

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #3 - 2020

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Ceaseless: Our God Continues to Work!

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Issue

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On our Cover

Collins children and friend enjoy a ride at the back of a pick-up truck in a Covid-free environment in Yap, FSM. Joyful faces of children at Bahay Kalinga Orphanage.

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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

Come Join us in bringing hope and changing lives!

- Administrative Assistant for Guam HQ
- Missionary Pastors/Youth Workers for Island Churches
- Boat Captain for Medical Ship Sea Haven
- Boat Mechanic for Medical Ship Sea Haven
- Missionary Pilots/Mechanics for Micronesia/Philippippines
- Media Production personnel (Promotional video production/ Social media presence)
- Technical Missionaries for Agriculture, Water Projects

Please contact PMA Headquarters at guamhq@pmapacific.org for job descriptions.

Infrastructure Needs:

Palau Aviation Hangar: We are completing small projects inside the hangar: tiling, painting, in the hopes of completing the Hangar by the end of this year.

Outer-island airstrip in the Philippines: Due to this Pandemic - Patnanungan Island has been on lockdown. Hence the Civil Aviation Authority of the Philippines (CAAP) has still to come and inspect the property. We are clearing the land and plan to start putting up a fence. We still need \$50,000 for this project.

*“But who am I, and who are my people,
that we should be able to offer as generously as this?
For all things come from You, and from
Your own hand we have given to You.”*

1 Chronicles 29:14



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**PMA President
Nob Kalau**

Dear Friends,

God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, though the earth give way and the mountains fall into the heart of the sea..

He says, *“Be still, and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth.”* Psalm 46:1-2, 10

How are you and your loved ones doing during this unprecedented time of global pandemic?

With masks and lockdowns, virtual meetings and social distancing, it seems as though we're living in some crazy apocalyptic movie. We are all wishing and praying for things to return to normal, but 6 months have already passed and we continue to adjust and make the best of it all.

We, like all of you, have been doing life and work very differently. However, we are grateful to serve a God who is unchanging; and we have an unchanged mission to introduce as many as possible, to Him and His Word. The work in the islands continues on with stories in this edition of the IE about the baptisms of new believers, children awaiting adoption from our orphanage, new doctors joining our medevac team, helping the elderly, teaching the children and adjusting the mission stations to the limitations and new opportunities of the pandemic. And it's working, as our amazing missionaries are using creative ways to reach out with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

We also want to keep you updated on the fact that only 12 countries in the world, and most of them in Oceania, have not confirmed any cases of COVID-19. Two of these COVID free countries are the Federated States of Micronesia and Palau. Unfortunately, Micronesia is the only country that has not repatriated a single resident to come back home. They have been in lockdown and have locked out hundreds of family members since March, patiently waiting in other countries to return to their home island. This includes me.

Thank you for all you do to stand by your missionaries and support them in much needed prayer. And thank you for your commitment to spreading the love of God through and with PMA!

Nob Kalau

Keeping the Spiritual Fervor, Serving the Lord

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator, HQ Guam

“Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervor, serving the Lord. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the Lord’s people who are in need. Practice hospitality.” Romans 12:11-12

One of PMA’s core values is “Relationship”. “We value relationship with God, with our family, and our PMA family. We uphold one another in high esteem, whether present or absent.” Several Scripture verses are a foundation of this value. PMA is an island ministry. Our greatest challenge is building relationships with one another in the PMA family as we are far from one another, with stretches of ocean between each of us. We know that communication is vital to encourage, build up and edify one another. The distance has even become more complicated due to this Pandemic. The islands where we serve are Covid-free and there have been no flights/passenger transports into these islands.

You know, for such a time as this, God allowed the creation of internet. Before, it was a just a means to send messages, provide communication links with one another. However, during this pandemic, this has become a more intentional way of getting in touch. We can have weekly prayer time on Skype with our PMA Family in Yap, Palau, Pohnpei, the U.S. and even Germany. We are able to share prayer concerns, praises, insightful updates and of course encourage one another.

