

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



The Work Goes On!

Issue

Issue #2 - 2020

On our Cover

Medevac, serving orphans,
outreach to island children...
the work goes on even during
this Pandemic.

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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
Media Production personnel
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 Aviation Hangar: PMA Staff continue to work on the inside of the building. First floor wiring has been installed including outlet plugs, for the ladies and men's rest rooms only the stall doors need to be installed, painting of the walls, air conditioning and installation of flooring are still to be done. On the second floor, the walls are up, wiring and lights are installed, and ceiling is done. The metal fabrication of the stairs is completed and the stairs are functional. All the doors in the building, from the first floor to the second floor are done. There are still many small projects that a short-term missionary can help us with. We still need \$100,000 to complete the hangar project.

Outer-island airstrip in the Philippines: Final documentation for the transfer of title, have Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) inspect the land, prepare/clear the land and put up a fence around it. Pray for all these to be accomplished. The Enhanced Community Quarantine has inhibited all this to happen as no one can travel to and from the islands. We still need \$50,000 for the project.

*"But who am I, and who are my people,
that we should be able to give as generously as this?
Everything comes from you,
and we have given you only
what comes from your hand."*



**PMA President
Nob Kalau**

Dear Mission Friends,

"Taste and see that the LORD is good. Oh, the joys of those who take refuge in Him!" Psalm 34:8

We have all been inundated with so much news of the pandemic. Each day we are provided new statistics that I know, can be wearying. I was scheduled to return to Pohnpei in March after working at our mission station in Palau, when the border was abruptly locked down, in and out, and now in June the government has still not allowed its residents back into the island of Pohnpei. My wife and I are an ocean a part, and I cannot return to my mission station until the ban is lifted. Through all these, I am

reminded of the 23rd Psalm wherein David said, *"Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil, for You are with me; Your rod and Your staff, they comfort me."* Psalm 23:4

We are indeed in the valley as we go through this pandemic, but one thing that gives us hope is that, as believers, we are only experiencing the shadow of death. Jesus took on our death when He paid a debt He didn't owe because we owed a debt we couldn't pay. We can be assured that our Good Shepherd will lead us safely home. Christians need not fear!

We have much to be thankful for: there are no Coronavirus cases in our island mission stations of Pohnpei, Yap, Palau and the islands of ministry in the Philippines: Patnanungan, Jomalig, Apad, Guinayagan, Kilogan, Amaga and Calutcot. Our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage is safe and Guam's cases have been pegged at 154 with 124 released, but sadly 5 deaths. We do pray for all those who are suffering due to this pandemic and ask God for His mercy as he leads us through the valley we are all passing through.

In this issue of Island Echoes, you will learn of the faithfulness of the Lord in providing the needs of PMA, how our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage continues to lovingly care for abandoned children, the Lord guiding a missionary pilot and his family to serve with PMA, how a ministry to one person turned out to be a church plant, how an island in isolation continues to serve its people, and a glimpse of the past in the aviation ministry of PMA Philippines. All these show the goodness of the Lord and we know that we will be able to taste His goodness in the land of the living.

We thank God for you dear friends – your faithfulness through the years has been a blessing to us and the people we serve. *"And after you have suffered a little while, the God of all grace, who has called you to his eternal glory in Christ, will himself restore, confirm, strengthen, and establish you."* 1 Peter 5:10

Nob Kalau
President

Forever Grateful

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

*“I don’t say this because I want a gift from you.
Rather, I want you to receive a reward for your kindness.”*
Philippians 4:17

I just completed a survey with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) on how this pandemic has affected giving and the support donations PMA has received in April 2020 compared to January of this year and compared to last year’s giving of the same month. It opened my eyes all the more to the graciousness of our Lord and the generosity of our partners! What a blessing it was to see that our partners have faithfully given month after month and that the Lord has allowed them to do this and continue to use them as a channel of His blessing!

