

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Fourth Quarter
2018

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Serving One Another

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of
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(PMA).

Issue

Fourth Quarter 2018

On our Cover

Serving One Another

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Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA)

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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

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: For the Palau Hangar Project, we need to raise \$250,000 to complete the project (please see story on page 4 and 5).

Outer-island airstrip in the Philippines: The Lord has provided land for an airstrip centrally located for easy access to all our island stations. We have raised \$50,000 so far, and need to raise another \$50,000 to complete this project. We thank God for His provision of a Cessna-206 for the Philippines.

*“As each has received a gift,
use it to serve one another,
as good stewards of God’s
varied grace.”*

1 Peter 4:10



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**PMA President
Nob Kalau**

Dear PMA Family,

Could it be that you are mourning today? It’s the month of Advent and Christmas yet the news hasn’t always been joyful. In fact, it’s been a hard month. When you lose someone who is close to you, the world seems to stop. You never plan for such a thing. And it hurts. Yet Jesus said this, “Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.” Because of Jesus, there is a blessedness in mourning. There is hope! Life continues to move on toward eternity because we have a Savior who came to us in the town of Bethlehem.

As a Pastor I have had to deal with a lot of sad news lately and share words of comfort to those families at our church and coworkers experiencing the ultimate loss of their beloved one. At the same time, I am leading the preparation for our Christmas celebration. Oh the joy of Christ entering our world at Christmas! Thanks be to God as He uses me when I am weak and emotional to put the sad and joyful things of life into perspective for those who are struggling and need to hear about God’s amazing message of Hope.

And so we rejoice as messengers of hope as we celebrate the birth of Him who came to earth to offer up His life so that we could be set free from the pain of death and live with Him for eternity. My heart rejoices as our PMF Choir will sing:

“The heavens roar, the angels sing, All glory to our God and King!

O night divine forever more Alleluia, Alleluia.

Christ, the Savior of the world He has come!

Alleluia, Alleluia to the highest name of all, Alleluia!”

In this last edition of our Island Echoes for the year, I want to thank you for praying for the various PMA ministries. In this edition you will read how God is providing day by day in the building of our hangar in Palau. How our aviation ministry creatively is making a difference in the lives of island fishermen. Our orphanage rejoices with the news of abandoned children being cared for and adopted. Missionaries experience the challenges of teaching the Bible and Islanders learn obedience despite cultural practices that can be hard to break away from. So many reasons to rejoice and be lifted up by the hope that we have in Christ at Christmas!

Thank you for giving and loving to be involved in ministry to our island people. Our missionaries thank God for you and pray for your influence in your world across the ocean from us.

May your family experience Christmas as the time to adore the newborn King, who came to earth to be with us so that we could go to Heaven to be with Him.

Nob Kalau

Palau Hangar Project

by Amos Collins, Director for Flight Operations

Since PMA was invited to the Republic of Palau in 2012 to begin a flight service for the outer islands, we have been operating out of a temporary shelter made of two 20-ft. containers and a roof over the top, enough to shelter only part of one aircraft. Now, we have three aircraft there, and two must be parked out on the ramp. The environment in the islands is already very harsh with the salt air, but we are also fairly helpless and unprotected when the occasional typhoon comes through.

In May 2016, an MOU was signed between the Republic of Palau and Pacific Mission Aviation to provide medevac services, sea searches, disaster relief and aerial surveillance. With that agreement, we were awarded a plot of land next to the airport to build a hangar facility. The land required about 9450 tons of dirt to be removed to make it level before we could even begin building.

Finally, in June 2018, construction began. We hired a reputable company that would be capable of setting the foundations and anchor rods properly. The foundations and the slab were completed mid-September at which time we brought in all the steel to prepare for erecting the structure. While the hangar structure was going up around the hangar floor, the block walls for the offices, parts storage, and bathrooms also were being laid. Today, the slab was poured for the second floor which will allow the remaining steel to be erected on top, and then the roof can go on. We hope to be moved in before the end of the year.

This monumental project did not come without its fair share of problems and unexpected expenses along the way. One of these issues was the amount of shipping containers it took to get everything to Palau. In the end, it took 17 containers to get everything from the U.S. to Palau. Another question was where to store all the construction material while we waited for the slab to be poured. Fortunately, no problem was too big for our God, who connected us with people sympathetic to our cause and who gave us discounted shipping (thank you – Matson Shipping!). Then, the Palau airport allowed us to stage everything in the grass right next to the apron where our hangar was located.

