

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #1 - 2022

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines

ISLAND ECHOES



Islands in Lockdown, Hearts are Open



 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA).

Issue

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On our Cover

Islands in Lockdown,
Hearts are Open

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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. By end of March we plan to complete the Apad Church construction. We thank God for everyone who provided for this church. Our next project will be the Busdak Church. We have received the seed money of \$50,000 from a generous donor. Please pray for the Lord to provide for the rest of the funds.

*“And we know that in all things
God works for the good of those who love Him,
who have been called according to His purpose.”*

Romans 8:28

*“I keep my eyes always on the LORD.
With Him at my right hand,
I will not be shaken.”* Psalm 16:8

How do we keep our focus and calm as the world continues to spin out of control with wars and pestilence? How can we keep our hand to the plow when others are fearful, lacking resolve and turning back? What’s the secret to experiencing the closeness of our God each day?

I wonder... what was David’s secret in making him “a man after God’s own heart”? He was indeed the man who “served the purpose of God in his own generation” (Acts 13:36). What was David’s habit for such a remarkable life? David practiced living in the presence of God. He sought to daily live present to the God who was always present to him. He said: “I keep the LORD always before me.” In David’s thinking he kept God at his “right hand”, the place of honor and authority for his life.

David worked at cultivating an awareness of God’s presence. He practiced God going into battle with Him, ruling a kingdom with Him, facing heartbreak, singing a Psalm, and recovering from failure with Him. David prayed at evening and morning and at noon (Psalm 55:17). He thought about God as he laid awake at night (Psalm 63:6). While tending sheep or standing guard duty David looked for God’s majesty and glory displayed in the night sky (Psalm 8:3). Hiding in a wilderness cave, David awakened the dawn with a newly composed song of praise to his God (Psalm 57:8). David sang of the God who was with him in all of life’s situations:

“Where can I go from Your Spirit? Or where can I flee from Your presence? If I ascend to heaven, You are there; if I make my bed in Sheol, You are there. If I take the wings of the morning and settle at the farthest limits of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and your right hand shall hold me fast.”

Psalm 139:7-10

These are troubling yet exciting times! As the prophecies in the Bible continue to be fulfilled, we can rest assured with confidence that our Lord is coming quickly. So we work at practicing His presence each day whatever the task or challenge we face. In this edition of the Island Echoes you will read about our missionaries moving forward despite the delays and unpredictability of our quickly changing world. The goal of our mission in the Pacific continues to be: “Bringing Hope and Changing Lives”. We need God’s presence and your prayers to keep our focus each day in order to handle whatever comes our way with the presence of God going with us, working through us. Let us also unite in prayer with the suffering believers and churches in Ukraine, that they would stand strong in this time of extreme testing. “May our brothers and sisters in Ukraine and Russia set the LORD always before them; Because He is at their right hand they shall not be shaken!”

Nob Kalau
President/CEO

Looking Back and Pressing Forward

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO, Guam Headquarters

*“The Lord is near to all who call on Him,
to all who call on Him in truth.” Psalm 145:18*

We thank God for His faithfulness in the year 2021. Despite the Pandemic, God through His people stood strong as they continued to pray, partner and support PMA during an economically most challenged time. Looking back, we see His hand providing all that we needed. He also protected the mission staff and our children in the Bahay Kalinga Orphanage from harm and danger and especially from the virus. He kept from harm’s way our pilots who flew inter-island sorties and our Philippine missionary staff and pastors who traveled by land (walking hundreds of kilometers through muddy and rough stretches of pathways, rain or shine and crossing the not so pacific, Pacific Ocean by banca (two out-rigger canoe) to visit our island PMF churches and outlying villages, to hold activities: worship, Bible studies, prayer meetings, youth and children ministries. When we remember all His goodness and mercies, we stand in awe and in great amazement of who He is and what He has done!

Please continue to pray for PMA’s leadership and all our staff: (1) For God to fill us with the knowledge of His will through all wisdom and understanding that the Spirit gives; (2) That we may live lives worthy of the Lord and please Him in every way; (3) That we may not grow weary in well-doing and bear fruit in every good work; (4) That we may grow in the knowledge of God and allow His Word to be manifested in our lives; (5) That we may be strengthened with all power according to His glorious might so that you may have great endurance and patience; and (6) That we will always be giving joyful thanks to the Father, who has qualified us to share in the inheritance of His holy people in the kingdom of light! (Colossians 1:9-11)

When the peace of Christ rules in our hearts, thankfulness overflows. Even in the darkest of times, we can praise God for His love, His sovereignty, and His promise to be near us when we call (Psalm 145:18). And because we have experienced His abundant love and faithfulness we move forward in 2022 with Him as our banner!