The world has changed so fast from last year to now. What we took for granted, now we have to be mindful and intentional of what we do. We are cautioned almost every day to be careful, wash our hands, not to touch our faces, stay 6 feet away from people, wear masks when out and about, to “shelter” oneself and family so as to “flatten the curve” and so many other precautionary measures to avoid contracting/spreading the virus. With all these comes the reality that many businesses have closed down, people are not getting paid as they cannot go back to work, and there is a downtrend in the economy.

As a mission who depends upon the generosity of God’s people, this can be scary as we have missionaries and workers who need to be provided and fed, just like any other family here and abroad. More than the physical side of things, the work of sharing the Good News of the Lord Jesus Christ must go forth without fail, as this is needed now more than ever! People need to be aware of eternity before them; an eternity with God or without Him, hopeless forever! They need to have a saving knowledge of the Lord, and to be taught and mentored to grow in the wisdom, knowledge of the Lord. They need to be encouraged that our Lord specializes in providing His presence, assurance and encouragement in times like these! Our pastors and workers continue to faithfully share His Word, praying for their people and when needed provide relief goods to those in need. Yes, the work goes on no matter what!

Our aviation ministry is able to provide for its own operations. However, since the pandemic, although Yap and Palau (thank God!) do not have any cases in their islands, we have not been able to fly as much. Aviation costs represent 52% of PMA’s total expenses, hence this needs to be covered. Our aircraft need to be ready for any emergency and even when not in use, they need to be maintained which would mean parts and supplies and availability of aviation gas in stock. Our operation in Yap was greatly affected as we have been flying only cargo and supplies to the outer-islands and just resumed flying passengers at the beginning of May. In Palau, we have been flying to Angaur only once a week with local passengers, at a much discounted rate.

However, the trip there every Saturday is also one where our staff conducts a Bible study among adults while another teaches the children the Word of God, a highlight to our Palau missionary/staff!

But then, God intervened! Our Director of Flights, Amos Collins, informs us that the FSM government appropriated funds for PMA for the first time. They said that PMA has been supporting Micronesia with humanitarian services for so long and they wanted to give us funds to help us purchase fuel! Then the Yap Department of Health came to our office in Yap and provided us with a grant which would allow them to purchase commodities for different agencies on island. They decided PMA was deserving of this because PMA has been flying their patients and medicines for free ever since the start. Indeed, this is a great testimony of the Lord’s provision!

We are also grateful to our European brethren in Germany and Switzerland, who have continued to contribute to our missionaries’ support and PMA operations.

Dear Faithful Partners and Prayer Warriors, we are so thankful for you! Your perseverance even during these times are a great blessing to us and we pray that the God who is the giver of all good gifts may bless you with exceeding joy and gladness as you give freely from your hearts. May He protect your families from this pestilence and place a hedge of protection around you all!

Melinda with our C-206 in Palau. We thank God for His faithful provision and that we can continue to serve the island people during these difficult times.



God's Sovereign Plan

by Pastor Marty Lumigis,
Pastoral Care and Development, PMA Philippines



We thank God for Pastor Roger Cordero who answered the call of God to serve Him in the Village of Apad, Jomalig, Philippines.

I would like to begin with Proverbs 19:21 which says, *“Many are the plans in a person’s heart, but it is the Lord’s purpose that prevails”*. Pacific Mission Fellowship Church (PMF) in the village of Apad, Jomalig Island, Philippines, started in June 2017 with a single believer who had a passion to know the Lord Jesus Christ. He was baptized in our PMF church in the village of Catmon but he was a resident of Apad.

Even though Apad is an hour’s drive by motorcycle from Poblacion Jomalig, our PMF Jomalig Pastor, Jun Mandreza and his wife Arlene, patiently visited Apad conducting Bible studies and teaching children about Jesus. This later became a regular outreach of PMF Jomalig which turned into a starting point for us to think of the need to have a church. The community responded quickly to the Gospel and there was no evangelical Christian church in Apad.