We are truly excited for this new development for our aviation operation in Palau. It will increase the level of safety for our maintenance work and allow us to serve the people of Palau more efficiently. This Palau Hangar will be a multipurpose facility that will house aircraft to support:

1. Humanitarian Mission Services
 - a. Medical evacuations, sea searches, disaster relief, gospel outreach and ministry flights
2. Passenger and Cargo Transportation Services
 - a. Weekly flights to the islands of Angaur, Peleliu, and hopefully Kayangel soon

3. Aerial Surveillance of the Palau National Marine Sanctuary
 - a. Please watch our video to see our work with Palau
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e-HQfzV9e4I>
 - b. PMA hopes to acquire an aircraft solely for monitoring the waters around Palau for illegal fishing vessels.
4. Scenic Flights
 - a. Generate revenue to help PMA subsidize the humanitarian/mission work
 - b. Allow us to bring in younger pilots who can gain valuable experience by flying frequently
 - c. Provide a unique opportunity for local Palauans who are pursuing aviation as a career to build flight time.
5. Aircraft Maintenance Facility
 - a. The new hangar will provide us with a fully equipped facility to do heavy maintenance
 - b. A professional facility for future training of national Palauans who are interested in aviation maintenance.

This hangar project has been a faith growing experience. When we began saving and fundraising 2 years ago, we barely had 10% of the money. But through prayer, donations from supporters, and hard work from our team, we have been able to raise over 71% of the costs to build this facility without taking out a loan. God has been showing us through his timely provision that this project is in His will, and we trust that He will see us through to the end. Our current projection is that we have enough funds to finish the foundation and get the building erected by the end of the year. At that point, depending on our finances, we may need to slow down and do the remaining work little by little. But at least, we will have a shelter that we can park the planes in. All that to say, we are still in need of funding to help complete the project. If anyone is interested in helping us finance so that we will be able to complete this project, please contact our office in Guam – guamhq@pmapacific.org or (671) 646-6464. We thank God for what He is doing and expect great things from Him as we accomplish His work in the islands – Bringing Hope and Changing Lives!

It has been exciting to see the progress of the Palau Hangar construction as the Lord provided needs. We thank God for our partners in this project.



Giving Thanks to the Lord!

by Bryan Bantucan, PMF Church, Patnanungan, Philippines

*“Give thanks to the Lord, call on His Name;
make His deeds known to all people!”*

1 Chronicles 16:8

What a joy we had this recent 32nd church anniversary, celebrated in November of this year! Our theme is about keeping the faith in love throughout the years. Everyone enjoyed the service. We are so thankful that the Lord has blessed the mission here in Patnanungan for three decades. We have experienced the Lord’s faithfulness as the ministry has survived the challenges over the years by God’s grace, and are thankful for the people who have faithfully trusted and continue to follow Jesus, and persevere in their efforts to reach out to those who need our Lord Jesus Christ in their lives.

The church members and leaders were revived as they received God’s message delivered to us from His Word and through Pastor Marty. He has been a great encouragement to us all. Our church members are focused on day-to-day survival for their livelihood, and may get tired in well-doing and persevering. However, they remain faithful as they place their hope in Jesus.

I praise the Lord for all those who helped organize this celebration. Our Women’s Group led by my wife, Fretzel, decorated the church, planned the program and presented special numbers. Brother Jonathan helped me in painting and improving our sound system for almost a week, while taking unpaid leave from his job, which was a great sacrifice for his family. I thank God for all the people who worked behind the scenes, God knows their hearts and will bless them! And for the families who participated and provided the food that we shared after the service. Praising God for the attendance of the students and parents of PMA Academy and for the special number of the children during the worship service.

After the service and fellowship, much food was left over. So we invited all our neighbors living near the church and shared the food we had prepared. As we shared the blessings we had, the celebration became an all-day event celebrating God’s goodness and faithfulness in the ministry here in Patnanungan.

ALL PRAISES TO OUR LORD JESUS!

