## ISLGND ECHOES

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## Issue

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## On our Cover

Incredible journey of the first
King Air to Micronesia.

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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 (Guam and Micronesia)
- Boat Captain for Medical Ship Sea Haven, Micronesia
- Boat Mechanic for Medical Ship Sea Haven, Micronesia
- Missionary Pilots/Mechanics
for Micronesia/Philippines
- Media Production Personnel (graphics design and videographer), Guam, Micronesia and Philippines
- Technical Missionaries for Agriculture,

Water Projects, Philippines
Please contact PMA Headquarters at guamhq@pmapacific.org for job descriptions.

## Infrastructure Needs:

Church Building for Guinaygayan and Apad: We have started the construction of the Guinaygayan church. Our first challenge was water for construction needs and for the workers. We were able to dig a well which is now 25 feet deep. Good clean water has been found. Please pray for good weather, good health for the workers and the logistics for the construction materials and supplies. Apad church construction will begin as soon as the Guinaygayan project is completed. The islands are still on lockdown as the local government wants to keep it safe from the Covid virus. All our construction workers reside in the island and we will be using the same crew for the next project. Pray for Pastor Bryan who oversees this project.

Outer-Island Airstrip in the Philippines: Due to the Pandemic, Patnanungan Island has been on lockdown. Hence, CAAP (Civil Aviation Authority) still has to come and inspect the property. We are clearing the land and will start to put up the fence upon CAAP inspection. We still need $\$ 50,000$ for this project.
"How great is the goodness you have stored up for those who fear you. You lavish it on those who come to you for protection, blessing them before the watching world." Psalm 31:19

## Dear Mission Friend,

It is so good to be back home in Pohnpei with my wife Sylvia, our PMF church family and friends, after being locked out for 16 months. In Pohnpei the government has set up a quarantine center to make sure that no Covid enters into the island nation. I had to quarantine for 14 days before I was allowed to go home. On Yap, there are no commercial passenger flights in or out of the island. Only PMA is allowed to fly from Yap to the outer islands. In the Philippines, our missionaries are not allowed to travel freely and must accept isolation as the new normal. Indeed, Covid has made life more complicated for all of us, no matter where we live in this world. But there is a very positive effect that you may be experiencing along with us: We have more reasons to pray!

Every time we send out the Island Echoes to you, we ask that you join us in praying for the needs we have in the island mission field we serve in. We have a BIG reason to celebrate in this issue - and it's because of the incredible answer to prayer that we have experienced from our great God and His provision through our brothers and sisters at Samaritan's Purse. PMA is pleased to announce that the first donated King Air aircraft was safely ferried across a vigorous land route and has been in full service since its arrival. The second King Air will be ferried by PMA's Director of Flight Operations, Amos Collins, in mid-July via the Pacific Ocean route.

PMA has been praying for a turbine aircraft that has a longer range to reach our remote islands in Micronesia. We didn't know how God was going to answer our prayer, but we were persistent in asking and totally dependent on His will for answering. One of the main reasons God invites us to pray is that he is glorified through prayer. When we pray, it shows that we are dependent upon the Lord. We all absolutely need Jesus to work mightily in our lives. We need him to provide for us, strengthen us, and encourage us.

In this issue you can read about the details of what it took to ferry the plane to Micronesia from the perspective of 2 pilots: Brock and Preston. You will smile when you read about the children who were adopted from our Orphanage in the Philippines to loving parents and families in different parts of the world. You will rejoice with us over more indigenous pastors that were ordained to serve in the Islands of the Philippines. All these remind us of the fact that God is answering prayer more than we have asked for and more than we could think of. He promises to give only good things to those who are eager to ask.
"For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. Or which one of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent? If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him" Matthew 7:8-12

Nob Kalau
President/CEO

# Rejoicing, Praying and Giving Thanks - Always! 

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

"Rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances,
or this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus". 1Thess. 5:16-18
We praise God for His faithfulness as the first King Air donated by Samaritan's Purse finally arrived its destination... Yap, FSM! Months of preparation... changes in plans... days of flying... undergoing Covid tests in every country our pilots landed, following up documents... long days in the air, loss of sleep, weeks of quarantine for pilots and families... perseverance and patience and trusting God thru it all! Thanking God for all those who helped me here on Guam to facilitate what needed to be done! Thank you, Lord! You have been faithful and taught us so much during this journey. One of my favorite pastors once said: "God is more interested in building your character than He is in making life easy for you. He will lovingly put you in situations that will force you to change and mature."