In 2018, God gave us a small house and lot wherein we could gather. To our surprise, the house overflowed with adults and children, from Sunday to Sunday. As the numbers of attending individuals grew, we prayed again for a more spacious lot to build a church. In 2019, God gave us another lot beside the acquired property. Pray with us to pursue the construction of a church building in the near future.

At first, we had an intern serving in Apad to assist Pastor Jun Mandreza who stayed in Apad and could attend to the needs of the people. But God had more plans for this village! Pastor Roger Cordero from Mindanao (Southernmost part of the Philippines) responded to the call of God to pastor PMF Apad. He and his family decided to join with our team to grow the church in Apad.

In February of 2020, Pastor Roger arrived in Apad and together with intern Dave, they have been working to grow the church spiritually by conducting house to house Bible studies. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, our pastors find time to visit each family in order to pray and teach the word of God on a daily basis, still minding the social distancing rule. They not only serve and meet the spiritual needs of the church but the physical needs as well. PMA assisted in giving relief goods through the church. Yes, our purpose as a mission to bring hope and change lives is evident as they minister to the people in the community. Indeed God is doing great and mighty things in Apad through PMA/PMF church and the ministering people who God brought to this place.

The growth in Apad is far beyond our thoughts and plans! We were desiring to nurture one single person but God gave us families! We prayed for a small place of worship but God opened the way to give us much more than we asked or imagined! We give all the glory and praise to God and God alone! It was His sovereign plan to build His church in this place... Great things He has done!



From one single person who received Jesus as Lord and Savior, the Lord blessed Apad with a church plant that now serves not only this village, but the next village of Bukal as well!

A Mother's Heart

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

“Can a mother forget the baby at her breast and have no compassion on the child she has borne? Though she may forget, I will not forget you!” Isaiah 49:15

Can a mother forget the child she bore? Sadly, from our experience, a mother can forget and even abandon her own child. Our Bahay Kalinga (BK) Orphanage has had the experience of receiving babies abandoned by their mothers; some found in the trash, in a tricycle, outside a store, inside a bag hanging on our BK gate, others may be living with their parents, but for all intents and purposes, they are left to fend for themselves and had to be rescued as they were malnourished, sickly and some children were caught stealing so they could feed themselves... the list goes on. How can this be, you ask? It is because of sin in this world. People only looking after their own pleasure and interest. However, all is not lost. We have a God who loves us and has rescued us from sin and the ravages of it. He has promised that He will not forget us! *“Behold, I have inscribed you on the palms of My hands”*, Isaiah 19:16

Through the ministry of BK, children are given a new lease on life. They are well fed, cared for and loved by our care givers who have a “mother’s heart”. Those abandoned or neglected are endorsed to us by the local Department of Social Welfare and we care for them as temporary sheltered children (221 of them so far). While with us, we provide them with everything: food, clothing, visits to the doctors for primary health care as well as when they are sick, and if they are of school age, we enroll and take them to school daily. But most of all, they find themselves in a loving home where they are provided with individual care, hugs and a sense of belonging.

At present, we have 5 children ready for adoption. Two of them have been matched. One has been matched with a family from Europe. The baby found in a blue bag hanging on our gate has been matched with a couple from the south of the Philippines who have longed for a child. How we thank God for these “made in heaven” matches. To date we have served 257 children of which 36 have been surrendered to us for adoption and the rest for temporary shelter.

In the month of May we celebrated Mother’s Day. I am thankful to the Lord who had given me a mother who was loving, gracious and caring. But more than that I am so thankful that the Lord loves and cares for me exceedingly more than a human mother can. He is always there when I call and being the God He is, He works all things well in my life for my good and for His glory.

We praise and thank God that through the ministry of PMA, we are able to share the life-saving Gospel. Many who are lost, feel abandoned and alone are rescued, adopted and transferred into the Kingdom of Light of our dear Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ!

Praise God for the ability to care for children and to find permanent loving homes for them. We thank God for caregivers with a “mother’s heart”.