We had a fully packed church as people came to celebrate the 32nd Anniversary of PMF Patnanungan church and worship Him in thanksgiving!



A Day in Bahay Kalinga

by Jeny Flores-Gutierrez, BK Center Head

“There can be no keener revelation of a society’s soul than the way in which it treats its children” (Nelson Mandela). Another baby boy was admitted to Bahay Kalinga (BK) - a 10-month-old child, a victim of physical abuse. The local police station received a call from the Village Captain about an incident where a man had beaten his ten-month-old step-son several times. TJ was then admitted in BK for further case management. We thank God for the opportunity to care for him and provide him the love and attention he needs. We pray that the Lord will heal the wounds of his heart and soul.

We praise God that the Accreditation Assessment of the DSWD (Department of Social Welfare and Development) Standards Bureau was indeed successful. DSWD takes the lead in social protection and is mandated to set standards, register, license, accredit and provide consultative services to organizations engaged in social welfare and development activities. In executing the regulatory and quality assurance role of the Department, it enables to develop and maintain the standards of a high performing, proactive and supportive partners in the delivery of social welfare and development programs and services. We thank God for this success! To Him be the glory and honor!

We are also grateful for the psychological evaluation result of one of our orphans who is now eligible for international adoption. Another praise was the free vaccination of our 6 babies as well as the follow-up of the approval of adoption for 6 children.

Indeed, we have experienced the goodness and greatness of our God as He allows us to take care of His children. We praise God for His provision, grace and strength as each day He enables us to serve His little ones!

Editor’s Note: Praise God for His continued provision for all our needs. We end the year with 10 children in our care with two others in different facilities who are in need of special care. Six of the children are now being processed for adoption and we pray for a smooth and orderly process for each of them to be matched with godly parents. Since we began this ministry, we have cared for 221 children. We thank God for the impact we have had with each of them!

What a great God we serve as He allows and enables us to care for children who otherwise would be abandoned and deprived of the love they need.



Theology Workshop in Yap

by Heidi Collins, PMA Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

In October this year, a Bible teacher named Stephen Whatley came to Yap to teach a 2-week workshop on Biblical theology. The PMA team had flown in participants from the outer islands of Ulithi and Fais so that they could attend. Every evening for four hours, Stephen taught on the nature of God, the Trinity, Biblical interpretation, and many other topics. People from the PMF church in Yap also wanted to take part in this very intensive workshop, so in all, around 36 people came faithfully to learn.

Stephen is a veteran missionary and Bible teacher in Micronesia and the Philippines, having lived in these countries for many years. He is now retired and lives in New Mexico with his wife Lorrie, but still loves to come back to the Pacific to teach the Bible.

Many years ago, Stephen had written a book entitled “Theology Illustrated: Featuring Micronesia” which teaches the foundations of the Christian faith in a way that is accessible and understandable for Micronesians, using examples and visuals from their own culture rather than western culture. PMA’s Good News Press in Pohnpei printed copies of this book and sent them to Yap to be used during the workshop.

Stephen was a good teacher and would always encourage questions from the participants. He spoke clearly and slowly so that people wouldn’t miss his words and difficult concepts could be understood. He said that he enjoyed the rich culture and history of Yap very much, and in his free time was usually walking the old stone paths of the island and visiting cultural sites. Stephen lived with our family during his stay here and became instant friends with our kids, who called him “Uncle Stephen”. He was a delightful guest!

This was a very intensive two weeks of studying, learning and discussion. We pray that this theology workshop will set a good foundation for future church leaders in the outer islands.

Pastor Petrus shared that everyone attending was richly blessed and have learned a lot from it. After the workshop, the group leaders remained in Yap for few more days which gave him time with them to discuss what they had learned before they all left for their islands a few days later.

Editor’s Note: Before coming to Yap, Stephen taught a 4-day conference in Pohnpei on false religions as the islands are inundated with false teachings. He especially assisted the PMF church’s radio broadcast ministry (The Cross Radio) together with Pohnpeian translators with a list of 30 false doctrines of Mormonism. These will be broadcast in short spotlights.

Everyone thanked Stephen Whatley who taught the Word of God simply and relevant to each one who attended the Theology Workshop.



