

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #3 - 2019

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Rescue at Sea

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Issue

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On our Cover

Rescue at Sea

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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 Assistant for Guam

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:

Hangar for Palau: We thank God we are close to completing the hangar construction. We still need to raise \$200,000.

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 still need to raise \$50,000 to complete the project.

“Let the message of Christ dwell among you richly as you teach and admonish one another with all wisdom through psalms, hymns, and songs from the Spirit, singing to God with gratitude in your hearts. And whatever you do, whether in word or deed, do it all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through him.”

Colossians 3:16,17



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**PMA President
Nob Kalau**

Dear Friends,

The apostle Paul said in 1 Corinthians 15:10, *“By the grace of God I am what I am....and I worked harder than any of them.”*

When God calls you into missions, there are two things you are in constant awareness of: God’s amazing grace and good old hard work! While Paul had breath, he labored. In fact he labored harder than others. He stayed up till who knows what hour making tents so that he wouldn’t have to be a financial burden on his churches. His example was to work harder than any of them. Nevertheless, he was the first to admit, *“it was not I, but grace that was with me.”*

Growing up on the beautiful island of Yap, I remember carrying cement blocks and buckets of water throughout the day, up and down the mission hill in order to contribute in the building of the first evangelical church on the island. My father who taught my brother and I many practical skills, needed a constant supply of blocks and we just happened to be the volunteer laborers even at the ages of 6 and 7! When the church was finally finished and we gathered for the first evangelical service, I felt an amazing sense of humble pride to have contributed in a small but significant way with my childlike version of “hard work”. And that sense of accomplishment and passion has followed me throughout my life as a career missionary.

Resting in God’s grace and being thankful for all that He does for those who rely and trust completely in Him has the reaffirming effect of giving energy and eagerness to keep at it and work our hardest for the Lord. As believers, we are commanded to put our hand to the plow and not look back!

In this issue of our Island Echo, you will read about our ongoing hangar project, sea search and rescue, children at our orphanage, youth groups, and fiscal responsibility. The grace of God – the very power of his grace – in the heart of humble believers, who depend utterly on God, does produce incredible energy and industry.

Nob Kalau

President/CEO

Depending on the Lord

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

“We are so glad we can say with utter honesty that in all dealings we have been pure and sincere, quietly depending upon the LORD for His help, and not our own skills.”
2 Cor. 1:12

The end of our fiscal year ushers in a lot of work as we review our operations and do an internal audit in our mission stations. This audit took me to Yap, Palau and Pohnpei, a week at a time – coming back to Guam in time to be in church on Sunday so I could teach Sunday school. The time in the islands went fast, but thanks to the help of our staff, each review and audit went well. The highlight of each visit of course was having one-on-one meetings with our staff: understanding where they are, encouraging them with what they do, discussing with them how best we can be effective in our work and ministry and praying with them. Much can be learned by listening and seeing things from their perspective. I thank God for His enablement and wisdom in wanting to understand, rather than be understood.

PMF Palau family gets together on Wednesdays for Bible studies. Men and ladies each have their own Bible study while the kids learn and grow in KFN (Kids Fun Night). This is a great time mid-week for families to attend church together. Prayer meeting is on Thursday nights.

It is a great encouragement that in each of the islands I visited, we have established Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) churches. It was a great experience to be with each of our congregations connecting with brothers and sisters in the Lord and meeting new ones added to the family of God! I just love it when the Lord allows me to experience family life in the context of church. I was thankful for opportunities to share the Word of God with the ladies in Yap, Palau and Pohnpei, share with the youth in Yap, and being that we are celebrating 45 years of PMA's service in the islands, shared the PMA and Pastor Ed Kalau's story at the prayer meeting in Palau and at the staff get-together in Pohnpei. So great to look back and realize that the PMA and Ed Kalau stories are His story, and that we can stand amazed at His faithfulness and goodness through the years!

