

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #4 - 2019

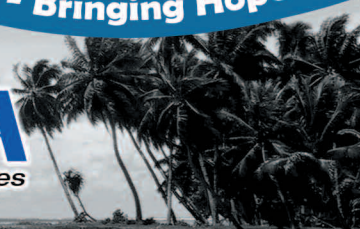
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Sea Haven - Bringing Hope

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Issue

Issue #4 - 2019

On our Cover

M/V Sea Haven's Outreach
to Kapingamarangi Islands

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deductible under section
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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: Most of the outside work has been completed. Still to be done is the inside work such as the second floor, office, lobby, electrical, plumbing and air pressure lines. To complete this project we will need \$100,000.

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.

“The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.”

John 1:14

PMA President Nob Kalau



Dear Friends,

Christmas is a day of spectacular joy. On that first Christmas night, while the shepherds kept watch over their flocks, the angel brought this good news:

“Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people.” (Luke 2:10). It was a night of joy, a night of awe, a night of miracles, a night of surprise, a night of great promise fulfilled, a night when God reached down to man and presented his indescribable gift.

On this incredible holy night, heaven momentarily came to earth. Heaven and earth are always co-existing, but sometimes they can seem worlds apart and at other times separated by only a thin veil. When tragedy hits, when illness prevails, when the unexpected takes us by surprise, heaven can sometimes seem distant and earth offers little comfort for the loss of those we love.

But when we join the angels in worship giving praise to our King, and see God in all of His splendor and greatness, heaven can again seem so very, very close. Believers are truly only a heartbeat away from heaven right now. As David wrote, *“There is but a step between me and death.”* (1 Samuel 20:3).

Christmas in heaven is so much better than Christmas on earth. It is pure, unrestrained joy. Not strings of blinking lights on houses but the effervescent radiant light of heaven itself. Not crafted angels decorated on trees, but real, holy angels of God, all around. You see, in heaven there is no pain and there is no suffering. On earth there are no empty hospitals! In heaven there is a continuous eternal peace. On earth there is perpetual, heartbreaking war! In heaven there is perfect unity and harmony. On earth there is often strife and anger among family and friends! In heaven there is no death, no crying, no guilt, no shame. On earth we often weep for those who no longer are with us. In heaven we can enjoy feasting and celebration together with all the saints. On earth there is high cholesterol and expanding waistlines, dissatisfaction and complaining!

We don't need to sorrow for our loved ones who are celebrating Christmas in heaven, but we do sorrow for ourselves over their absence. This month let's spread some joy and remember to let those on earth know how much we love them, not just in word but in acts of kindness too. If we fail to say it or do it today, we don't know if we will ever have the chance to tell them again next Christmas.

At PMA we want to take the opportunity today to thank you for standing with us, praying for us, and giving through us. You have brought us great joy throughout the year! As you will read in this end-of-the-year edition, we have had to say goodbye again this year to precious loved ones and servants of the Lord. Losses that don't make sense, but a God who sees the big picture and is sovereign. Also, ministry that is growing in the outer islands as new leaders are equipped by visiting pastors from Ohio. Intern pastors shepherding in locations where they have to depend on God for all their needs, and an Orphanage living up to its name: “House of Love” - Bahay Kalinga! Thank you for supporting your missionaries and praying for the work of PMA all through the year.

May the Blessings of God's love and nearness surround you with Joy this Christmas!

Nob Kalau

Remembering Rachelle

by Simon Hämmerling, Director of Maintenance
PMA Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

What would you say are the words that a child likes to use the most? A response you receive from them no matter what you do? I can tell you what Deesha, my 12-year-old Yapese “daughter” likes to say a lot; “Hey, not fair!” On Monday night, the 14th of October, my heart too was screaming “NOT FAIR!” as my beautiful wife, Rachelle, was brutally shot and killed in front of our home in Yap. Like a little child, not understanding a thing and unable to see the bigger picture.

Rachelle and I were 2 weeks away from celebrating our first wedding anniversary and I wanted to tell my wife; “Hey, a year ago I thought I loved you, but now I realize that I didn’t know what I was talking about. I love you so much more today!” And I was able to say that, not because I’m obligated, but because I’m committed. With every day of being married, life just got better.

I first came to Yap more than 15 years ago because I believed that God has a plan for my life. A plan of hope and not of harm. And today, I still deeply believe that to be true. *“For I know the plans I have for you,”* declares the Lord, *“plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. Then you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.”* Jeremiah 29:11 -13

I fell in love with Yap and with the people and wanted to be available to serve. I had a purpose. In between, I was gone for 3 years to train as a pilot, yet the plan was to come back to Yap. After my return in 2015, I met Rachelle. She was involved in helping people in need – that’s what caught my attention. She didn’t talk much about what she was doing though. The help she provided, she did quietly. Why? One just does what needs to be done. And whatever she did, it was with determination, courage, conviction and a great big heart.