Emergency Beacons

by Amos Collins, Director for Flight Operations

Each year, the U.S. spends millions of dollars on Search and Rescue missions (SAR) throughout Micronesia. They have advised the governments of these islands to improve their small craft regulations to include some forms of emergency equipment such as a large bright colored tarp, radar reflectors, or ideally carry an emergency beacon called an EPIRB or PLB.

Two years ago, Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA) was involved in a successful Sea Search operation where we found a skiff which had been adrift for 36 hours. They were able to relay the coordinates to the U.S. Coast Guard who later came and picked up the four men from Fais Island.

That event started a quest of how to help these islands have access to a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) which their men could take with them on voyages to other islands or when they went out fishing. Each PLB costs about \$290.00, so it would require some kind of grant to acquire enough PLB's for all the 18 inhabited islands in Yap State alone.

Yap State used to have a vessel that made quarterly trips through the islands to distribute food, people and supplies. But due to mechanical problems and ultimately a decision to send that ship to dry dock, Yap has not had a reliable means of supporting their islands for over two years. Occasionally the national ship would make a trip through the islands, but it is not enough to meet the demand.

At the end of 2017, in an effort to meet the needs of the people, PMA began a feeding program to supply the islands with rice. Whenever there is a flight to Ulithi and Fais that has any space available, PMA would fill the remaining space with 20-pound sacks of rice. PMA donates the freight costs so that the people on the receiving end can purchase the rice for essentially the same price as they would buy it on the mainland.

Here's how it works: The rice is purchased in bulk quantities of 100 bags at a time and we receive a 10% discount which brings the price down to around \$8.00 per bag. The rice is then sold at \$10.00 and for every sack sold, \$2.00 goes towards funding the PLB project. Since January 2018, these total amounts of \$2.00 per sack have raised enough funds to purchase 18 PLB's. This is enough for each inhabited island in Yap State to get one PLB each!

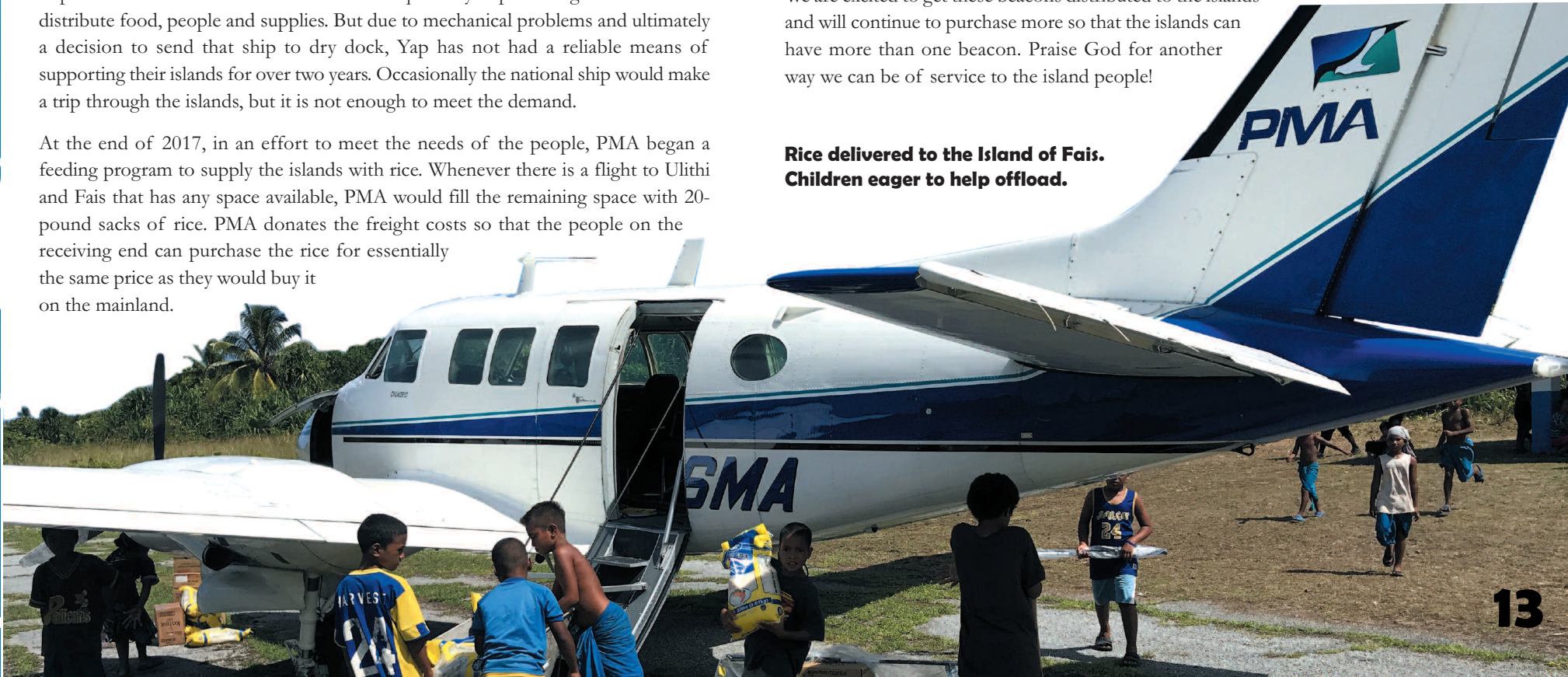
PMA has also been able to purchase a small Pelican case to keep each PLB dry and protected. Each PLB has been registered online and will be assigned to a responsible individual who has access to a HF radio. All a fisherman has to do to be able to take the PLB with him will be to sign his name on a check-out sheet. In the event of an actual emergency, the beacon will send its location via satellite to the SAR authorities who will contact us at PMA and verify that this is an actual emergency. As soon as it is confirmed, the exact coordinates of the boat will be given and Search and Rescue can commence with less time spent on searching.

