

Pacific Mission Aviation's  
Quarterly Magazine

Second Quarter  
2018

# ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Inspiring One Another

 **PMA**  
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



## Issue

Second Quarter 2018

## On our Cover

A young church in Barrio Apad, Jomalig Philippines celebrates God's goodness. Young Jessa enjoys a ride from Pastor Mandreza.

## Editors

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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:

Missionaries  
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  
Information Technology (IT) for radio and media  
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 hangar building purchased and shipped from the USA, work on the foundation has begun. 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: \$200,000.00: Raised, \$200,000.00: 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. **\$50,000.00: Raised, \$50,000.00: Still needed.** We thank God for His provision of a Cessna-206 for the Philippines.

*“Out of His fullness  
we have all received grace  
in place of grace already given.”*

John 1:16



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*“His Lord said to him: well done, good and faithful servant; you were faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your Lord.”*

It has been an emotional week, with a funeral service on Sunday and next day burial for a dear friend and faithful servant of the Lord who has been a member of our church in Pohnpei. 15 years ago Kohsak came to the Lord and gave up the vises that bound him. He had a contagious smile, a gentle spirit, loved to serve, and was involved in all the Bible studies the church offered, he just couldn't get enough! He had an accountability partner with whom he had shared his old life and now they walked together in their new lives in Christ. A few months ago, Kohsak, was diagnosed with liver cancer and was given 3 months to live. With his wife and 5 children, their spouses with grandchildren around him each day, he was able to share what was most important to him, His Lord. In his last day, as I would visit his bedside, I would be overcome with emotion as he would garner enough strength to whisper in my ear, “I'm OK with Jesus. Go and prepare for the worship service. Preach the Word. Tell of His glory and grace, honor Him, because He is so worth it.” Those were his last words to me. One of his daughters would be stroking his head, a son massaging his feet, his dear wife making him comfortable. He added value into the lives of his children and gave them hope by praying together as a family, sharing in devotions, and trusting God's will for the terminal diagnosis. The family will forever have this example of their dad in their memory who was steadfast to the very end. His words to follow the Lord will always remind them when they face tough choices, trials and difficulties.

If you're a parent, you will make choices that affect your children. Then your children will make choices that affect your grandchildren. This goes on and on, and the circle gets wider and wider. What you do will affect other people. The decisions you make will have an impact on others. Some may say, “This is my life, and I make my choices.” But it is much bigger than that. Our choices on Earth are binding in eternity. When you reach the last day of your life, you are not going to care about a cool car. You are not going to care about how much money you have in the bank. You are not going to care about the size of the house you lived in. You are not going to care about your next vacation or the latest phone or the newest anything.

But I can tell you something that you will care about: You are going to care about what the Bible has to say. This is the Book that tells you how to get to The Father's house. This is the Book that prepares you to know God.

Jesus said, *“Blessed are those who hear the word of God and keep it!”* Luke 11:28. If you want peace, joy, meaning, and purpose, it will come through knowing God the Savior, Jesus Christ, loving His Word and living it.

This edition of our Island Echoes is dedicated to testimonies. Testimonies of how God changes lives. It's truly a joy to read about the transformation of a life. This is the stuff that missionaries live for. I am always eager to hear how God got a hold of a life, changed it and then demonstrated His power through it. Enjoy!



# Inspiring One Another To Love And Good Deeds

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

One of our most looked-forward-to visits is the one where we get to go to the outer-islands of Polillo and Mindoro to visit our mission staff and the work we have in these Philippine islands. This time, Nob Kalau, PMA's CEO, and I were accompanied by our new PMA Germany Manager, Matthias Keppler, and Sabine Musselwhite, missionary from Germany assigned to Pohnpei.

The journey involved: hours of road trips and boat rides, early morning starts, walking through mud-like sand, jungles, carabao trails, beaches, dusty paths under the heat of the sun and intermittent rain. But we were accompanied by the most energetic, enthusiastic and passionate PMA Philippine Team. What a joy to be with them!