As the State of Yap Attorney General, behind every case she saw a face. And she saw the people, not just the case. That drew me to her and made me want to marry her. With Rachelle I knew it would be easy to create a safe and comfortable space and a home that would be encouraging to others, ultimately pointing to Jesus. I wanted that for us... and for my life. In addition, I knew there would always be wonderful food in the house. Rachelle was a fantastic cook!

She loved Yap. She was passionate about everything she was doing. Just look at what was added to her life while in Yap: dogs, a daughter, and a husband! And she liked the idea of getting married in Yap. This is where we met. It was the center of our lives. And we wanted the people of Yap to be a part of it.

Rachelle was larger than life. We challenged and sharpened one another. One time I had to say: *“Chelly, you can’t use your court room and negotiation skills with me. English is my second language... now, you know I’m right...”* and she was always respectful and good about it.

I am really proud of Rachelle because of who she was to me – she married me – and how she cared for Deesha. She was very good with kids. She had a lot of compassion. If I had to describe Rachelle in one sentence, I’d probably say: *“She loves Jesus and she hates evil.”* She forgave me a bunch. She was patient with me. She stood out. She was a best friend to a lot of people, more importantly, she was my best friend!

In all the commotion around the tragedy of Rachelle’s death, Raina, the 9-year-old daughter of Amos and Heidi Collins, asked me out of the blue and caught me off guard: *“Simon are going to repay evil with evil?”* Wow that’s a good question especially coming from a little girl!

The first thing that came to my mind: Jesus is a just God and it’s His court room. I am not exactly sure what I said. But I remember thinking: *“God hates evil. Rachelle hates evil. It’s because of evil that Rachelle is dead. So I can’t repay evil with evil.”* Jesus died so you and I can be free from evil. On the cross of Calvary, He paid for what evil can do to human kind. Having a relationship with Jesus enables us to love and forgive. Easier said than done. In my heart and mind, I do not want what happened to my precious wife be the cause of bitterness, hatred and unforgiveness. Praise God! He releases us from all this when we commit our lives to Him and we act on His Word: *“Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest.”* Matthew 11:28

Jesus paid it all! My responsibility is how I respond to Jesus. Do I respond with vengeance, hatred, or love and peace? I choose love and forgiveness!



God's Direction Our Obedience

“A person's steps are directed by the LORD. How then can anyone understand their own way?” Proverbs 20:24

PMA accepted three interns from Ebenezer Bible College in the Philippines to serve in three of our PMF churches in the Polillo Islands. It is amazing how the Lord directed them and used them in a place they have never been nor heard of before. Further, one would assume that all Filipinos speak the same language or dialect, but coming from different areas in the Philippines, which has approximately 187 dialects, language has also been a challenge to our young interns.

Intern John Mark Estillore, PMF Guinaygayan:

When our internship assignment was revealed, I did not even know that there was such a place in the Philippines, but I was happy for the assignment! There were challenges during the first month, like adjusting to the culture, tradition, and especially the language. I was used to my own native tongue and English, but I had not practiced speaking the pure Tagalog language. One question kept popping up in my mind, “Lord, why am I here?” During the second month, the Lord answered my question and convicted me that I have a purpose in this place and I am thankful to Him. I experienced preaching at the PMF Patnanungan Church as well, enabling me to minister and see different church settings. Our means of transportation to and from different church locations was by motorcycle. One time, after an outreach in Guinaygayan the visiting outreach team needed to return home. We were short of one more motorcycle, so I borrowed the motorcycle of one of our church members. I had one person who rode with me and we also carried supplies. We used a flashlight to light our way, as there were no lights along the road, or moon and to top it off, the motorcycle had no head lights! Climbing up a steep terrain, the motorcycle slipped and I was not able to get it to stop. But glory to God, I only experienced a small bruise on my leg and my passenger was unscathed. Truly, the Lord protected us! By the third month, I slowly adapted to speaking Tagalog by engaging the children when they were playing, and building relationships with the congregation and community and with the music team from PMF Patnanungan Church who assisted me every Sunday in worship service. I praise God, He really has a purpose for assigning me here. I know that God orchestrated everything, and I am His servant follower who has committed myself to where He leads.