We are excited to get these beacons distributed to the islands and will continue to purchase more so that the islands can have more than one beacon. Praise God for another way we can be of service to the island people!

**Rice delivered to the Island of Fais.
Children eager to help offload.**



The emergency beacon is a very important life-saver for fishermen lost at sea.



Culture and the Bible

by Sabine Musselwhite, PMA Missionary to Pohnpei

Here in Micronesia you hear the expression “in our culture” very often. When people from the smaller outer islands come to the main island (Pohnpei, Yap, Chuuk, Kosrae respectively) they often speak in another mother tongue and feel out of place. The main communication is therefore English as the common language. For those migrants, it is a “safe-place” to hold on to their special island cultural ways in order to keep their sense of identity.

I have a lot of respect for these various cultures, even though I myself come with my own culture and have to constantly reposition myself in order to adapt and understand. It seems like every culture has their own way of doing funerals, family events and even church.

I was invited to come to Yap for three weeks to teach the outer-island ladies (from at least 5 different atolls) about the Bible and how they can adjust their culture to God’s Biblical truth. Very often, the man-made cultural habits are in conflict with what the Bible teaches. I felt the weight of the responsibility to convey the Biblical truths in the right way without offending the respective culture.

The ladies welcomed me warmly and since I had already spent time in Yap before, we connected instantly again.

They were very eager to meet and we decided to convene on 4 afternoons every week. With the help of the program “King of Glory” (www.rockintl.org/resources) we looked at God’s salvation plan for human kind from the creation and the fall of Adam and Eve, through the families in the Old Testament to the arrival of Jesus Christ and his miracles on earth (we did not get finished all the way to Jesus’ ascension, but they will continue in their weekly Bible studies).

It was very encouraging to watch the ladies take in the Biblical truths and discuss theological contexts such as “justice, mercy, grace”. Thanks to the Bible-based consistent ministry of Pastor Peter, his wife Queen and Heidi Collins and others, they have grown so much over the last five years compared to when I had first come to Yap to teach. It was fun to discuss topics such as “lending and borrowing” from their cultural and from the Biblical perspectives. In their island culture, they can easily ask someone for help with the expectation that the one asked will meet the demand. If the request is denied, hard feelings will prevail. The Bible however gives us the freedom to decide with wisdom, if we are in a position to help or not and then to act upon it. For some topics, they realized that the Bible gives much more liberty than their own culture. That is a predicament which many of us are in when we become followers of Jesus Christ. It takes a lot of courage for an individual believer to follow the Biblical way and overcome the cultural and family practices.



Please pray for these ladies that they may become stronger and bolder in their faith to teach their children and grandchildren and make a difference in their village, their island.



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