Please see below the breakdown of PMA Funds used in 2021:

| | | |
|--|---------------------|-------------|
| Medical Relief (Aviation and Sea Haven): | \$ 874,874 | 58% |
| Evangelism and Church Work | \$ 150,549 | 10% |
| Media (Good News Press) | \$ 122,391 | 8% |
| Studio and Radio | \$ 35,492 | 3% |
| Philippines Support | \$ 221,527 | 15% |
| Management and Administration | \$ 41,632 | 3% |
| Fund Raising | \$ 43,767 | 3% |
| Total | \$ 1,490,205 | 100% |



PMA Manila HQ Office

PMA Pohnpei



PMA Yap



PMA/PMF Philippines

PMA Palau



Bahay Kalinga Orphanage



PMA HQ



Island in Lockdown! Hearts are Open!

by Pastor Narciso Mandreza, PMF Church, Jomalig, Philippines

The island town of Jomalig has 5 villages. The village where the PMF Church is located is called Poblacion, which is the town center. The others are Gango, Bukal, Apad and Casuguran. We saw that each of these villages have many children. Our hearts were burdened to reach them and let them know of the love of God in Jesus Christ. So, as a church we decided to visit two of the villages every other Saturday morning to reach all of the four places. The church members decided to contribute so that we would also have a feeding program in each village.

With some young people and professional adults desiring to serve, we visited these villages and found hungry hearts for the Word of God and open arms to receive our gift of arroz caldo (rice porridge with ginger, chicken and “Malunggay”; Moringa Oleifera leaves) and boiled egg. What joy we all experienced as we sang, shared stories from the Bible, and played games with the children. These Saturdays have been our highlights and the children’s as well.



My wife Baby and I thank God for the good health and strength that we have and for the love of our church members who have shown their love for the Lord by being generous of what little they have to provide for the food and for their time to join us in these outreaches. God be praised!

Jomalig is now open for residents to travel to and from the island village. However, visitors are still not allowed to come in. We have found that during the lockdown, hearts were open to the message of the Lord and we are so thankful that He allowed us to see this and take the opportunity to share His gospel of hope and love. Please pray for us that we may not grow weary in visiting these villages and for the children to continue to be excited with God's Word.

As a side note and praise to God, Apad and Casuguran have ongoing ministries with adult Bible study and worship services. Praise the Lord!

How we praise God for open doors and open hearts of children who are so happy to receive His Word! Every week they anticipate our PMF Jomalig team to come and teach them about Jesus, play games, have fun and even have a snack ready for them.



Doing God's Work, God's Way!

by Melinda Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

Many times in the Bible, we read that our heroes of faith always asked God what they should do first. He would then guide them and grant them the wisdom, strength and the ability to accomplish the task on hand that would glorify Him. They tried to do God's work His way, depending on Him every step of the way.

At Bahay Kalinga Orphanage, we have our Center Head, Jeny Gutierrez (who is also a certified Social Worker), our Social Worker, Jezzalyn Esparagoza and caregivers: Janet, Annaliza, Nympha, Anna Liza, Joy and Marivic who work and serve the children day in and day out, untiring by God's grace, loving, caring and keeping all the children safe. When Jeny writes or talks to me, she always gives glory to the Lord for empowering them to do what they have to do, the difficult tasks, the routine jobs and the mundane. We know that the work that they do does not go unnoticed by our Lord whom they serve faithfully. And because of their dependence on God, Bahay Kalinga has been awarded by the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) consecutively for the last three years the "Certificate of Recognition for implementing the Alternative Care Program as a Child Caring Agency who is Most Expeditious in Processing of Certification Declaring a Child As Legally Available for Adoption (CDCLAA)"

Jeny shares, "Every day is a blessing from God. We thank Him for enabling us to be fruitful, for our lives to be meaningful and productive. He has given us joy in what we do and we experience His unending grace!"

As of January 2022, Bahay Kalinga has served 267 children, of which 139 were children for temporary care. These children were not surrendered to us for adoption and so we needed to make sure that either their parents or a close relative could properly care for them. This took considerable time as after they stayed with us for at least 6 months, then our Jeny and Jezzalyn would need to visit the family every month and report to DSWD of their status. We also served 35 abused children, for whom we had to find a home immediately, and which the Lord provided. We are so thankful for this, as our facility and staff do not have the expertise to work with them. 93 children were administered for adoption to families in the Philippines, U.S., Canada, Europe, and Australia. We thank God for these families who have accepted them as their own.