Interns Davidson (PMF Ampad), John Mark (PMF Guinaygayan) and Dhean (PMF Kilogan). Their island assignments have challenged them to make honoring God their central goal and to keep on doing their best for Him.

Intern Dhean Hudson Pamalison, PMF Kilogan

I thank God for sending me to Kilogan. It has not been without trials and difficulties, but I find that this gives me the opportunity to truly depend on the Lord and reminds me to always trust Him alone! The first challenge was the language, but little by little as I developed relationships in the church, I became more fluent. Our place is isolated and the road going here is very difficult even to the point that when we had a typhoon, we experienced shortage of food. But I found every obstacle worth it as God gives me the strength to overcome and experience victory in Him. I have no idea what God has in store for me as I still have 6 -7 months to serve in Kilogan. But He has taught me to build and value relationships within the church and within the community. I thank God for experiencing His healing power and strength, as I am prone to sickness. He does provide all things!

Intern Davidson H. Varon, PMF Apad

First of all I want to thank God for His provision and sustaining grace, from the beginning until this time. If I recall when I first found out my place of assignment, I honestly felt overwhelmed and did not know what to expect. I was excited at the prospect of going to an island! My first month was very challenging especially as I am not used to living on an island this small. But God showed me the need of the people for Jesus Christ – they were hungry for His Word and could not get enough. I struggled a lot personally, spiritually, socially as I led them in a spiritual journey with the Lord. I realized the source of my struggle was that I no longer was in my comfort zone – this was a place where I had to trust the Lord for everything. In my role as a shepherd and the Lord as our Chief Shepherd we learn that with Him there is nothing that we will lack. I believe that living and serving here on this island has been my most unforgettable experience of my Christian walk. I hope and I pray that in the remaining months, weeks, and days I can enjoy more and more of the ministry and do the tasks that God has given me to do! To Him be the glory!



Farewell

by Prisca Klassen, PMA Missionary, Palau

It's impossible to sum up our lives of five years on the Island of Palau. There are many treasured memories and uncountable, valuable lessons learned. We're thankful for the opportunity God provided for us to serve the people of Palau with our skills to the best of our knowledge and abilities. Surely, we've failed many times, but as I reflect on our time here, God reminds me that failing is part of life. I'm sure that there are many missionaries out there more capable than me, but that's not the point either. In life, we will encounter all sorts of people. Some that have been given many more talents than we, and some with less. But the most beautiful aspect about knowing Christ is, that once you know Him, all these talents don't matter. You can be given any sort of beginning, but what is important, is how you finish. God is looking for people who say: "Here I am, use me, Lord!"

Markus and I, with our family, have tried our very best to serve the Lord on this diverse and multicultural island. Looking back, there's so much more work that could have been done. There always is. But then I count my blessings, one by one and am content in the ways God chose to use us. We've grown a lot through these years, not only in numbers, but matured considerably too. We're thankful that as long as we say, "Here I am, use me!" it doesn't matter where on this planet we end up, we stay part of building God's kingdom, stay connected, stay family. That's reassuring and confirms the hope we have, which is not in this life, but in the life to come.

What I'm realizing more and more is that we're all knit together. Like family, you can't choose, can't be picky, you work with what you've got and learn to love and appreciate it. Our church family here on Palau has become dear to us and saying goodbye will be hard. They have blessed us in so many ways, taught us many lessons, helped us often times, loved us much. They widened our horizon, provoked our thinking, and enriched our hearts. We learned to be gracious with others by being in need of grace ourselves. We might have started off thinking, we'll help others, but ended up realizing we needed help ourselves. It's humbling and has drawn us closer to God.

We'll always be thankful for our time in Palau. Embracing the good and the bad both as gifts from God, His tools used to shape us into His liking. There are always things to surrender and ask forgiveness for, of course, but we have no regrets. We know God has used our time here to strengthen our faith, our marriage, our family, our hope and our love. And we leave as changed, richer individuals. Thank you PMA/PMF and thank you Palau!

Markus, Prisca and their children: Tahi, Airo and Sky - praise God for their time in Palau as He has strengthened their faith, their love for one another and trust in our Sovereign God.