Our island staff in Palau, Yap, and Pohnpei are only a Messenger, Skype or WhatsApp message away and we are made aware of what is happening at the moment in the mission and ministries we are involved in as well as each other’s lives. Although this does not replace face to face personal contact – still we are able to discuss things important to ministry and even in our personal life. It also allows us to know and pray specifically for concerns. Indeed we are all connected in prayer through the Holy Spirit.

I am so very thankful that our island pastors/workers in the Philippines are in islands with cell sites and therefore we are able to connect one-on-one, have zoom meetings where we all share what is going on in each individual island: victory and answers to prayers, challenges and problems and sharing of God’s Word and even conducting teaching/training sessions with Pastor Marty, attend a graduation of the PMA Academy in Patnanungan, and even attend their worship services. What a great boost it is to all of us as we are able to see each one’s face!

As we reach out and communicate with one another, we are able to cheer, inspire, and keep each other’s zeal for the Lord burning. To be steadfast, immovable and always abounding in our labor of love for Him and sharing the Gospel message that only Jesus saves and is our only hope in these trying times.

A great blessing to attend an online worship service led by brother Bryan at PMF Patnanungan all the way from Guam!



Legal Adoption, The Best Choice

by Jeny Gutierrez, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Center Head

Every child in our Orphanage has a story. Mostly a sad one. At present we have 15 children, 7 are ready for adoption and 3 are ready for physical transfer to their adoptive family (all pending due to the Pandemic) and the rest are with us for temporary shelter. Here are some of the stories (note: these are not their real names):

Mon was admitted on July 09, 2019, and is now 1-year-old. He came from a very dysfunctional and destitute family. His biological grandmother and mother had no stable jobs. His father was in jail and Mon had five other siblings that needed support. The mother decided to give him up for adoption so he could have a better life. He was accepted and immediately loved and cared for at Bahay Kalinga.

Gel, a 14-month-old baby, was admitted to PMA-Bahay Kalinga on April 2, 2019. She was found in a plastic bag hanging on a fence. After processing her with the local government unit, Municipal Health Office and local social services, she was admitted into Bahay Kalinga. We are thankful to God that Gel has shown so many improvements in her physical and mental growth since then.

Zia, a 26-month-old girl was admitted at PMA-Bahay Kalinga last April 10, 2018 two days after her birth. She was surrendered to us because her mother, a rape victim, sought assistance from the local social services for the placement of her child. The mother had no capacity to raise her daughter as she had physical infirmities that did not allow her to function well. She also had no immediate relatives who could ably care for Zia.

Both Mon and Gel were declared legally available for adoption when they were 7-months-old and last month they were successfully matched in a local adoption. Zia was also successfully matched through the Inter-Country Adoption Board with a couple from Italy. For now, we are excitedly waiting for their physical transfer to their adoptive families. It is a mixed feeling for us because we have come to love them as our own and now we need to say goodbye. We will truly miss them! Yet we are ecstatically happy that they will finally have a family of their very own.

How thankful we are that their mothers made the choice to let them live and allowed them to be given to our orphanage so we could find good homes for them. Thank You Lord, that legal adoption is a blessed choice for life! To God be the Glory!

Having served 258 children to-date, these children leave their imprint in our hearts. We all love them individually and care for and pray for them even when they leave us.



Ceaseless

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

The pandemic has stopped normal life in our world as we know it. For five months now, offices, establishments, businesses, work, travel, and even corporate worship in churches are halted because of it. And the ministry in the islands has also been affected. Worship services, visitations and Bible studies were stopped temporarily. At first, we saw this as a hindrance to our daily routine and ministries, but later we realized that it's an opportunity to further the work that God has given us.

