was! The worship team led us in songs of praise and worship, the young people and children presented dance numbers, I shared about PMA's history in the Philippines and Pastor Marty gave the message based on Joshua 1:1-9 and talked about "God's Promises, His Presence and His Precepts." We were all blessed by His Word. As in every Philippine celebration, food always follows and inevitably, "lechon" or roasted pig is served. Everyone enjoyed the fellowship and feast. The Lord ended that day with a beautiful and glorious sunset!

The following day, the whole Polillo PMA Mission Team left for Real where Nob Kalau and Fred from HQ Manila awaited us. We stayed overnight at Infanta, Quezon and had a great time of fellowship as we shared praises, prayer concerns and ended the evening praying for one another. One by one, each one shared their personal praises and challenges. Their smiling faces seemed to contradict the difficulties they shared about, but I could see this was the joy of the Lord evident in their lives. They are truly inspirational and a blessing! The following day, we rose early for our devotion given to us by Nob from Mark 4:26-29. The challenge for us was to be persevering farmers/workers in God's field – depending on the Holy Spirit for transformation of ourselves and others, faithfully preaching His Word and sharing the gospel message in season and out of season.

My time together with our team was brief, but as always, gave me so much joy, encouragement, and refreshment!



# Ripples

by Pastor Mike Hammond, PMA Palau Missionary

Who would have thought that one tragic incident would send ripples of blessings in this island of Palau! I met a person who reminded me of Job. His experience and how he dealt with it was a starting point for unity with some of the evangelical churches, and a lot of public displays for praising Jesus!



About a month ago, this man's wife was murdered. The sad truth is that no matter where you go, or how beautiful a place is, sin still abounds. This is the reason God sent His Son and sends His followers to distant lands; to spread the Gospel message. From that one tragic event, a ripple effect began to happen.

The man and his wife are part of the Chinese Evangelical Church. After finding out about the tragic death, some Palauan pastors came to comfort the grieving husband. The pastors admitted they did not know what to say. The first words out of the husband's mouth was, "I have already forgiven him (the murderer)". The pastors were amazed at the faith of the grieving husband. Then the next ripple happened.

A candlelight vigil for the wife was held. The victim's family wanted to raise awareness of the crime and drug problem that is increasing in the islands. Many people showed up for the event, and it was well received. From the vigil, the next ripple happened.

I was contacted by the pastor of the Chinese church to participate in a prayer meeting of pastors. This type of unity has had a strained history. Seven pastors, however, came, myself included. We had a powerful night of prayer. Then the next ripple happened.

This coming month, the pastors that took part, are going to come together again for a unity lunch. This lunch is not about pressing a theological view, but to learn more about one another as a brother-in-Christ. I am looking forward to this.

God can turn the tragedy of sin, to a blessing of good (cf. Rom 8:27). God turned the murder of an innocent woman into a series of events that brought glory to His name. Like ripples of water, this started with the ability of a grieving husband to forgive his wife's murderer. Forgiveness is indeed powerful and able to bring blessing more than we can ever anticipate!

**Pastor Mike Hammond preaches a sermon on the book of Acts - where believers empowered by the Holy Spirit share the message of hope and forgiveness. We should go and do likewise.**

# Ulithi Ministry Update

by Heidi Collins, Missionary, PMA Yap

On Saturday, the PMF team flew to Ulithi to join their new brothers and sisters in Christ in a revival meeting. Pastor Petrus and his wife Queen have been going to the island weekly on the PMA plane to conduct Bible studies, disciple and encourage the small but growing group of believers living on Ulithi atoll. This group is so hungry to hear the Word of God, it seems they can't get enough of it!

A revival service was planned so that new believers could be brought together for unity and fellowship, and also for transparency with the community so that they can know the purpose of this service (there has been some opposition and negative talk directed against this group of young believers).



**The weekly Bible study outreach in Ulithi has been a great encouragement to our brethren there. We thank God for their hunger for His Word.**

The PMF team was warmly welcomed, and the service began in a mechanics shop classroom at the Outer Islands High School that had been damaged by typhoon Maysak 2 years ago. About 50 people attended, including many children and youth. The young people had formed their own choir and sang with all their hearts – it was beautiful to witness. A young woman named Tess gave her testimony, talking about how the Word has shaped her life. She was followed by a young man named Lance, whose impromptu testimony was very moving. He talked about how he has often been judged for his past deeds, but how he had been encouraged by Jesus' words in Luke: "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners, to repentance." (This young man has expressed an interest to be trained in leadership by Petrus). Pastor Petrus preached a powerful message on salvation, and seeing the youth riveted on his words and the subsequent eagerness of 22 people who signified to follow Christ was indeed the highlight of the day!

After that, many more songs and special numbers were shared together, and finally a delicious meal prepared by the ladies was served as everyone ate and talked and visited with each other. This group's hospitality was tremendous, and it was altogether an unforgettable day.

Please pray for the people of Ulithi; for this small band of believers and for their community. We would like to see the Good News firstly convict people of their own sin and lead them to repentance and trust in Jesus. Secondly, that they would live out their new lives in Christ in such a way that they positively overflow with the love and truth of the gospel, so that their families and neighbors will want to know Him also. Please also join us by praying for leaders to be raised up who will lead in humble obedience to God, for Petrus and Queen for strength, and for the members of the PMF church to enthusiastically support this new work with the gifts God has blessed each of them with.