Our base was at our Patnanungan station. As soon as we arrived, we walked to what would be PMA's future airstrip. The following day, we visited Catmon, Guinaygayan and SM Village. What a blessing it was to see Pastor Cesar and his family again! Leaving Catmon, Cesar's 4-year-old daughter Jessa decided to come with me. Her family would be following in a separate banca. I asked her, if she was willing to walk and she said, "Of course, we walk to Patnanungan Poblacion all the time." The brethren in Guinaygayan were waiting for us and welcomed us with songs of praise to the Lord! Nob and I shared short messages of encouragement. What followed was typical island style feasting and fellowship of fresh lobsters, fish and squid from the ocean. Next stop was SM Village. Since the tide was low, it was decided that we all go on foot by way of the beach. Jessa, Sabine and I had the blessing to be transported via motorcycle to a certain point and met up with the rest of the team to continue to walk to the Village. By the time we left, the tide had risen, and so we had to walk a distance toward our boat – the "Evangel" to go back to Patnanungan. Jessa was a real trouper and walked, was carried and finally slept when we were on board the banca. Never a complaint from her!

We held a two-day conference, where Nob shared about Biblical Habits, Melinda shared on the Seven Principles to Lead Like Jesus, and Dr. John shared on Relationships. Evenings were spent meeting with staff as a whole and one-on-one counsel. Great time of sharing!

An unexpected incident happened on the second day of our conference. After two basketball matches, 33-year-old Bro. Cesar felt weak and collapsed. Dr. John could not palpate a pulse. With Dr. John doing mouth-to-mouth resuscitation, and Nob giving chest compressions, Cesar was revived. But this happened two more times – his pulse would stop, CPR would be given to him and he would revive. We called the nurse from the local clinic – and she came right away. However, medical needs could not be provided for if the patient was not in the Clinic.



**What a blessed time we had during the PMA Philippine Conference - inspiring one another to love all people, build the body of Christ and disciple the faithful!**

So the men grabbed a stretcher and quickly ran him to the Clinic. By God's amazing grace, the clinic had just received their supply of oxygen and also had the medication that Cesar needed! Cesar informed us later when he came to, that while he was unconscious he had seen a stairway and he knew it was leading to heaven. However, he heard a voice calling him, "Be strong! Hold on! Stay with us!" Then his heart started beating again and he woke up. Later, when we visited him at the Clinic, his wife Joy informed me that the village people were saying, "Wow – see how they love and care for each other. Truly, the people from PMA are different!" It was heart-warming to hear this. What a great testimony for our church. Jesus Himself said, "*By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another.*" (John 13:35) A few days later, Pastor Cesar was brought to the main island by our PMA boat Evangel, and was taken to a hospital for a series of check-ups. We praise God they found nothing wrong with his heart. The day he collapsed, he was terribly dehydrated and had lost electrolytes from his system which caused the heart to stop beating. We praise God for His mercy and grace! Pastor Cesar is now back in Catmon, getting his strength back.

We visited Amaga where Pastor Jun Tayangona and wife Gemma serve. They also oversee our ministries in Calutcot and Kilogan. In Amaga, we had a special ceremony, as we dedicated two interns from Shekinah Bible School to serve with us for 11 months. The dedication was followed by a sumptuous lunch which Pastor Jun said we needed in order to have the strength to walk to Barrio Luod, a new outreach location in another village. I thought he was joking since he said it was a mere 30-minute walk. It ended up being a one and a half hour walk through the jungle, mud and carabao trails. Since none of us were familiar with the terrain, it took much longer than 30 minutes. He, his wife Gemma and children walk to this place every Saturday, where Pastor Jun leads a Bible study and his wife Gemma teaches the children.



The afternoon we arrived, the core family and some children were there to welcome us – with fresh coconuts to drink. It was a great encouragement for us to meet the family. They were the ones who had invited PMA to begin a church ministry there. Their hunger for the Word of God was very heartening.

