

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #4 - 2021

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Operation Christmas Child

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives

ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA).

Issue

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On our Cover

Proclaiming the Gospel with Operation Christmas Child

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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”

- Accountant 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, Livelihood Programs, Philippines

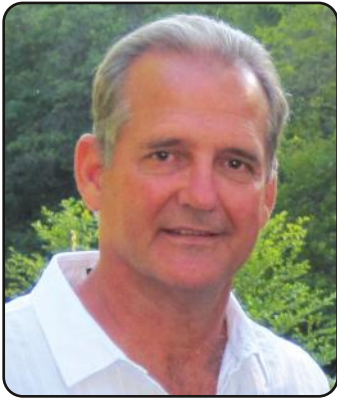
Please contact PMA Headquarters at guamhq@pmapacific.org for job descriptions.

Infrastructure Needs

Church Building, Philippines. We thank God the Church building in Guinaygayan was completed end of September. In November we are ready to begin the construction of the Apad Church. Pray for His continued provision. Approximate amount still needed: \$30,000.00.

Outer-island Airstrip, Philippines. Due to the Pandemic, Patnanungan Island has not been allowing anyone to come to the island unless one is a resident. Hence, CAAP (Civil Aviation Authority) still has to come and inspect/survey the property. As soon as CAAP approves of the property, we will start the clearing and fencing thereof. We still need \$50,000 to complete this project.

*“And do not forget to do good
and to share with others,
for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”*
Hebrews 13:16



Nob Kalau

“Give thanks in all circumstances.”

1 Thessalonians 5:18

Give thanks? Are you finding it hard to give thanks when all over the world there is chaos, pandemic, lawlessness, inflation, war, hunger, oppression, government control and unrest? How can we truly give thanks considering the present turmoil? The prophet Habakkuk also lived during a time of great turmoil. There appeared to be no hope for Habakkuk’s beloved nation of Israel.

Corruption and confusion were everywhere. “Why does God not intervene?” he asked. “Why is God silent in times of disaster?” Habakkuk did have questions, like you and like me; but he brought them to God. And God not only answered His questions, but He also put a song in Habakkuk’s heart.

“I will rejoice in the LORD, I will be joyful in God my Savior.

The Sovereign LORD is my strength;

He makes my feet like the feet of a deer;

He enables me to tread on the heights.”

Habakkuk 3:18-19

Habakkuk found the answer – God is still on the throne of the universe. He is, from everlasting to everlasting. You too will find, that as you put your faith in Jesus, peace and joy will flood your heart in spite of difficult circumstances. Praise and thanks will spring from your heart because your happiness does not depend upon world conditions or material gain, but upon a loving heavenly Father who is in control and who cares for each one of us.

As we celebrated Thanksgiving and look forward to celebrating the first coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, PMA, in this edition of the Island Echoes, gives thanks and celebrates with our Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) churches that are growing, Pastors who are leading, Christians who are being baptized, orphans adopted from our orphanage, airplanes that are being used to minister to islands, Christmas boxes distributed in partnership with Samaritan’s Purse, fiscal integrity as we review the year behind us, missionaries that are excited to use their God-given talents for such a time as this, and you our supporting partners, who are an integral part of our team. Thank you for praying, for caring and for sharing! We rejoice in what God is doing through you to reach the island nations where we serve with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

Nob Kalau

President/CEO

Great is the Lord and Worthy to be Praised!

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

How thankful we are to the Lord for His faithful provision during the year just ended. We continued to serve the island people as if there were no pandemic. PMA flew a lot of non-revenue or free flights including ministry outreaches to Angaur in Palau, as well as Ulithi, Fais, and Woleai, in Yap. The highlight for this year was being the recipient of two King Air airplanes from Samaritan's Purse (SP). SP also provided reimbursement of expenses to bring the donated aircraft up to standard, expenses for the ferry flights, and then to top it off, the replacement of a new engine for one of the aircraft. What great joy! Unbelievable! We have an amazing God!

The King Air has increased PMA's capabilities to serve the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau as we received requests to fly to the different islands to help repatriate and move people within our island world.

Micronesia

We thank God for missionary staff who have come to serve with PMA in the Aviation ministry: (1) Brock and Rachel Welge, with children: Garrett, Caleb and Jane returned to Palau to serve for three years after their one-year volunteer service with PMA in Palau. Brock is a pilot and mechanic and is serving now as our Palau Station Manager.