**Pastor Petrus preaches the World of Life which brings hope and transforms lives of those who live it.**



# Simon becomes Director of Maintenance

by Amos Collins, PMA Director of Flight Operations

Aviation is a unique field, where man has defied gravity to soar at great heights and at great speeds. Mission aviation has then pushed it to some extremes by landing the aircraft on difficult strips or operating in harsh environments to reach the people they serve. To make that sustainable, most mission organizations make excellent airmanship and maintenance top priorities. We do not have the difficult sloped bush runways of Papua New Guinea to land on, but we have a vast ocean that we must fly over here in Micronesia. That is when you want to make sure the maintenance of the aircraft has been done right!

Maintaining our PMA aircraft is a full-time job. Whenever we are not flying, there is always something to be done on the

aircraft. Whether it is doing a recurring inspection, changing a part, doing a repair, or cleaning corrosion off the metal and painting because of the salt sea environment, the list is endless. And to manage all of that, there needs to be someone who has an intricate knowledge of the aircraft. Keeping track of when the inspections are due, when components need to be replaced, when to send parts in for overhaul, are all controlled by our Director of Maintenance. He is the one whose ultimate responsibility it is to keep our aircraft maintained properly so that we can operate safely here in the islands.

Simon Hämmerling, at the age of 19, first visited PMA in November of 2002. His love for airplanes and mission work led him to leave his home in Germany and move to the small island of Yap, Micronesia, where PMA had an aviation base. At that time, the station manager was Peter Reichert. Peter took Simon under his wing and trained him up to become an aircraft mechanic.



**Amos Collins congratulating Simon on his accomplishment. We thank God for his faithful service in the islands.**

Having a background as an auto mechanic, Simon excelled and soon became a U.S. certified aircraft mechanic.

Simon faithfully served PMA as a mechanic for years, while his passion for flying also tugged at his heart. In 2012, Simon moved to Oregon. There, he learned to fly, became a flight instructor, and built up the necessary flight time that PMA requires to fly in Yap. In 2015, Simon returned to Yap, where he then put on the pilot's uniform and began serving PMA in both capacities of pilot and mechanic.

Simon possesses the qualities that Germans are known for: he works very hard, has an eye for detail, and does excellent work. His mind is sharp at troubleshooting problems and he works hard at something until he is able to figure out the solution. As Simon continued to care for the aircraft, his knowledge and experienced increased, and before long it was clear that he should manage the maintenance of our aircraft.

In July of this year, with the approval of our FAA Maintenance Inspector, Simon took on the role of PMA's Director of Maintenance. This responsibility is not taken lightly. An aviation operation like this, which is so isolated geographically from any support requires months of advance planning in order to have parts here on time. PMA has an excellent reputation with the FAA due to the high standard at which we have done our maintenance. We wish Simon all the best in his new role and are confident that he will continue to maintain that reputation for PMA in the years to come.



## Next Step

by Prisca Klassen, Missionary, PMA Palau

It is incredible how time flies. Toward the end of November, our 3-year-term with PMA is over. Various reasons though have caused us to postpone our furlough until Summer 2018 and instead we will take a month vacation in the Philippines. We are very thankful and excited for parents Klassen and sister Maria to join us in the Philippines, we look forward to enjoying our vacation together.

In September, my Mother Chua, visited us for a whole month. Once again she came right on time to help us through a very tiring bout of sicknesses. Thanks to her, we were able to plan and hold our first retreat despite it all. Thank you Mama!

The retreat was a big blessing to us. We had a joint Young Adult and Youth Retreat. There were about 40 people who participated, most of them youth. We were excited to welcome unbelievers and some from other denominations to our group. The Young Adults stepped up and did an incredible job, helping us to make it all happen and to have an unforgettable time with everyone! Together we successfully enjoyed a 3-day retreat with lots of laughter, deep spiritual and relational discussions and good fellowship. A power outage and a storm were the unplanned part of it. We learned how to enrich our most important relationships in practical ways. Markus and I grew in our responsibility as leaders and are thankful for this opportunity to help shape this group.

The Young Adults meet every Friday evening for Bible study at our home. First we enjoy dinner together, after that we worship God with songs, and then we stick our noses deep into our Bibles. We're currently studying the fundamental aspects of our faith with a book called "Partners". It was actually created for a 1-on-1 discipleship study, but proved to be a very helpful tool to teach a group, to set a solid foundation for our faith and to gain a healthy understanding of the Christian faith.

In the aviation ministry, we also have some announcements to share. We have a new driver, Ruetei. He is a young, friendly, responsible Palauan, with a ready heart to help. He joined our team in September. He oftentimes delights our team with his

adventurous fishing stories. We also welcomed a new volunteer pilot and mechanic, Paul Ciaramitaro. He flew in from the States and has shown himself to be a real Godsend to our Palau team through his positive attitude and the willingness to serve. Next week our office worker Jenica will be leaving. She leaves behind a vacant spot that has not yet been replaced. We pray and hope that a fitting replacement to take over this very diverse job will soon be found.

Our time off in the Philippines will surely give us the opportunity to reflect over these last three years. To work through our mistakes, to make new resolutions, to pray for direction and to start taking the next steps. Thank you for your continuous faithful support for PMA and its missionaries, enabling us all to do what we believe God called us to do.

**Markus and Prisca praise God for a great time of bonding and growing in relationship with the young adults and youth in the last retreat.**







ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
Barrigada, Guam  
Permit No. 3

**Pacific Mission Aviation**  
**P.O. Box 3209**  
**Hagatna, Guam 96932**

**[info@pmapacific.org](mailto:info@pmapacific.org)**  
**[www.pmapacific.org](http://www.pmapacific.org)**



PMA is a Member of the  
Evangelical Council for  
Financial Accountability