Isolation Island

by Heidi Collins, Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

Here on Yap we have been fortunate to escape the COVID-19 pandemic. The island's relative isolation has certainly helped in our favor, but Yap's health experts and leaders also deserve much credit, as they took this virus seriously early on and acted decisively to keep it from our shores. We are all so grateful for their superhuman efforts to protect the lives of their beloved people. Our doctors, nurses, port and airport personnel, and government leaders have worked for months non-stop to meet this challenge. It is not always easy to persuade people to adhere to safety guidelines, but by and large the local people have shown their support and cooperation, despite the closing of borders, cancellation of schools, social distancing and a mandatory curfew.

PMA's mission in Yap is to serve the islands in our area physically and spiritually. When the neighboring island of Guam (which usually has two flights weekly to Yap) reported positive COVID-19 cases, the Yap Task Force recommended that we stop taking passengers to the Outer Islands until they could ensure that recent arrivals from Guam to Yap had completed their quarantine period. Since food and medical supplies were still needed, however, the PMA crew were allowed to fly these necessities to the islands and bring sick patients out while taking required precautions. Many people from Ulithi and Fais islands were stranded in Yap during these long weeks, but they understood that the purpose of these measures was to keep their fragile islands safe.

Much of the population here has underlying medical conditions such as heart and kidney disease, diabetes and hypertension. The Coronavirus could devastate these islands, which is why people were so willing to cooperate even when it caused them significant inconvenience. For seven weeks schools were canceled. At PMF church, we decided to cancel our large group gathering while we waited for more information on how our island was faring. Because most of our church members don't have consistent internet for Zoom meetings, Pastor Petrus instead found a way to continue church services and Bible studies analog-style by making home visits and teaching people outside their houses at a distance.

After seven weeks, the island was considered virus-free and things started to go back to "normal", with some exceptions, of course. The country's borders are still closed, and precautions are still taken to ensure incoming cargo is sanitized and quarantined before being released. As a result, FSM is one of the few (approx.) 13 countries around the world still free of the Corona virus. We are very aware, however, that the majority of the world did not have the advantages that we did (easily-to-restrict borders and an early warning from countries affected earlier), and they are suffering in a myriad of ways-physically, economically, socially, etc. We pray for the people of these countries in our gatherings as a church and in our homes.

PMA's passenger flights have resumed to the Outer Islands, reuniting happy family members. Pastor Petrus will be able to fly to Ulithi and Fais once again to encourage the believers there. Recently, his wife Quentina was able to train a young believer to teach the Bible to women and kids on Fais. Our ladies' Bible study group here in Yap started a garden, where we plant taro, tapioca, and other local crops, and also cut firewood to share with those who need food and fuel. This occasion also doubles as a time of friendship and prayer. In short, God has been so faithful to us in Yap. We praise Him for His protection and for continuing to make Himself known in all kinds of circumstances!

Hygiene and sanitation are still our primary concerns even as we only transport cargo to the outer-islands.



Following God, One Step at a Time

by Jan Klassen, Missionary Pilot, Palau

*“I have directed you in the way of wisdom;
I have led you in upright paths”.*

Proverbs 4:11

About 10 years ago, a missionary asked me if I could see myself as a missionary one day. My answer was an honest and straightforward: “No”.

However, I was still seeking God’s will and was open and willing to invest in His kingdom. In the next few years, God showed me clearly that His ways and His plans for my life were different than mine. I learned that I cannot ask God for His will for my life while excluding the option to become a missionary!

One day, I heard about mission aviation and was fascinated about the combination of flying while serving God and people. Still, there were many unanswered questions: How will I be able to afford the training? Who would support me financially in the mission field? Would I pass the required flight medical physical exam with my allergies? Will my parents and my church support my calling? The financial cost to become a missionary pilot really discouraged me, and it seemed to be an unrealistic dream for me.