(2) Igor and Maja Zayer from Switzerland are serving a three-year term as missionary pilot in Yap; (3) Melody Coleman, a one-year volunteer serves as missionary pilot/mechanic with PMA Palau; and (4) Dave Kendrick, a pilot/mechanic who served with us in the 80's, is now retired but came to Yap full time to serve as a missionary again. We also celebrated the marriage of Stephen Newton and Monena Borromeo, serving in Palau as pilot/mechanic and accountant/assistant administrator. We praise God as they signed up for another 3-year term with PMA!

We thank God for our partnership with Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child (OCC). Pastor Petrus, our PMF Pastor was tasked to gather all church leaders for training with OCC to evangelize the villages in Yap and distribute gift shoe boxes to the children. Pastor Petrus reports: "As of now in Yap, there are about 858 kids who have completed the 12 lessons from the "The Greatest Gift", and the "The Greatest Journey". The outer island of Fais with about 90 children participating, is finished as well. The other outer islands are next.

PMF church services continued in Pohnpei and Yap, Federated States of Micronesia and in Palau as they have all been Covid-free! We thank God for this blessing! The M/V Sea Haven ministry was on hold with Nob Kalau, its Boat captain being stuck in Guam for a year and 4 months. Our crew continued to maintain the ship during the year.

King Air brings the Christmas gifts (Operation Christmas Child) to the outer-island of Fais, Yap. Forefront is Pius, one of our mission workers in the island.



Philippines

In the Philippines, our island stations experienced lock-downs, and yet it was during this time that our pastors/workers were used by God as He opened doors to minister to outlying villages/hamlets: in Poblacion Patnanungan, weekly Sunday school outreach in Lumong of about 18 children; Sitio Casuguran in Jomalig ministers to 8 families and approximately 50 children weekly; Bukal village in Apad was open for Bible studies to 9 families and to approximately 20 children.

We thank God for the Lord's provision for pastors/workers for our PMF churches: Pastor Eliezer Casumpa and wife Mercy who took over the Guinaygayan church and Pastor Mario Caunca and wife Nemia serving in Busdak and Catmon; Bro. Lorie Sulad and wife Mercy in Kilogan, and as PMF Patnanungan celebrated 23 years of God's faithfulness, Pastor Bryan Bantucan, who has faithfully been serving since 2017, was officially installed as Pastor for this church.

Pastor Jose of PMF Amaga continues to disciple the young people in his church as they are taking responsibility in serving in the worship team and visitation ministry. They have also been a great help to Gemma in teaching Sunday school. It is a great encouragement to Pastor Jose and Gemma to have a team they can rely on. This church celebrated 18 years of God's grace.

Pastor Ed Genotiva and Beth continue to serve in PMF Calutcot. The lockdowns have opened up another ministry for them and that is, meeting the needs of school children. Since their parents cannot help them with their school work, as most of them have not attended school or only at a lower level, they come to church for help. Before every session, they open up in prayer and are given a devotion from the Word of God. PMF Calutcot was planted in January 2006 – makes it 15 years now! The church as a whole is very motivated to make disciples and to reach their village for Christ.

Pastor Marty Lumigis, our pastoral leader and Officer in charge of PMA Philippines, and wife Dadine were able to visit the islands. This was a great time of encouragement for everyone, as Pastor Marty spent time with our pastors (stayed overnight with them, and attended church services). He and Dadine also conducted team building activities which everyone enjoyed and learned so much from. During the visit, Pastor Marty had training sessions with the Pastors and workers. Some attended via zoom when it was difficult for them to travel to Patnanungan. They conducted a joint PMF Youth overnight at Minamata Island. While in the islands, Pastor Marty met with the local government units (LGU) to continue to make awareness of PMA/PMF's work and ministry in the islands. The LGU has been open and welcomed our presence in the islands.

During school break, teacher Mercy conducted Sunday School Teachers' Training with all our churches represented. 31 ladies came and successfully completed their training and are ready to teach Sunday school in their respective churches.

Upon approval by LGU, as Patnanungan is Covid-free, our PMA Academy, headed by teacher Mercy accepted 22 students this school year. We started the ministry in Patnanungan in 2003 and since then, we have graduated 342 children.

At the end of the fiscal year, we had provided care and support for 266 children in our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage. At present we have 10 children in the Orphanage and one child being supported in a special care facility Three children were picked up by their European adoptive parents during the period. We thank God for His open doors to let them come to the Philippines and bring home their children to Italy, Sweden and Spain, respectively. The pandemic has truly been a great challenge for traveling even within the Philippines, but God was able to overcome any hindrances!

*“The young lions lack and suffer hunger;
But those who seek the LORD
shall not want of any good thing.”*
Psalm 34:10

How we thank God for His goodness and faithfulness throughout these challenging times. He has provided for all our needs and indeed, as a mission, we do not lack any good thing!