What a wonderful night it was, as we waited for the first King Air to arrive in Guam. Nob Kalau and I, together with the ground crew, were excitedly waiting for their landing. It was a momentous occasion. The pilots went into quarantine on Guam. Preston Huntting and his family would fly to Yap on the King Air, while Brock Welge and family to Palau via commercial flight, being able to enter as an essential worker.

We rejoiced that our Guam-based Ulithian friends (from the island of Ulithi, Yap) were able to come and welcome the first King Air while on Guam. They brought flower leis for the occasion. We thank God for their words of encouragement for PMA's faithfulness in serving the island nations of Micronesia, specifically Yap. We in turn gave glory to God as we prayed and thanked Him for this wonderful gift from Samaritan's Purse!

Pilots: Brock Welge, Preston Huntting and Mike Harwood - look so happy to have arrived after a very long flight.

One of our Ulithian friends, John Rulmal Jr. (whose father was also a great friend of PMA), had this to say:
"How can I ever do justice for sharing my great sense of appreciation for our PMA family?
As a native son growing up in the isolated island of Ulithi, one can imagine the flood of excitement that never gets old every time we hear the roaring sound of the PMA aircraft. This memory has been etched in my mind as far back as when PMA was flying the very first black, red, and white colored plane. Some of us remember that plane as the "flying canoe" because of its canoe colors. For this island boy, the PMA plane was the first tangible example that sparked my curiosity of the possibilities that exist beyond the horizon, beyond my little island of Ulithi. Whether she was rushing off for medical evacuations, ferrying students to experience life beyond our humble shores, introducing visitors from the outside world, or the simple fond memories of Pastor Kalau and PMA pilots sharing treats with island children, PMA's Air Service has been a weekly excitement to these remote communities.

PMA's mission of "Bringing Hope, Changing lives" is exemplified by a team of amazing human beings that make up this operation. We will never find the right words to articulate how truly blessed we are to have them in our lives. PMA has been the lifeline for our isolated communities, and we are forever blessed to call you our PMA family. You are a true beacon of faith, and example that there is a loving God from above all. Hasa Hachigchig (thank you), our PMA family!"

What a joy it was for our Ulithian friends, one of whom was John Rulmal Jr. (second from left, with PMA's Melinda Espinosa and Nob Kalau beside him) to be able to "greet" the first King Air in Guam! They are truly thankful for the opportunity to congratulate and celebrate with us personally!

## God's Wonderful Plan

by Jeny Gutierrez, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Center Head

"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."

Jeremiah 29:11
Our life is in God's hands as we trust Him and allow Him to use us to bless others. Our staff in Bahay Kalinga rejoice as we see God involved in the lives of our children, as He unravels the plans He has for them. In 2018, Zia, Cheska and Fannie (not their real names) were admitted in Bahay Kalinga. They became best friends and sometimes, the best of enemies. Cheska and Fannie were abandoned children and Zia was surrendered by her mother.

Cheska's biological mother had 4 children with 3 different live-in partners. She was very young when she got involved in these relationships. After she gave birth to Cheska, she visited a couple who lived in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, and stayed with them for one week when she decided to leave Cheska with them. She promised she would return for the child after a month when she could earn a living and provide for the child. However, the couple never heard from her again and so decided to have Cheska admitted at Bahay Kalinga for proper care.

Born with disabilities, Zia's biological mother was raped by a relative She did not have the courage to inform her family about the incident until her family noticed that she was pregnant. Only then was she able to disclose who the perpetrator was. A relative helped her file a case against the offender and a warrant of arrest was released, but this person is still at large. From then on, Zia's mom went from one relative to another and because she could not really provide proper care for Zia, she brought her child to Bahay Kalinga. Her love for Zia made her come to the painful decision of giving her up because she believed that adoption would be the better choice for her daughter.

There is no exact information about Fannie except that she was entrusted by her father to one of his neighbors in Naujan, who said that the father arrived at their house very early in the morning and asked if he could leave the child with them as he needed to go to his workplace which was far away. He promised to come back and pick up the child once he was settled. Sadly, he never did and never communicated with them. The neighbor with a child of her own could not keep Fannie. They tried but could not find any of her relatives. They reported the incident to the local government and to the Municipal Social Welfare Office of Naujan. As a result, Fannie was referred and admitted to Bahay Kalinga.