Because of the lockdowns and restrictions in every barangay, some of the members of PMF Poblacion Jomalig who are from Barangay Casuguran, (a barangay two to three kilometers away from Poblacion Jomalig) could not attend the limited opportunity to worship corporately. Knowing this, Pastor Jun Mandreza and wife Baby visited PMF members Diosalena, Felina, Meanne, and Liwanag, knowing that they could not attend PMF church in Poblacion Jomalig. Upon arrival, they saw a group of children who were just playing on the sidewalk. Watching these children, Pastor Jun Mandreza asked the members if they could start a children's ministry outreach, and they said, "Yes!". They started immediately the next time they visited the place. After two weeks of visitation and doing children's ministry, to their surprise one of the members asked them if they could also do the same for the adults and offered a place for them to meet every Sunday and also planned to invite their neighbors to the gathering. What an answer to prayer! It was on June 27 that they officially started their corporate worship with 10 adults and 20 to 30 children in attendance every Sunday afternoon.

God is a God who makes things possible! Even if the world seems to be at a standstill, God never sleeps! His love is steadfast and His faithfulness never ceases. The pandemic became a blessing to our PMF Church in Poblacion Jomalig as they saw an opportunity to further the Gospel in a nearby barangay. Today, every Sunday they continue to minister to the people in Casuguran with much excitement in their hearts. More young people, young adults, men and women from PMF Poblacion Jomalig are actively participating and committed in the ministry in Casuguran - helping in both children and adult ministries from Sunday to Sunday.

Indeed God is ceaseless in His work, doing great and miraculous things in our churches and in the lives of His children at this time of pandemic. And we know that He will continue to work until the day He returns! In closing from the book of Job 42:2, "I know that you can do all things; no purpose of yours can be thwarted." Truly the work of the Lord never stops, if it is for His glory and honor, Praise the Lord!

Another open door to bring the Good News of our Lord Jesus Christ to the people of Barangay Casuguran!



Teamwork makes the Vision Work

by Stephen Newton,
Missionary Pilot/Mechanic, Republic of Palau

The sun shone down on us as the man was secured onto the stretcher. Three seats had been removed from the Cessna to allow enough space. On the count of three, two of us lifted the stretcher and, with the help of others, loaded our patient into the plane. With teamwork, this was and will continue to be a smooth and efficient operation. Efficiency and teamwork are essential for the positive outcome of any medical evacuation. This particular medevac was a training exercise for us at PMA Palau.

We have recently partnered with the Palauan based U.S. Civic Action Team (CAT). Their Medical Officer was willing to help create a system where we have their “CAT doctor” join us on medevac flights to the islands of Angaur and Peleliu. The CAT team camp is located only about a minute from our hangar. By partnering with the CAT doctor, we will reduce our response time for a medevac by an estimated hour or more.

PMA Pilot Jan with CAT Team.



In the case of patients with a critical condition, this could mean the difference between life and death. Having such quick access to a medical officer will allow us to better serve the people of Palau. And by serving these physical needs, we are truly being the hands and feet of our Lord Jesus.

The Civic Action Team normally remains in Palau for six months and then will be replaced by another. Before the turnover, the previous Medical Officer introduced us to the next Medical Officer, and we were able to accomplish this training and receive valuable advice from them while at the same time getting them familiar with our planes, routes, and response times.

As I consider the teamwork necessary for a quick and safe medical evacuation, I am reminded of the body of Christ. How each part serves its purpose, and when all parts work in unity, our heavenly Father is glorified.

...”complete my joy by being of the same mind, having the same love, being in full accord and of one mind.”
Philippians 2:2

PMA Pilot Stephen with CAT Team training for a medical evacuation.

Baptism in Fais – Decisions for Christ

by Amos Collins, Director of Flight Operations, Yap Micronesia

“Love all People, Build the Body of Christ, Disciple the Faithful.” Like many churches, our PMF Church does its best to disciple new believers in their faith. We see a lot of seeds fall on the rocky soil and spring up fast, which can be encouraging, only to see them fall back into their old ways after a time. I am always encouraged by our Pastor Petrus and his wife Queen, who diligently press on month after month and year after year, even though they see this happen often. It is therefore all the more encouraging when there are new believers who stay the course and run their roots deep into the soil and anchor themselves in God’s Word.