We are very thankful to God for our faithful partners, supporters and prayer warriors, PMA Germany and Switzerland, as well as our Board members in Guam, U.S., Philippines, Germany and Switzerland. Knowing that they are all behind us, encouraging, supporting and praying for us in the field gives us the inspiration and motivation to press on. Of course, our hope, our joy and our reward is the Lord Jesus Christ!

Our need for called, competent and committed servants continues to be prominent – as we need an accountant that Melinda can train, missionary pastors, pilots, mechanics, admin assistants, Sea Haven pilot and engineer, facilities and equipment maintenance people. We trust in the Lord for His provision. Thank you all for your prayers and. To God be the Glory!

**PMF Joint Youth Fellowship (attended by our young people from Poblacion Patnanungan, Kilogan, Amaga and Busdak) at Minamata Island Polillo, Philippines.
A day of great fellowship and blessing for each one!**



The God Who Rebuilds

by Pastor Marty Jonee Lumigis, OIC Philippines

Last year was one of the most confusing, heartbreaking, and frustrating years to many of us, most especially to the church in Guinaygayan. Aside from experiencing the hardships during the pandemic, the church lost its place of gathering due to typhoon Ulysses in November of 2020. Many members became discouraged. There were those who questioned why God allowed these things to happen to His Church. Despite the feeling of discouragement, they continued to gather in different homes and later they ended up meeting in an old shed owned by our Pastor Eleazar for worship services, prayer meetings, children's ministry and other church related activities. The church continued to pray that the Lord would provide them a place wherein they could gather comfortably because the old and dilapidated building did not offer shelter from rain.



Church totally destroyed by Typhoon Ulysses

After months of prayers, the Lord answered! On May 2021, the construction on the new church building was started. Indeed, God is our Jehovah Jireh! He provides! With so much prayer and with the help of the PMA family and donors, the church was built in just four (4) months, it's amazing! Truly God is a God who rebuilds. Just as He promised His people Israel in Jeremiah 24:6 that "He will bring them back and build them up and not tear them down; and plant them and not uproot them!" God manifested His greatness to the PMF Church in Guinaygayan. He provided not only an ordinary church to gather, but also a beautiful, strong building where it would not only be a house of worship and gathering for church activities, but would be a shelter for the community in times of calamity.

On October 9, 2021, PMA/PMF Pastors and staff together with other believers from different PMF churches in the islands went and gathered in Guinaygayan to celebrate and dedicate to the Lord the new church building. There were around 80 adults and more than 50 children present during the victorious celebration. Believers from PMF Amaga, Busdak, Catmon, Calutcot, Kilogan, Poblacion, Jomalig. Apad and Guinaygayan joined our festivities.



Thanking God for His provision! By His grace, He has provided a church building far more than we have thought and dreamed of!

The celebration started at 10 am on that day with joyful songs of praise and worship led by the Praise team of PMF Poblacion. Pastors from the different churches gave a special number as a way to rejoice and express their gratitude for what God had done. A Barangay (local government) representative was present during the celebration and promised that they would also help us in securing the place upon knowing that this building would be of great help to the community. My message for everyone that day was that: we need to recognize the power of God in our lives always in order for us to achieve PMA's goals of loving all people, build the body of Christ and disciple the faithful. And together we all prayed and dedicated the newly built church building to the Lord and acknowledged His goodness and faithfulness. A lunch fellowship and pictorials rounded off our celebration.

Indeed, God is a God who rebuilds! He not only rebuilds a broken building, but more importantly, He rebuilds those who are broken with discouragement, failure and despair. God has proven to all of us, that He is a faithful, powerful, compassionate, merciful and a loving Redeemer. Truly He is able to rebuild anything that is broken! God is a rebuilders!



Pastor Marty Lumigis, our Philippine Pastoral Leader and OIC, leads in dedicating the church building and its people to the Lord!

Another Tricycle Baby!

by Jeny Gutierrez, Bahay Kalinga (BK) Orphanage, Philippines

These are challenging times for everyone, especially the little ones. A baby wrapped in a cloth diaper and donned with white clothes was found inside a tricycle parked near a bakery store and the local police was informed immediately. Despite investigation and checking the video camera footage near the store, they could not find the mother who had left the child behind.

The local Social Welfare Office was alerted by the police and referred the baby to Bahay Kalinga Orphanage for protection and case management. The little boy was sound asleep and stretched a little, when handed to the caregiver.