El Niño

by Nob Kalau, Boat Captain

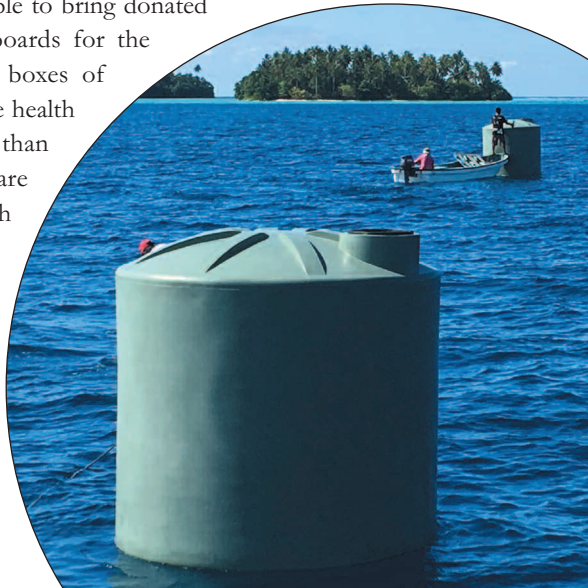
“Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as Scripture has said, rivers of living water will flow from within them.” John 7:37,38

El Niño is a natural climate pattern where sea water in the central and eastern tropical Pacific Ocean is warmer than average. The result of this, for an atoll dependent on rain water for consumption and sanitation, is severe drought with no rainfall, along with associated food scarcity. Temperature rise due to El Niño can cause a wide range of health problems, including disease outbreaks, malnutrition, heat stress and respiratory diseases. El Niño comes to the islands approximately every seven years in a variety of degrees.

In September, Sea Haven crew (Markes, Paiten, Apsalim and Nob) sailed off for Kapingamarangi Atoll to prepare the island for El Niño expected to strike in December. About 420 miles south of Pohnpei and 60 miles north of the Equator, lies the beautiful atoll of Kapingamarangi with a string of islands accented with coconut trees and pristine ocean teeming with fish and beautiful corals. The people depend solely on rain water, they have no plumbing. The fresh water lens in the ground of an atoll is very small and mostly brackish and not potable.

Sea Haven was asked to assist a government project to transport six, 1500 gallon watertanks, cement blocks, rebar, wood, fencing, PVC pipes, cement mixer, drums of fuel, and a team of five to build water catchments and prepare the island for the coming drought. Kapingamarangi has a narrow and shallow channel which neither of the government ships will navigate through. Sea Haven waited for the right tide to carefully enter the channel and anchor in the lagoon.

In addition, Sea Haven was able to bring donated school desks, chairs, white boards for the elementary school. Donated boxes of medicine were delivered to the health aide who often has no more than Tylenol on the shelf. We are thankful at PMA that through the Sea Haven ministry we can in a practical way demonstrate the love of Christ, by meeting such an important need as water for island people. How much more important to also be able to share the message of “Living water” in Jesus Christ our Lord.



There are no docks on most islands that the Sea Haven serves. In Kapingamarangi, items were loaded and delivered to the islands on a small boat, taking a lot of trips and effort of the personnel involved. Six 1500 gallon water tanks had to be floated ashore, as they were too big to fit into the skiffs.



Equipping New Believers to be Leaders

by Amos Collins and Peter Haleyalgiy,
PMA/PMF Yap, Micronesia

“Many people think PMA is just about airplanes. But there is a FAR Greater Vision.” These were the words of the late founder of PMA, Pastor Edmund Kalau, in the PMA video “A Far Greater Vision.” It was one of the things that drew me to PMA 15 years ago and is still today one of the things I love most about PMA. Besides airplanes, PMA is heavily invested in church planting ministries. Our Vision Statement is: “Love all People, Build the Body of Christ and Disciple the Faithful”. In my experience with PMA, the approach to ministry and church planting is not to get involved in something unless we can do it consistently and do it well. This might mean that certain ministries do not get started until someone is committed to doing it well and we have the means to support it consistently.

That is the story so far of our outer-island ministry in Yap state. It has always been part of the vision to spread the gospel to the ends of the earth as we were commanded by Christ. But throughout the years there either weren't the people to commit to it or there was were not the means to support for the long-term until now. I have been proud to partner with Pastor Peter Haleyalgiy, supporting him and his wife Queen as they lead the PMF Church here in Yap. They have selflessly and tirelessly committed to reaching their people of the outer-islands for Christ. Every week on Friday, Peter and his wife Queen board the plane to go to Ulithi Atoll or Fais Island and conduct a Bible study with a small group in each of those islands.