Sunday morning we sailed early for Barrio Apad in Jomalig. We had our worship service under a tarp that was strung between two houses. The small congregation informed us that their neighbors made fun of them because it was not a proper church building. We had a great worship service, starting with praise worship and a message from Pastor Jun Mandreza. Then he asked me to share words of encouragement. I gladly shared from 1 Corinthians 15:58. Indeed, it does not matter where you worship our Lord, His presence is greatly felt when people worship Him in spirit and in truth. The children were ministered by his wife Arlene, accompanied by our intern, Christian, and Matthias. Then we were off by banca to Poblacion Jomalig for another worship service. A hearty lunch had been prepared for us when we arrived. We waited for the electricity to come on and then we had our worship service. How blessed we were to be part of two worship services in one day!

Then it was time to leave Patnanungan and go back to Manila. We arrived late in the evening, knowing that we would be leaving at 3 AM for Naujan, Mindoro, to visit our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage. The children of the orphanage, all met us and performed a dance for us. It was a joy to see them all. Some of the children surrounded me and asked, “Are you taking Ray (not his real name) home now?” He has called me Mama Mel (which the other children have started calling me as well), ever since he has been with us. It broke my heart that I could not bring him home. But this time, we had good news for Ray. He is now approved for adoption. Please pray for a good Christian home for him. We also have 3 new babies that will soon qualify for adoption. What a great delight it is for us when one or more children are adopted into a godly, loving and caring family! Nob and I also spent some time with our Center Head, Jeny, Lyn our social worker, and our caregivers: Mavic, Janet, Nympha and Francisca.

Hebrews 10:25 says: *“And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of His return is drawing near.”* We do not see our PMA Philippine staff that often, however, we intentionally make it a point to visit them so we can encourage each other and spur one another to good works. There is still much to do in the Philippines. More souls to be saved. More Christ disciples to be trained and taught. We thank God for our Philippines Team! Their initiative, hard work, faithfulness, and perseverance to serve God with all their heart, mind, soul and strength is very inspiring!

**It was a joy to see how the children flocked to Christian our Bible school intern as soon as we arrived Barrio Apad. The children enthusiastically listened to him as he shared songs and God’s Word.**





# “Do Not Let Anyone Look Down on You Because You are Young” 1 Tim. 4:12

by Heidi Collins, Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

The youth are in many ways the unsung heroes of our PMF church in Yap. They set up and clean the church, practice songs, and lead the worship music, faithfully and without complaint. They’ve worked long hours fundraising for the summer Youth Retreat, whether by washing cars in the hot sun, or making and selling ice kaki (a kind of homemade popsicle). Without our youth, the PMF church would feel the loss of some major limbs! We thank God for their willingness to serve and for the work He is doing in their lives. Here are just some of their stories:

Cherrise is in High School and serves on the music team. She says that one of the biggest blessings of being a Christian is the encouragement she gets weekly from going to church and hearing timely Bible passages explained, like Romans 12. When she had a bad case of chicken pox recently, she couldn’t attend church, music practice of youth group for weeks, and she really missed it, even begging her parents to let her come back before she was fully healed!

Starleen also serves on the music team, and relates that as a High Schooler she found the pressure to fit in with her peers extremely strong, especially when they mocked her for being a Christian. But as she’s transitioned into College and grown in her faith, it doesn’t bother her anymore and she is not ashamed of following Jesus.

When asked what she has learned in her Christian life, Starleen said, “I’ve learned that being a Christian isn’t really that easy, and it doesn’t mean you’ll be perfect either - you still will be faced with temptations, and you might fall, but each time you can still get up, become stronger and continue on.”

Dorsy, a College student, says one thing she has learned since joining the PMF church and youth group is to forgive her neighbors back on her home island. Because of a dispute over land, she had carried a lot of anger towards them, but now she is practicing forgiveness and treating them the way God would have her respond.

Arthur is a very hard worker at our fundraising carwashes and currently attends College. He shared how he had heard a bit about Jesus back in the Outer Islands, but he hadn’t really taken it seriously. He struggled with a short temper and was quick to confront his enemies aggressively before, but now he is changing. Although it’s been difficult sometimes to forgive his enemies, he is now learning to practice a different way.