These backgound stories of just three of our orphans are sad and challenging, but God has a good plan for their lives. Despite Covid travel restrictions and protocols, two of the girls have been personally picked up by their adoptive parents. Fannie was declared legally available for adoption on June 9, 2019, and after attempts to place or match her locally - international adoption opened for her in Spain. She was entrusted to her adoptive parents on June 8, 2021. Zia's declaration for legal adoption was announced on March 5, 2019, and she was matched for international adoption in Italy. Her adoptive parents came to pick her up on April 27, 2021. On February 5, 2020, Cheska was declared legally available for adoption and was matched for adoption with a family from Sweden. We now await the completion of her passport and visa and God's time for her to travel to Sweden with her adoptive parents for a loving and better future. God has a plan and is not finished with these children. We pray that they will indeed trust their lives to Jesus and allow Him to lead them all the days of their precious lives.

# An Incredible Journey 

Flying over a giant 12,000 ft. volcano as we land in Russia.

by Preston Huntting

First let me express the privilege it has been to have the opportunity of serving the Lord by being involved in delivering to PMA, the first of 2 Super King Air 200 (BE20) aircraft. Seeing the Lord's first hand work on behalf of the people of the Federated States of Micronesia through PMA and Samaritan's Purse (SP) has been a special experience. As Virgil Gottfried from SP often says, "God is good!"

This has truly been an "all hands on deck" experience. As a pilot, I know full well that very little gets done without a well-organized and committed team, and that is exactly what I've seen throughout this process. I saw our faith tested and confirmed as we took each step. At each turn we sought the Lord and He made our steps true. There were many obstacles but our God prevailed.

This journey for our family started with a phone call from Samaritan's Purse back in March, 2021. After praying about it, we felt the Lord opened doors for us to be able to put our jobs on hold and be available for the summer to help PMA. This led me to North Carolina, USA, where the airplane was located. Upon completion of the mandatory courses and the aircraft prepped and ready for the ferry flight, a team from SP, including Franklin Graham's son William, led in prayer dedicating the aircraft to God's service with PMA. Then they saw Brock Welge, Keith Hibbard and I off as we began the long initial trek first to North Dakota and eventually Soldotna, Alaska.

With an operation of this magnitude there are always so many moving parts: permissions to land, government releases (COVID), mountains of paperwork, fuel purchase orders, aircraft ground handling, worldwide weather, personnel constraints, individual health, aircraft continued airworthiness, and the list goes on. All these moving parts had to be coordinated to line up before we could continue on. After working through some mechanical/radio setbacks that caused our crewmember Keith Hibbard to be outside of his available timeframe, God provided Mike Harwood as a replacement for our ferry flight team.

A moment of making memories with the crew: Preston, Brock and Mike on their way to Okinawa, Japan.


However, on descent we were met by the edge of weather front that brought heavy wind and rain along with jarring turbulence. This tested all of our skills as we listened intently to air traffic control instructions that even though given in English, the accents were so thick that all of us struggled to understand. After a solid effort from all on board, we made it on the ground and were again met with eager and well prepared ground personnel. After another short fuel stop we were off again destined for Seoul, South Korea.

Exhausted from an already long day, we were forced to drum up energy heading into our shortest and thankfully last leg of the day. However, it was going to prove very challenging. Not only did we have to navigate our way back through the thunderstorms we had just come through but South Korea was experiencing heavy wind and low visibility due to dust blowing its way down from China and Mongolia. God gave us strength as we made our way and once again when on the ground we were met by a fantastic escort team that had every detail worked out. It didn't take long once fed, to fall fast asleep as soon as my head hit the pillow.

The next morning was beautiful. All that wind and weather had blown itself past us and we were met with a gorgeous blue sky. With only 2 legs of flying ahead of us it felt like 8 flight hours was a half-day of work. Eager to be on our way, we loaded up and departed back through Japan but just farther down their southern stretch of islands.

We thanked the Lord and enjoyed a very smooth ride across the East China Sea and it wasn't long before we were descending into Okinawa's Naha Airport, which sits out in the water off the west shoreline. It was here that we were met with a wave of hot humid air as soon as we opened the door. In five minutes time I wasn't sure who was sweating more, the airplane or the crew. Again, we were fueled and back in the air in no time.

This last leg of the day to Manila was such a contrast to the previous days. Light winds up high gave us a good flight time as we navigated around towering isolated rain clouds. This gave us majestic views of the landscape and coastlines of the Northern Philippines. Once in Manila, Fred and Edna warmly greeted us along with the whole PMA team there. They took such great care of us during our less than 24 -hour stay. Once we had yet another COVID test, we were dropped off at the hotel where we would rest up in preparations for the final push to Guam the next morning.