The review and internal audit in each island went very well as each island station office personnel prepared well and have kept good records with supporting documents of transactions. We were able to resolve all questions and findings that arose during the course of the review and audit with success. It is very encouraging to note that each one of our staff involved in accounting is mindful that we serve a living God and in the end, we are accountable to Him. I thank God that we are sincere in following internal control guidelines, accounting procedures and policies to be fiscally responsible and making ourselves accountable to God and man. PMA Headquarters does all the consolidation of our financial reports and we too will be subject to the review of an external auditor. We truly thank God that we can honestly say that we have quietly done our work in season and out of season – depending on the Lord for strength, wisdom and grace to do our behind-the-scene service to Him. To Him be the glory and honor!



Excelling for God!

by Pastor Marty Lumigis and Bro. Bryan Bantucan

“But as you excel in everything – in faith, in speech, in knowledge, in all earnestness, and in our love for you – see that you excel in this act of grace also.”
2 Corinthians 8:7

The month of May was filled with the preparations for our first joint youth camp with the theme, “Excel 2019”. This camp brought together all of the PMF churches (Patnanungan, Jomalig, Apad, Guinayagan and Kilogan). There were 77 youth who attended and were led by Pastor Marty Lumigis and wife Dadine. Together with all our PMF pastors and workers, we ended the camp victoriously!

The camp turned out to be a blessing especially for PMF Patnanungan, more so than Bro. Bryan anticipated. At first he was very concerned that most of the PMF young people were not available. Most were off-island, still enjoying their summer vacation and some were working on their enrollment in the main land for the coming school year. But God had His amazing plan because He provided 16 young unbelievers, mostly boys, to participate. We praise God for Bro. Jonathan’s gift of encouragement and serving. He’s the one who invited most of the young men to attend our activities. We saw God’s plan in all this. Had all our young people been available for the camp, we would not have been able to set our eyes on other youth, invite them and encourage them to attend. And you know, after the camp all of them came and attended our church service that Sunday! Praise, God we continue to see them come and take part in the church’s worship services.

We thank God for some of their testimonies:

BJ Almoza (12): “My experience in the recent youth camp was so amazing! It was my very first time to participate in a church activity. I was able to meet new friends, enjoyed the camp with them. All of the PMF church people were so kind to us first-timers. It was a great experience and great opportunity to get to know Jesus.”

Rosemarie Corpuz (18) “I attended youth camps a few times in our previous church, but this was one was different. First I expected it to be boring because in my mind it would be just more Bible stories, but it was much more than that. Yes, I enjoyed meeting new friends, all the games and the food, but the more important thing is that I got to know more about Jesus. I realized that all this time, I only had religion and not a real relationship with Him. My interest in knowing Jesus more intimately has grown. I am so grateful for having been invited. I would like to continue to be part of this church.”

M-jay Bracero (17): “The 3-day camp was so much fun. It was my first time to participate in a church-based activity (especially in a “born again” group – this was what we called the folks at the PMF church). To be honest this was really not my thing, not my style hanging out with “religious” people. I was only interested in meeting new friends. However, I am so glad that I joined the camp. It changed my perspective of God while observing the people involved in the camp. They were very kind to us and were full of joy as they shared their experience and relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ. Kuya (older brother) Bryan, also encouraged me and my friends to continue to visit the PMF church so that we can continue to grow in our faith and relationship with Jesus. It felt great for me and my friends to feel so welcome and to be part of the church family.”

“Be an example of a believer”, Paul admonished Timothy. We thank God that the Youth Camp allowed the PMF youth to show love, acceptance, grace and joy to all who attended the camp for the first time. We pray for growth and maturity of each one in Christ!