This ministry has not been without its trials. Some of the people who were part of the group when it started are no longer attending. Yet Peter and his wife continue to press on, investing and teaching those who are faithful. This is the struggle in any ministry. God will be the One to draw the people closer to Himself; we are just called to plant the seed, share the gospel and stay committed. As part of discipling the new believers that the Lord has brought up from these Bible study groups, PMA/PMF has sought to bring in Bible teachers from outside to help train them. One church that we have partnered with is Centerville Christian Fellowship (CCF) from Centerville, Ohio, USA. This is the third year that they have sent a team to Micronesia to help teach the Bible. This year, Senior Pastor Erik Spohr brought three of his pastors and two lay pastors from their church to lead a 5-day-workshop with 25 sessions focused on training six outer-island leaders-to-be. Two of the men, David Knoll and Chris Bernstein, had been to Yap before with Erik and were familiar faces to some of the men, which helped integrate the group a little better.

The sessions included topics that taught the men how to prepare Bible studies and sermons, how to read, understand and interpret the Bible, as well as the purpose of a church gathering and other aspects of the church ministry.

Pastor Peter mentioned that much of what was taught he had already touched on with some of these men, but he was grateful for the added detail, the affirmation of what he had taught and the reinforcing of these principles. Along the way, Peter would ask the men to focus on additional topics that he thought were important for the islander leaders such as the relationship of a husband and wife and how it is similar to the relationship between the church and Christ. Peter was also able to spend one-on-one time with Erik Spohr and learn additional techniques on how to prepare and deliver sermons.

While the men were in sessions for 4-5 hours each day, the women took turns cooking to have their lunch and dinners prepared for them as well as refreshments during the sessions. The ladies of the church also wove beautiful placemats as gifts to give to the CCF teachers to take back home with them.

One of the men, Nick Rodgers, who is CCF's youth pastor, teamed up with Ken Steiger and led a youth group event each night. Nick taught some new songs as well as leading challenging devotionals for the youth. Ken then took over and, using a program they called “His Pins”, taught the youth archery with a Christian message. It was a fun activity for the youth not only to learn some archery, but also to see the symbolism that was used to point them towards Christ.

As a grand finale for their trip after intensive workshops all week, we boarded the plane and flew to both Ulithi and Fais. In Ulithi, however, there was a funeral which prohibited us from having a meeting, so we just did a little bit of snorkeling. But then when we went to Fais, we walked down into the village where the Bible study group had assembled. And in a little tin shack which was quite warm to say the least, we had a mini church service in which we prayed, sang songs and then heard a message from the Bible from another pastor, Nick Rundlett. I think it was a great experience for the new believers out there to be visited by fellow brothers in Christ, and it was also a blessing to the men of CCF to see first-hand the group that was being led by men they were helping to equip.

We are thankful and grateful to our brothers from CCF who came halfway across the world to help teach and equip our new believers and church leaders. We wish them a safe journey home to their families, and we look forward to their return to Yap in the future.

Visiting pastors and the island leaders are praising God for a great learning time.



Faithful to the End!

“Precious in the sight of the LORD is the death of his faithful servant.”
Psalm 116:15

Burnis Danis, a gifted preacher at PMF church in Pohnpei, went to heaven on Sunday, Sept. 22, 2019. He delivered a powerful sermon on the day of his divine departure: The message of salvation and the illustration of his own transformed life from darkness to light. One hour after the service on his way home, he suffered a massive heart attack. Burnis, at age 66, frequently commented, “I am so ready to go and meet my Lord.” We who remain said, “But Burnis, we need you here!” Yet, God sees the big picture and Burnis who loved to study the Bible is finally in the place where he can get all the answers and see and adore His personal, loving Lord . What a legacy of faithfulness he has left for his family and church. Well done good and faithful servant, enter into the joy of the Lord! Burnis leaves behind his beloved wife Gloria, 5 children and 20 grandchildren, thank you for remembering them in prayer.

Burnis life’s verse: *“I have been crucified with Christ and I no longer live, but Christ lives in me. The life I now live in the body, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.”* Galatians 2:20

Surrounded by his grandchildren, whom he faithfully brought to church, Burnis had a passion to share the Gospel and boldly proclaimed God’s amazing Grace!



BAHAY KALINGA ORPHANAGE

Brgy. Santiago , Naujan, Oriental Mindoro



Christmas Greetings from our home to yours!

We give thanks to God for a successful review of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). Bahay Kalinga has received 3 awards:

- (1) Invaluable implementation of Alternative Parental Care Program as a Child Caring Agency.
- (2) Most expeditious processing of Foundling and Surrendered Cases.
- (3) The Most Responsive Caring Agency.

What a great testimony for our Lord! We thank God for our staff at BK headed by Jeny Gutierrez. Continue to pray for them as they continue to love, care and meet the needs of the children under our care. Thank you dear partners for your faithful prayer and support!

“Father to the fatherless, defender of the widows – this is God, whose dwelling is holy.” Psalm 68:5





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