After saying our fairwells to our dear friends and colleagues in Manila it was off to Palau. This leg of the flight started out with a mechanical issue and ended with yet another mechanical issue. In the climb out, we noticed that the cabin pressure was not building properly in the airplane. It was not at a dangerously high cabin altitude once we reached cruising altitude so we as a crew decided to continue on and trouble shoot as we went. It took about 30 minutes, but yet again Brock was on his game and noticed a circuit breaker tripped on the panel. Thank the Lord that once reset, pressurization returned to normal and we were back at peak performance. That was until we started our descent into Palau.

## Early morning pre-flight,

 Adak, Alaska.

The day turned out to be a pretty rainy day in the Philippine Sea with widespread thunderstorms over the region so we had been relying heavily on the on-board aircraft weather radar, a piece of equipment that really adds to making this aircraft a formable tool in the region. Not all new pieces of equipment come fault free and for unknown reasons the radar failed completely on decent. Now we had to relegate ourselves to old school piloting and weather predicting tools, which is using our eyes and looking outside. This saw us safely on the ground in Palau met by steady rain showers and smiling faces from the PMA Palau team.

Even though we were unable to greet each other properly due to strict COVID restrictions, we exchanged waves and words from a "safe" distance. Unfortunate as it was, we couldn't stay long and were once again in the climb out heading to Guam, our final stop.

This final leg was remarkable in many ways. Not only was it our last leg of the journey but also we had our first real taste of a small tailwind pushing us along. It felt as if we were coasting downhill. The last half of the flight was met with breath taking beauty as we came out the backside of the rain showers and graced with the most amazing sunset. Even as a pilot I never get tired of seeing some of the most beautiful sunset and sunrises possible. Not only are they spectacular to view but also they are a constant reminder of many life analogies: new beginning or fresh starts, a closing chapter, God's faithfulness, the onset of rest, and many more. As we as a crew sat in the best seats possible to witness this sunset we spoke among each other of the amazing answered prayers and faithful leading that we had witnessed firsthand from a loving Father.

Like every other sunset the blackness of night follows, and on this night it was time to get back to the task at hand. The night was going to be clear and we could see the light of Guam from 100 miles out. It was like a beacon, beckoning us in through safe passage. It was an amazing end to a long trip. As we rolled into our parking chocks at the Guam Airport a joyous Nob and Melinda welcomed us in true island fashion. Nob led us in giving thanks to a faithful God. After waiting patiently, both loaded all of us in the van and took us to meet up with our families who were waiting for us at the quarantine hotel where we would prepare for the final push to Yap.

I'm reminded of the Apostle Paul as he writes to the church of Corinth in 1 Corinthians chapter 3. Paraphrasing, starting in vs. 7, Paul tells us that even though some plant and others water, it is God that causes the growth. Jesus Christ is the foundation and even though as His followers we toil, it is God that brings about the results. Our efforts would prove useless if it wasn't for the foundation God laid in His Son. I find such peace knowing that God is not dependent on my mere efforts. In the end, it's not my strength, it is all because of Him and all about Him.

# King Air N875SP Ferry Flight - God's Timing 

by Thomas Brock Welge

"He who began a good work in you will bring it to completion at the day of Jesus Christ." Philippians 1:6

This letter from Paul, to the church at Philippi, is a good reminder that God is doing a work inside of us, and will bring it to completion in His timing. When things are difficult and seem impossible, God has a plan and knows the way it will work out, down to the smallest detail. The ferry flight for PMA's newest aircraft, N875SP, a 1975 Beechcraft King Air 200 was a great reminder of how God uses circumstances as opportunities to love the people you encounter and share the reason we can have hope against all odds. With this ferry flight, we knew we had a real challenge ahead of us.
It all started with a wonderful dedication ceremony at the Samaritan's Purse facility in Wilkesboro, North Carolina. Then, the crew consisting of Keith Hibbard, Preston Huntting, and myself started the trip halfway around the world. Our first stop was Alexandria, Minnesota, where we had a conformity inspection with the FAA, and Preston had a checkride to become PMA's first certified King Air Pilot. We had a slight scare that one of the crew members may have had a Covid contact, but that turned out to be a false alarm, so we continued to Soldotna, Alaska. There, we were started flight planning for the remainder of the trip, where we ran into a major problem. The head winds were so strong along our route, we would not have enough fuel to fly to the next airport, which meant we would have to wait for more favorable winds, or to say it another way, wait on God's timing. The delay gave me a chance to further review upcoming maintenance which revealed the airplane was going to need a phase inspection as soon as we arrived in Yap. That would not work very well since it needed to fly right away once it arrived Yap. The Samaritan's Purse crew in Soldotna had plenty of King Air experience and that week were available to help before they got really busy with their summer flight schedule. They helped me perform the inspection, which imparted plenty of great King Air wisdom for maintaining this airplane for years to come. What a blessing, not only to get the work done, but to work alongside fellow believers. We served God by preparing this airplane to be ready to do Kingdom work in Micronesia. During the inspection, we were also notified by the FAA that we needed to install a second HF radio to maintain oceanic communications. As a result, we had to fly back to Tennessee to get a second radio installed, and return to Soldotna in one week. In Tennessee, we picked up one of the replacement ferry pilots, Mike Harwood, who would be taking over for Keith Hibbard. Preston flew ahead to Alaska, so Mike, and I flew the plane back to Soldotna and within a few days, God had calmed the winds.