Jose's Story

by Jeny F. Gutierrez, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Center Head

Jose (not his real name) was admitted at PMA-Bahay Kalinga (BK) in 1997 when he was 8 months old for temporary care. He was born in October 1996 and is now 22-years-old. When no immediate family came forward to claim him, BK was given the authority to process his documents to make him eligible for adoption. During his medical evaluation, he was diagnosed with special needs and so we had a difficult time matching him for adoption. When he was in elementary school, he expressed



We thank God for bringing Jose into our lives through PMA's Bahay Kalinga Orphanage. It was God's way of looking after him - to ground him in His faith and relationship with the One who gave him life.

the desire to meet his biological parents, but we did not know who they were nor where they were, until he met his cousins in school. They directed Jose to his Aunt and so he met his biological siblings. We continued to care for Jose at BK, knowing that we needed to find him another home as he would soon be 12-years-old and BK is certified to care for children only up to 12-years-old.

We thank God that we found Help International who accepted Jose when he was 11. Help International had been a big support in Jose's adolescence. He learned how to be responsible for himself and his personal belongings. His attitude and physical development were molded well. While at Help International, he studied and finished grades 2 to 6. PMA BK continued to support Jose by providing financial help for his stay with Help International. We wanted to be a part of Jose's growth and development and remain involved in his precious life.

In 2013, he was transferred to Kids Home International. PMA BK continued to provide financial support for his care. He studied in the Alternative Learning System (ALS) and graduated in 2018. He said that he at times felt jealous whenever he saw other children with complete families, and struggled with many "what ifs" in his mind. "What if" he had been adopted years ago? "What if" he had been reconciled to his parents? "What if" he had not been diagnosed with Global Development Delay Syndrome (GDD) when he was a kid? Maybe he would be happy now with adoptive parents in another country. Maybe he would be finished with his schooling and starting to chase his dreams as a writer and teacher. He wanted to pursue further studies but he was discharged from Kids Home after finishing grade 11 on April 9, 2019 because he no longer needed any of the programs and services provided by the Home. He then went back to Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, to be with his biological family. His first stop however, was BK – the first home he remembers well.

At present, he is in the custody of his father Rogelio and is helping to take care of his step sister who is 2-years-old. He is currently trying to find a job so he could save money to go back to school. He continues to serve the Lord by attending fellowship and services at Naujan Bible Church. He is grateful to God that he is a Christian and especially for the influence of BK in the development of his faith in Jesus. His faith has given him the strength to avoid vices and to stay out of trouble. As of now, he is looking for sponsors to continue his study. He said that he is asking his church mates to help him finish at least grade 12 because he would like to be qualified for a stable job in the future.

Note from Editor: We still look at Jose as one of "our" children and would like him to be successful in his endeavor to complete his studies and get a job. Will you please pray and if the Lord has tugged your heart, you may help him by sending your financial help to PMA HQ (P.O. Box 3209, Hagatna, Guam) with a note: Preferred for Jose's studies. Your donation will be tax-deductible. We will make sure that it goes to his education. Thank you and God bless you more!



This is Jose today. Although he had a lot of questions in his life, his steadfast faith in the Lord has encouraged him to look up and choose to live victoriously.

Update on the Palau Hangar Project

by Markus Klassen, Palau Aviation Manager

Many who see the PMA Hangar for the first time voice their impression with a “WOW” or “this is BIG” or “built to LAST”! Well, PMA’s evolving hangar is 120’ by 120’ with offices, maintenance room, parts room, lobby and bathrooms, and it is built to withstand 175mph typhoon winds.

We started the Palau Hangar project in mid-2017 by removing part of a hill on our assigned lot for the upcoming structure. It took 9,450 tons of dirt to haul away the hillside! As I am writing this, it’s July 2019 and we are getting close to the finish line. The project had several delays, which are to be expected living in the remote Pacific Islands. Getting all of the materials together from USA and Guam was a big challenge. Weather was also a big factor for the project delay. It rains often and unexpectedly for days, making it hard to stay on schedule.

One great challenge was the installation of the 100’ by 25’ massive hangar door (donated by HP Doors). The Hangar door had to be specially designed in such a way that it also withstands 175mph winds, meaning it is beefed up and approximately 45,000 lbs. The door had to be assembled on the hangar floor and then lifted into place with two cranes. Praise God everything worked out and no one got hurt.