All of the youth agree that one of the biggest temptations they face at school is trying to control their tongues when their friends tease them or say bad words.

These youth are the future leaders of their churches and communities! We pray that they would *“not let anyone think less of them because they are young and be an example to all believers in what they say, in the way they live, in their love, their faith and their purity.”* 2 Tim. 4:12. May they grow in their walk with God, lead by example, and continue to serve Him with all their hearts!

**Young people in the islands are faced with many challenges, temptations, and changes - we thank God that their relationship with the Lord has kept them grounded and because of this are able to face life with the strength and wisdom of the Lord Jesus Christ. We thank God for Amos and Heidi Collins as they lead these young believers to live a life of faith.**





# Grace's Story

by Jeny Flores-Gutierrez, Center Head,  
Bahay Kalinga Orphanage

“...Surely you will hear their cries and comfort their hearts by helping them. You will be with the orphans...” Psalm 10:17-18

A tricycle driver was awakened by a barking dog and a newborn crying baby. Going out of his home, he found a baby girl inside his tricycle, and a cat was standing watch over the infant. He and his wife brought the baby to their village official, who decided to take the baby to Oriental Mindoro Provincial Hospital for medical intervention. The incident was also reported to the City Social Welfare and Development Office of Calapan City. The same day, the Social Welfare called PMA's Bahay Kalinga (BK) for the referral of the case. The baby was confined in the hospital for seven days. When discharged from the hospital, she was admitted in Bahay Kalinga for further case management.

Grace (not her real name) was 7 days old, sound asleep and stretched a little when handed to the BK caregiver. After 6 months, the DSWD Field Office issued the Certificate declaring Grace was available for adoption. This was a great joy for all of us and an answer to prayer. However, during the local presentation they could not find a match for her in the Philippines, so, she was now made available for an international adoption.

The Lord is good! Last year, she was matched with a family from Europe. They were very happy for Grace to become part of their family. They also received full support from their family and this was a great encouragement for them. They are both young and had prayed about having a family of their own and adoption was a choice for them. In March this year, Grace was entrusted to her adoptive family. When they arrived, they met Grace and the Bahay Kalinga staff. Grace was shy and did not know what to do or how to relate to these strangers who would now be her family. She had a favorite caregiver and she held on to her. But after 30 minutes of playing and storytelling she somehow began to open up to them. The adoptive parents found it challenging as they would be given custody of Grace after a few hours. However, by God's grace and their love, they accepted this challenge as part of bonding with Grace, who, herself would be adjusting to them, to new places, even an airplane ride, and a culture and language which was all new to her. The parents were very thankful that BK had provided them with a picture book of Grace's stay at BK. This would be very helpful to them when Grace asks about her story.

We know that there will be many challenges that Grace and her parents would be faced with but we trust that the Lord will give them victory over every one of them. We pray that Grace would adjust well to her new family, language, climate, and food and that she will grow in wisdom and stature and in favor of God and man.



**Adoption is a beautiful picture of what God has done for us through Jesus Christ. When you understand God's gift of adoption to us (bringing us into His family), it allows one to rejoice at earthly adoption! Bringing orphans into their adoptive families is a beautiful example of God's bringing us into His family.**



# With A Heart Full Of Praise

by Bryan Bantucan, Lead Elder  
PMF Church, Patnanungan, Philippines

*“You make known to me the path of life; You will fill me with joy in Your presence with eternal pleasures at Your right hand.” Psalm 116:11*

We are so thankful to God for adding another year in the life of my wife, Fretzel. She celebrated her birthday with a very simple get together with the women in the church, and another simple celebration at home in the afternoon. We are so blessed how God is working in her life, how God is using her in the ministry, being a supportive partner in life and being a good mother to our child.