Just like He parted the waters for Moses, He opened a multitude of doors so we could depart Soldotna and fly to all our stops in Adak, Russia, Japan, South Korea, Philippines, Palau and finally Guam.
The trip was challenging, but in God's perfect timing it happened so smoothly, even with landing permits and Covid protocols, we were able to make it all the way to Guam from Soldotna in 4 days of flight time with no delays. This happened because of the many maintenance hours spent preparing the King Air. Now, the plane is better prepared with a fresh inspection, and ready to serve the people of Micronesia. God has provided a great tool to advance the Gospel of Jesus Christ in the Islands.

Brock performing maintenance in Seoul, Korea.


## God's Call

by Pastor Marty Lumigis, OIC, PMA Philippines

"Preach the word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction." 2 Timothy 4:2

Throughout history, God called people to carry out His plan. Noah was chosen to survive the flood and save his family through building the ark. Abraham, the man of faith, was selected to be the founding father of God's chosen nation. Moses was called to deliver the nation of Israel from bondage.

These are Biblical examples on how the Lord has been calling individuals to pursue His will. We too are praising Him for men who have responded to the call to pastor our churches in the islands. Two pastors were officially installed for PMF Church in Guinaygayan and in Busdak, and one elder in Poblacion Patnanungan was ordained to be a fulltime pastor. The installation services were done on three different occasions. I had the privilege to appoint Pastor Mario Caunca in PMF Busdak during their thanksgiving celebration. The following Sunday, I ordained and installed longtime servant Pastor Bryan Lloyd Bantucan during their Sunday morning service in PMF Poblacion and in the afternoon on that same day Pastor Eliezer Casumpa was established for PMF Guinaygayan. All of them were being reminded that they were called to a noble work in ministry and that work is to preach and teach the Gospel in season and out of season based on 2 Timothy 4:1-8. They all were glad that finally they have become part of our PMF Pastoral Team and can serve the Lord through PMA. Not only that, the congregations in PMF Busdak, PMF Poblacion and PMF Guinaygayan accepted the challenge that they would be supporting their Pastors by helping them achieve the mission and vision of the church and especially by their continual prayers

We are so blessed to have them as our comrades in the spiritual battlefield in fulfilling Christ's great commission. With their response to God's calling, we became more determined as a team to pursue and advance the Gospel all throughout the Polillo Islands. Indeed, God is powerful and greatly to be praised for all the wonderful things that He is doing here in the islands. He alone deserves the glory, honor and adoration!

Pastor Bryan and wife Fretzel are so thankful for God's calling for them to serve in PMF Poblacion Patnanungan. On both their sides are Pastors Marty and Eliezer.

## Pastor Abraham (Bambit) Balayo

March 12, 1965 - June 4, 2021

When Bambit and wife Joy began their service in PMF Palau, we remember his passion to serve the Lord - and he never lost this to the end. Bambit and Joy had faced many challenges, however, we never saw him lose his fervent desire to reach the lost. One thing we are so encouraged about him is that he embraced the mission and vision of PMA and made it his own and were truly in spirit and love part of PMA family.

Bambit was a servant leader, he found ways to serve his people and help them in their needs. He visited the sick and tended their wounds, he showed so much compassion! We praise God for the many victories in Jesus! He never gave up. He always had many ideas and plans - always thinking of the best way to do things for the Lord and put them into action. We remember his 20 years of faithful service with PMA (19952015) and thank God for Bambit's life.

We truly know that Pastor Bambit can say with all confidence, like Paul: "I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will award to me on that day - and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for His appearing." 2 Timothy 4:7-8. Praise God! And we know the Lord would say "Well done good and faithful servant!"


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