Soon after a believer’s commitment to Christ is made, we begin making plans for their baptism. If these new believers were on the main island of Yap, it would be quite simple. We could just plan to go down to the water right after Church and “dunk ‘em”. But with the new outreaches in the outer islands, this takes a bit more time. The trip out to the island to have the baptism is a factor, but also the discipleship and the teaching about what baptism is. In the case of these three men, several months had passed since they first expressed their desire to be baptized.

But due to the pandemic regulations, Pastor Petrus could not make it out to Fais Island to sit and talk with them at length. I remember back in February, there was a situation where someone in the community had begun spreading lies to our group, saying that baptism was not necessary. So, on one of Petrus’ trips to Fais Island, he had to share again about baptism, not that it gives salvation, but that it is outwardly symbolic of the new salvation within, a command Jesus asks us to obey.

Finally, the day arrived when we were able to plan a flight out to Fais. Petrus had sent one of his “disciples” ahead to prepare the group so that when we arrived, everything would be ready since we only had a few hours on the ground. I had already done one flight that morning, returned to Yap, picked up Petrus and Queen and returned to Fais. We walked from the plane, down to the beach where the entire Bible Study group (and more people) had assembled. They greeted us with a few songs, and then we all went into a hut for a devotional. Petrus shared one last message about baptism and its importance for the Christian.

After the message and prayer, we all made our way down to the beach. It was low tide by now and would have been difficult for a baptism had there not been a small eddy that had been dredged out, which created a small pool about 4 feet deep. Petrus went in first and proceeded to baptize three men whom he has been discipling for at least a year now. Two of these men have been helping Petrus in the Fais Bible study. And the third is the father of one of the members who is also a chief in Fais. What an example he is setting for his people by choosing to follow Christ. We pray that more people will follow his example and make a decision for Jesus Christ.

A blessed day and a great witness to the people in Fais as they watch the obedience of these baptized disciples!



Living with Dementia

by Sylvia Kalau, Missionary, Pohnpei, Micronesia

Approaching death was something that Billy Graham said he did not fear. But growing old? That's another story! He writes, "All my life, I was taught how to die as a Christian, but no one ever taught me how I ought to live in the years before I die."

Learning to live with dementia is a challenge for anyone. As Christians, we are not exempt from any sickness or disease, but we do supernaturally possess God's never-ending presence to carry us through the challenging conditions of aging.

Elizabeth Kalau, the widow of PMA's founder Edmund Kalau, is 89 years and struggles with Parkinson's Disease and Dementia. The Kalaus faithfully served as missionaries for over 55 years in Micronesia. Following Edmund's trip to heaven, Elizabeth came to live with eldest son Nob and myself in Pohnpei. Thankfully, she is surrounded by a family that lovingly cares for her and Micronesian friends and coworkers from her many years of service.

Sabine, a single German missionary in Pohnpei, is known to have a servant's heart. She is always looking to help make a difference in the lives of others. Having visited Germany over the Christmas holidays, Sabine found her return to Pohnpei canceled due to the Coronavirus Pandemic. With the Federated States of Micronesia in total lockdown, no one has been allowed to travel into the country since March, including my husband Nob who continues to be stuck in Guam following a mission trip to Palau.

One day as Sabine was praying and asking God to show her how she could be involved remotely in the ministry while waiting for the lockdown to be lifted, the thought came to her that she could make virtual visits with Elizabeth each day on Skype for 1-2 hours. What a great idea! And so each day, Elizabeth looks forward to "The Sabine Hour".

Sabine leads Elizabeth in singing and prayer, reads the Bible in German, and asks her questions about the past to exercise her memory. Sometimes Elizabeth tells incredible stories, sometimes she doesn't answer, but Sabine doesn't give up. She continues to be that person who looks for ways to serve, going the extra mile with love for her aging friend and ministry of helps to us in the field.

"I will be your God throughout your lifetime – until your hair is white with age. I made you, and I will care for you. I will carry you along and save you." Isaiah 46:4

Elizabeth and Sabine enjoy their time together in Pohnpei. Now they enjoy each other through Skype.





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