Yet, I still felt a strong desire to become a missionary pilot and decided to take one step at a time without having all the answers to my questions. God indeed provided for all my needs! It was not easy for me to trust God without having a complete plan. It is amazing how He led me His way step by step and provided for everything in His time!

I trained to be a pilot with MAF (Missionary Aviation Fellowship) in Europe. When my training was complete, PMA Germany approached me with a need for pilots. MAF agreed to let me do an internship with PMA during 2020.

My wife Rebecca, daughter Aleah, and I are thankful for the opportunity to serve with PMA in Palau and to gain our first experience in mission aviation. We enjoy the fellowship within Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMA’s church ministry), and I already learned a lot from my colleagues. We are looking forward to serving with PMA in the coming months and continue to grow in trusting our providing God!

What a great assurance it is to know that our Lord has a plan for our lives. And what a joy it is to be following His direction. Jan, Rebecca and Aleah have experienced all these as they serve the Lord in Palau.



A Few Can Make a Difference

by Capt. Ephraim Lacanilao,
former PMA Philippines Missionary Pilot, September 1989



Ephraim received his Pilot's wings when he served with PMA Philippines (Flying Medical Samaritans back then). We thank God for his desire to go back to mission flying. Please pray for him.

A dusky Thursday morning found the PMA Philippine's Cessna 182 lined up on runway 13, at the Manila Domestic Airport ready for take-off. At 7 AM we were airborne bound for another outreach. Our destination: Katakian, the last island in eastern Luzon. It lies only 45 minutes away from busy Manila streets, and yet the island of 1,000 people is barely touched by modernization. These people have settled for what nature provides. Blessed with the sea's richness, they are mainly occupied with fishing and related chores. With their simple lifestyle, they have one goal: survival. Few take up the challenge to pursue improvement, the rest resign themselves to mediocrity.

This was not our first time here, but we still had no idea of what to expect with regards to the kind of physical and spiritual help the people required. As the number of patients dwindled at the clinic, a small child was carried in. We were grieved at the sight as Dr. Ruiz began the diagnosis. This two-

year-old child weighed only six and a half pounds! Suffering from third degree malnutrition due to diarrhea, his condition was complicated by pneumonia. Realizing that he had only a slim chance of survival in Katakian, and knowing he could not be properly treated there, Dr. Ruiz suggested to his mother that we airlift the little boy and take him to a hospital in Manila.

She hesitated, thinking her family couldn't afford making a trip to the mainland, much less afford the cost of the hospital. Dr. Ruiz gently explained to her that PMA would request help from friends for hospital costs. And so we flew this tiny patient to Manila and had him admitted in a hospital. Dr. Ruiz and I immediately began to raise funds. The response was tremendous! Christian friends pledged to help, and churches readily reached out. We were amazed and encouraged by the generosity of people responding to the Holy Spirit's urging.

A few days later, I made a routine call to our office and our accountant gave me the sad news that this little boy had passed away. Was it all in vain? The trips, the treatment, the help ... why did it happen? A quiet moment, a deep sigh, a whispered prayer and finally facing reality. He is one of the many in the islands.

Little boy, was it all in vain? I believe not, for your plight deepened our commitment to serve, equipped us with more compassion and perseverance in our service. For though we are few, we can make a difference.

From the Editor: We have made 3 installments to a piece of property in the island of Poblacion, Patnanungan, for an airstrip which is at the heart of all the islands we service. The last installment payment is dependent on the finalization of documents. We still have to prepare this property, clear it, fence it and before all these – get all our documents lined up with the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP), with the local Engineer's office and local government as people have occupied part of the vacant property. There is much to be done and funds to be raised. We have the C-206 aircraft which is now in Palau ready to be ferried to the Philippines. We could start flying in the Philippines to help the islands in need, however, we need for the Lord to raise up a pilot/mechanic who would serve there. Would you please pray with us for the mission flying in the Philippines to begin anew? Thank you!



One little boy in the Philippines outer-island was asked - what is airplane in English? He confidently shouted: "FMS!" - the former name of PMA Philippines.



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