As you can see in the pictures, the foundation and hangar structure are finished as well as the shell of the first level. Currently we are tiling the bathrooms and installing the electrical. Nearly all the doors have already been installed. The civil site work is still in progress. The security fencing and gate have just been completed. After that, we will tackle the taxiway, septic tank, leeching field, and parking lot. We hope we can work on all these simultaneously and finish the interior work before the end of the year.

Once finished, this hangar will be a great tool for PMA’s ministries as we help the people of Palau. There are very few structures like this hangar in Palau. Thank you to all our generous supporters who helped in this enormous building project with prayers and donations. May this hangar bring glory to God!

“According to the grace of God which was given to me, like a wise master builder I laid a foundation, and another is building on it. But each man must be careful how he builds on it.”

1 Corinthians 3:10

The hallway and the receiving room leading to the office is now ready for finishing.



Installing the 100” by 25” massive hangar door was in itself a challenging project. We thank God that it is now up and running and operating well. A great protection against 175mph winds!

The fence surrounding the hangar is now installed. The outside facade is complete. We are finally completing the leeching field and septic tank. We look forward in completing the inside of the structure.



“PMA, our Angel in the Sky!”

by Amos Collins, Director of Flight Operations

When Pacific Mission Aviation was first founded, Pastor Edmund Kalau had seen the need for a humanitarian service to the isolated islands in Micronesia. He had raised funds, purchased an aircraft and planned to be “on-call” for medical evacuations, sea searches, medicine drops, and disaster relief. But when the government granted him the approval to do this humanitarian work, they also asked him to use the aircraft to transport people commercially, as this was greatly needed in the islands.

It was far-sighted and providential that the government made this requirement, because from that day forward, Pacific Mission Aviation was able to fulfill a vital role in providing transportation for the Micronesian people in the region. The revenue generated from the commercial flights helps subsidize the free services and pays for the fuel, parts and insurance. This keeps the planes maintained in good condition and ready to be dispatched for the humanitarian services that Pastor Edmund Kalau had a vision for from the beginning.

This year, we have been called upon many times to go pick up critical patients and bring them to the hospital in Yap. Most of the medevac flights saved the lives of those patients we transported. But in some sad cases, the hospital in Yap was not able to save them and the patients passed away.

On Saturday, June 8, 2019, our operation was closed for the weekend when I received a call at home from the U.S. Coast Guard in Guam, saying that an emergency beacon had been activated about 400 miles east of Yap. Our agreement with the Yap State government is that they are the ones to dispatch us, and by dispatching us, they agree to pay for the fuel only. Unfortunately, the government offices were closed, and it took a few hours to locate someone who could give the authority to dispatch us. As I corresponded back and forth with the Coast Guard, they relayed to me that the emergency beacon was a Garmin InReach device which was sending out text messages informing us that it was a modern outrigger canoe which had capsized. Three persons were on board, uninjured, but they were now hanging on to the upside-down boat or floating in a small dinghy tied to it. As time passed into afternoon without finding the person in authority, I was nearing a point where I was just going to make the flight without being dispatched as our time window was closing to get assistance to these people before dark. But just before I had to make that decision, I found the person in authority to dispatch us and we activated our team. We learned that two of the men were from Yap, whom we knew personally. The Coast Guard informed us that a freighter was on its way to intercept the capsized vessel by 8:00 PM later that night, and that a Coast Guard cutter was on its way from Guam to pick them up the next morning. Our task would be to fly out to them that afternoon and drop supplies to carry them over until they were reached by the freighter.

Since PMA is “on-call” for times such as these, the planes were all ready to go other than topping the tanks with fuel. We also have a drop bag ready with some essentials like food, water, a flashlight, emergency flares, and a VHF Radio. We also added some granola bars and sandwiches which Heidi whipped up while we waited to go. We also brought additional cases of MRE’s (Meals Ready to Eat) and gallon jugs of water. The flight to their position took us 2.5 hours. We got an updated position report from the Coast Guard about 20 minutes out and that brought us directly to their position. Our first low pass was just to let them know we were there. I heard later from Larry, the main navigator, that as soon as they heard the drone of our engines, he said, “Here comes PMA, our angel in the sky!” There is no better feeling to look up and see that search plane overhead when you are lost at sea.