Our efforts through newspaper publication and radio announcement to locate the birthparents or biological relatives of the child were of no avail. No one contacted PMA Bahay Kalinga to claim the baby.

We named him “Victor”, a name suggested to us by Missionary Melinda from our Guam HQ Office, as he came out victorious over the circumstances he was found in. And “Victor” after the town where he was discovered, Victoria. He is approximately 1 month old and weighs 7.7 lbs, a beautiful healthy baby boy with beautiful skin, thin-black-smooth hair and rosy complexion.

Per assessment made by the PMA Center Head/Social Worker, Victor will be recommended to be legally available for adoption. We pray that all his paper work will be in order so we can begin the process of finding a loving, warm-hearted family for him.

We thank God for the privilege and ability to rescue yet another child and bring hope into his life!

One cannot imagine how anyone could abandon such a beautiful baby boy. Thank God, he has found a safe and loving place in Bahay Kalinga (BK) Orphanage. We pray that Victor will find a family soon!



Rainbow Baptism

by Sylvia Kalau, PMA Pohnpei

October 31 was a special day for us at PMF Pohnpei. We assembled at the ocean to participate in the baptism of 18 Christians who wanted to profess their faith to their family and friends. As we gathered at the beach at 5pm, God gifted us with a beautiful rainbow. Wow! God's promise in the heavens! What an added joy it was to see this message from our Lord to those following in obedience to what He commanded. We celebrated afterwards with a shared dinner and more swimming for the kids.

Racileen shared that she was baptized as a baby but understands now that Jesus commanded, "believe and be baptized". Micah, 6-years-old and the youngest of the group, wanted to be baptized because he had asked Jesus into his heart. He understands because he learns about salvation at PMF Sunday School every Sunday and has very supportive parents and grandparents. Dr. Cabe, a doctor from Papua New Guinea, learned a lot from the sermons on the End Times, the series that Nob has been teaching in these past months. He wants to be ready and grow deeper in his relationship with the Lord because Jesus is coming soon! Vince, a teen, when asked, "Do you love Jesus?" answered without hesitation, "With all my heart!"

A few days before the baptism, Nob taught a class on what it means to be baptized: The Bible clearly teaches that we are saved by grace through faith and according to God's mercy (Ephesians 2:8–9). The thief on the cross next to Jesus had no time to be baptized; yet Jesus promised that he would be with Him in Paradise that very day (Luke 23:43). Water baptism is not an act of salvation, but an act of obedience. It is a public, outward testimony that indicates a personal, inward faith. It gives evidence of the inner change that has already occurred in the believer's life when he or she was "born again" through faith in Jesus Christ. Baptism associates the believer with the death, burial, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, and signifies the believer's death to the old life and his or her resurrection as a new creation in Christ (Colossians 2:12).



And the Gift Goes On!

by Amos Collins, Director of Flight Operations

One year ago, on November 14, 2020, Franklin Graham made the phone call to our PMA President Norbert Kalau to tell him that Samaritan's Purse would make us a deal we couldn't refuse, by gifting us two new Beechcraft King Air 200's! With a world shut down due to Covid, how amazing is it that both of these planes are now here in Yap, Micronesia, and have already flown 250 hours! Well, it certainly was no cake walk. A lot of people worked very hard to get these planes ready for the journey across the Pacific and into service in Micronesia.

One week after volunteer pilot, Preston Hunting brought the first plane into Yap, I departed for my training in the U.S. It was a whirlwind trip, but I really appreciated how SP made every effort to get me the simulator training I needed, plus be able to fly the actual aircraft around the country to gain experience in it. By the time I delivered the plane to the company who would install the ferry tank, I had already flown 10,000 miles and logged 46 hours.

We removed the seats and installed a 500-gallon fuel bladder tank right behind the cockpit. The company we used submitted all the requests to the FAA, who allowed us to fly the aircraft 18% over gross weight. We praise God for great weather as we took off from Merced, California, and flew 8 hours to Honolulu, Hawaii. We spent two nights there to rest and to prepare the plane for the next leg. We departed at dawn for another 8-hour flight to Majuro Atoll in the Marshall Islands. Due to Covid restrictions, we were not permitted to overnight in Majuro. So, we just refueled, and then took off for the next leg to Guam. This leg was only 6.5 hours and we arrived in Guam right as the sun was setting.

As a requirement to enter the Federated States of Micronesia, we had to quarantine at an assigned hotel for one week each, in Guam and in Yap. As soon as the quarantine period was completed, there was a backlog of flights needed to get all the students and teachers back to their home islands. Preston Hunting who had joined PMA for 2 months just to cover for me while I went for training was recalled earlier than expected to begin flying for Alaska Airlines. He left Yap on July 24 and I got out of quarantine almost 3 weeks later on August 11.