We praise God for giving us a wonderful time together with other fellow PMF Churches last Easter. Our brothers and sisters from our Catmon and Guinaygayan churches came by land, walking for an hour. Our brethren from Jomalig came by sea on our boat, “Evangel” and from Amaga and Luod, our brethren walked part of the way and then were fetched at Sitio Inusukan. We celebrated the four days with worship, singing joyful songs for the Lord, eating together, and playing many indoor and outdoor games which taught us all about unity. We are so thankful for Pastor Marty and his wife Dadine, who were so energetic and tireless, leading all the programs, activities and games.

It was a joy for all of us that Dr. John’s wife, Ellen, and their son Johan had the opportunity to be with us. We enjoyed each moment as we bonded together.

In our outdoor activities at the beach, we were unaware that there were those watching and witnessing what we were doing. They approached us afterwards and shared the joy they had in seeing our joyfulness, camaraderie, and unity. They saw that those who belong to Jesus can have fun too!

We also praise God for the eleven active members of the PMF church who participated in water baptism, the Saturday before resurrection Sunday. Three of them are adults and eight of them are young teens. We thank God for their understanding of what it meant to undergo water baptism in obedience to the Lord Jesus Christ. They declared that they would use their lives to serve the Lord and be His faithful followers.

Bro. Cesar representing Catmon and Guinaygayan shares: “We have experienced the value of being together with our spiritual family as we are united in one goal – working together to be intimate in our relationship with God. We cherish those moments and our hearts are full of joy.”

As we gathered together in unity in worship, praise, learning from His Word, in fun and games – we experienced joy in His presence!

**What a fitting end to our Family Camp! 14 faithful ones who followed the Lord in water baptism! What a joy to know of their eagerness to please the Lord and be obedient to His call. Please pray for their faithful walk with the Lord as they follow Him daily.**





# From Beanbag to the Gospel

by Paul Ciaramitaro, Missionary Volunteer

Two weeks following my arrival in Palau, I found myself amidst Palau's Independence Day festivities. A main event in the day's jamboree was a series of boat races underneath the "KB Bridge", a short, picturesque span connecting the southern island-state of Koror to the northern island of Babeldaob. In anticipation of the races, the surrounding area was bustling with the sounds of children playing, families barbecuing, people laughing, and Palauan music ringing through the air.

After perusing through the celebration, my friend and I pulled out my beanbag "hacky-sack" that we had brought along, and began kicking it back and forth to each other. Within a few minutes, several kids joined the game. Shortly thereafter, about a dozen Palauan kids had gathered around. We formed a circle and spent over an hour kicking the beanbag between ourselves, trying to see how many times we could kick it to each other without letting it hit the ground. By the time the races began, some of the kids had really gotten the hang of it!

Several weeks later, while preparing for our Wednesday night children's group at PMA's Pacific Mission Fellowship church, a handful of new kids showed up. They happened to be among the group we played hacky-sack with a few weeks earlier. They got excited and invited a bunch of their cousins the following week. Before we knew it, our Wednesday night kid's group had almost tripled in size! That week, we were teaching a lesson on forgiveness and repentance. After explaining Christ's death on the cross, one of the kids tapped me on the shoulder and asked in a low voice, "Can I repent?" It was such a blessing to be able to walk him through the Scriptures and explain the Gospel to him.

Though I joined Pacific Mission Aviation to serve as a short-term pilot, I've found my most fulfilling role to be working with the children's church group on Wednesday nights. Through this experience with the "hacky-sack", God reaffirmed to me that He is truly in absolute control, and that it is our immense privilege to be involved in His work, even if we don't know what His work actually is in each exact instance. If He chooses, the Lord can use something as insignificant as a worn out little beanbag to accomplish His purpose. Though we thought we were just having fun, God was using that "hacky-sack" to build connections with the kids and to prepare an avenue for them to hear the Gospel preached. How privileged we are to be in the service of such a powerful and creative King!



***"But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." 1 Corinthians 1:27***

**It is indeed a great blessing to see God using ordinary things like a lowly bean bag to reach the children for Christ! What a joy and humbling experience it is to be God's instrument to enable children to understand of their need for a Savior!**





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