Our first drop was the drop-bag with a parachute. Unfortunately, the bag separated from the parachute as soon as it exited from the plane and the bag landed quite a distance from the canoe. But the subsequent items we dropped without chutes, and they fell with better accuracy each time. Each drop requires communication between the dropper in the back and the pilot to adjust each drop so that we can get closer and closer to the target. Ideally, we want to drop as closely as possible, without hitting the target directly. In the end, after all the water and cases of MRE’s were dropped, we were able to communicate with the people on the canoe with a handheld radio and were able to direct them to the first bag which had fallen further away. They used a dinghy and were able to retrieve everything and proceeded to eat the sandwiches first.

We returned to base as the sun set. Soon after landing, we received news that the freighter reached the canoe and were keeping an eye on them. Because of the high swells, it was not safe to get too close. The next morning the coast guard picked up the three men and by that evening they were back on dry land in Guam. We praise God for a successful sea search, and we count it a privilege that PMA can be of assistance in this way, in this region. This is very rewarding work and we thank all of you who partner with us in this ministry to serve the people of Micronesia and the Philippines.

Note: For a video of this event, please type in “PMA Sea Search” on youtube.com.

What a great blessing it is to save lives, and that is what our Pilot Amos, and crew were so thankful for as they reached the capsized boat on time to provide them with their needs as they awaited the rescue from the Coast Guard. We praise God for all He has accomplished!



S.W.A.G. Saved With Amazing Grace

by Sabine Musselwhite, Missionary in Pohnpei

The PMF Congregation in Pohnpei is blessed with a large number of youth who join the weekly Sunday service and are also very interested in the youth group which is faithfully led by Haser and Athena Hainrick. In their mid-fifties, the couple is not the average type of youth leaders, both with very demanding full-time jobs and a large family to care for.

When I asked them to share about their motivation for this ministry there was not even a slight hesitation when Haser answered that they felt so blessed and accepted the challenge with a feeling of great gratitude. Spending quality time with the young people ages 12 to about 20, they were growing close to Haser and Athena's heart. Athena shares that both of them grew up in families where parents, uncles and aunts were very devoted to church ministry. "Every morning, my father would open the church doors and ring the bell. His faithful servant heart made a big impression on me growing up so I also wanted to serve Jesus." Both Athena and Haser serve in other capacities in the church, he as an Elder, she as a Sunday School teacher and in addition, the youth ministry is very rewarding to them.

Haser gratefully shares, "preparing and studying the lessons for the youth meeting really makes the two of us learn a lot and grow in our faith. We are encouraged by faithful parents who send their children to youth club so that we can teach them the Bible. Extra activities like a field trip around the island, a car wash in town for the fundraising for our activities, movie nights and sports activities really help shape the togetherness of the young people. A great support is the choir presentation that Pastor Nob Kalau leads every Christmas and Easter. The dynamics of fellowship is raising awareness for each other among the youth and you can really feel their excitement when singing together and thus serving the congregation. Many parents and grandparents have tears in their eyes when they see their children singing in harmony."

When asked about the challenges they face, Haser shares, "yes, attendance is going up and down and we have to remember that they are being bombarded by distractions of the world. Some show signs of disobedience but then we are always encouraged to know that our comfort lies in the certainty that the Word of God has been planted in their hearts and the Holy Spirit will remind them of all they have learned. When it is time for some of them "to fly off" to college or seek employment abroad, we pray that they will take with them what faithful people in the church over many years have helped to shape, mold and grow them to. Now we are also encouraged by former youth members who have grown into adults who would like to reciprocate what they have received and are helping us in leading during the youth sessions. In everything the credit always goes to God. To Him be the Glory!"

A great challenge and a great blessing as well - this has been Haser and Athena's experience as they love and lead the youth in bringing them the Word of life through teaching, fellowship, fun and creative activities.





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