It feels like we have been flying non-stop since I got out of quarantine. In the first 30 days, I flew over 100 hours, and we are now coming up on the end of the second 30 days, and I have already flown over 80 hours. Many of these hours are accumulated because of several requests we have had to cross the country to the eastern states of Chuuk, Pohnpei and Kosrae. The distance from Yap to Kosrae (the farthest state) is about 1500 Nautical Miles which is about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way across the United States. I usually fly over on one day and spend the night with the Kalas in Pohnpei and then return the next day to Yap. A highlight of these trips is always, Sylvia's great cooking!

We have flown the U.S. Ambassador, the cabinet for the President of the FSM, many people from the Department of Health Services and the Department of

Education, as well as students who are returning to school and many other individuals traveling. The demand for transportation is so high right now and we are having to refuse a lot of people just because we also need time to do maintenance on the planes and train our other new pilots. The demand does not seem like it will slow down, so it will be best if we take the time to train our new pilots and then we will be in a position to provide more services.

A further blessing is the partnership with SP on their Operation Christmas Child (OCC) program, where a shoebox gift is given to the children, followed by an evangelistic message and follow-up ministry. Our church, Yap PMF, has been working steadily since July to get the training from Samaritan's Purse, train other leaders and then distribute the gifts and do follow up ministry. Most of the outreach has been on the main island of Yap, but we have also used the King Air to distribute to the island of Fais, where we have a faithful group doing ministry. It is such a blessing to be using the planes given by SP to also distribute the gifts from OCC. Our church ministry has grown through the outreach. As the parents of the children hear the gospel message, they decide to come to church to hear more themselves. Our young leaders also get a chance to have first-hand experience with evangelism. The OCC curriculum is laid out very neatly with pictures and a clear message. We pray that this ministry will reach many people in the islands for Christ.

What a joyful thing it is to be able to bring gifts to the children in the island, as well as His Word to sustain them for a lifetime! Amos Collins, Igor Zayer and crew get ready to bring the Christmas boxes to our Fais mission worker.



God's Calling

by Melody Coleman, Pilot/Mechanic, PMA Palau Station

"The One who calls you is faithful, and He will do it."

1 Thessalonians 5:24

The Lord called me to missions and gave me a passion for aviation long before I had even heard of PMA. While I was still in high school, I attended Mission Aviation Training Academy (MATA) summer camp which exposes teens to the world of missionary aviation. From that point on I felt God's clear direction to pursue a life serving him as a missionary pilot. I started my training as soon as I graduated from high school, studying aviation and intercultural studies at California Baptist University. There, God deepened my desire to serve him as a cross-cultural missionary as I studied His Word and learned about His heart for the nations throughout the entire Bible. That assurance gave me the motivation I needed to push through the challenges of flight training and complete the required licenses. Just as I was finishing my training at MATA, God had a miracle waiting for me.

Aside from Bible training and flight training, I also needed an A&P (aircraft mechanic) license which usually requires two years of technical school. Instead, God set me up with an apprenticeship where I could get the experience I needed while getting paid to learn.



During all the years of learning and training, I knew without a doubt that God had called me to mission aviation, but I had no idea where He would send me or what organization He wanted me to join. Just in time, God gave me the answer I needed. In 2019 at MATA summer camp while I was serving as a flight instructor, Amos Collins came to speak about PMA. Everything he said resonated with me and sounded like the perfect place for me to serve, but I was still two years away from finishing my training. A little over a year ago, Brock Welge (fellow MATA grad) approached me about the need at PMA for another intern. As I went through the application process God opened so many doors and broke down so many barriers, I have no doubt this is exactly where God wants me to be. Each step of my training provided unique challenges, but through my weakness God showed his incredible faithfulness and brought me where I am now, serving Him with PMA.

Now that I have been in Palau for a few months my confidence in God's calling is even more sure. I spent so many years preparing to do this work that it almost doesn't seem real that I finally get to serve God and the people of Palau doing the things that I love most in the world. Palau is a beautiful place to serve God, but it is obvious there is a great need for hope in Christ. I feel so fortunate to be part of such a wonderful team at PMA Palau. Each person here brings such unique gifts and talents to the team. God is working in big ways at PMA, and I am so excited to be a part of what the future holds.

Thanking God for Melody who answered God's call to serve with PMA in Palau as Pilot/ Mechanic. Here she is at an outreach with children in Angaur. She enjoys teaching them the Word of God.





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