Bahay Kalinga is able to care for 15 children at a time, from 0-6 years old. Our desire is for each child to receive the love and care that he/she needs with our staff's complement and the support that we receive from faithful partners. This has worked very well as we do God's work, His way!

Children at Bahay Kalinga Orphanage feel the warmth of God's love through the love and care they receive from our staff. We thank God for the privilege of nurturing them to grow like Jesus.



Can COVID be good for something?

by Sabine Musselwhite, PMA Missionary, Pohnpei, Micronesia

I have often asked the Lord to show me how COVID could help build His Kingdom. After having been locked out for two years from my ministry island of Pohnpei, I was approved to return on December 1st of 2021. Two years had passed and I was not sure if I could still fit in and resume where I had left off even though I had been in touch with the ladies at church online. Joy brought tears to my eyes when just the night that we were released from quarantine, Ladies Bible study had their Christmas party and I was welcomed like the long-lost daughter. It felt like I had just returned from a weekend trip and catching up with everyone was easy. How sweet is the Holy Spirit to keep us attached to each other no matter the time, no matter the distance we are apart.

The PMF church here has grown considerably during the COVID lockdown with now two services on Sunday mornings. The local leadership are committed and enjoy good communication with each other and the Sunday School teachers and worship team are dedicated and always dependable. It is a joy to serve with them since I depend a lot on their support in church administration.



On December 18, one week after my arrival, Nob and Sylvia Kalau left Pohnpei to welcome their first granddaughter in Arizona. While they were off-island, the COVID cases in Guam and Palau were increasing so fast so that the government of the Federated States of Micronesia decided to put the incoming flights in lockdown again. That means that no one can enter the island nation, not even through quarantine. This decision brings a lot of heartache, especially for those who cannot return to their families after they have left to seek medical help in Guam or Hawaii. And to those who need medical help and choose not to leave for the fear of being locked out. Many would rather die than leave the country and not come back. As a church we are united in prayer for those who cannot come home and especially for wisdom for our government in these trying times.

But God is in control and He will have the country opened at the right time, how ever long it may take. He is the creator of the universe and yet knows about every hair that falls from our head. He has His purpose with every joy and heartache we go through. His grace is always sufficient.

So can this COVID Pandemic be good for something? Yes indeed, for it has strengthened our faith in our Lord and has drawn us believers closer to one another and made us hungry for God's Word and fellowship with one another. We can trust Him that ALL things will work together for good to them that love Him and are called according to His purpose (Romans 8:28).



Sabine looks forward each week to be with the ladies as they study God's Word and as they seek to practice what they learn in their daily life.

God's Faithfulness through Challenges and Changes

by Amos Collins, Chief Pilot

As we roll into 2022, the whole world continues to struggle with entering a third year of limited mobility due to COVID-19. The Federated States of Micronesia seems to be one of the last nations to hold onto its COVID-free status. For our operation this has definitely made for challenges, such as staying current with the FAA requirements as well as our pilots' medical certificates. God has blessed us with FAA staff who understand our situation and are working with us, but it does seem like the walls are moving in closer and closer.

Right now, our challenges are to be able to fly the King Airs under Instrument Flight Rules (IFR). For 3 months, they had given us the approval to do so, and then as they reviewed our documents, they found that we had skipped a step. The law says that we are required to do a validation flight with an FAA Inspector before we are able to fly IFR in our operation. So, here we were from October to January with no limitations to our operation and then overnight, they had to restrict our flights to Visual Flight Rules (VFR) only.

What this means is that we can only fly up to 20,000 feet, we have to remain within 100 nautical miles of a shoreline, and can only fly at daylight between sunrise and sunset. One of the drawbacks is that we burn about \$50/hour more fuel at 20,000 ft, but at least we can still do many of our flights. And with the borders closed, the demand is so much higher than ever before to fly between the Micronesian islands. We have doubled our average hours per month from previous years and it seems like fewer and fewer weeks have a day where we don't have a plane in the air.

In addition to our services within Yap State, we have almost weekly flights to Chuuk and to Pohnpei for government organizations. Our pilot Dave Kendrick has finished his orientation and he has been a big help in flying missions with me. This gives me time on the ground to accomplish the maintenance on our aircraft.

We continue to be a vital lifeline to these remote islands. Just today, I had two charter flights to Woleai in which I was bringing a team from the hospital out to deliver the vaccine. At the last minute, we were told there were two stretcher patients that we needed to bring back. So, on the first return flight I brought one, and on the second I brought the other. The first patient was an interesting experience. As we climbed to altitude, her oxygen level was dropping and the nurse came and asked me to descend since we did not have portable oxygen. Unfortunately, we could not do that as the engines burn too much fuel down low.

But the King Air came through for us again with a few more advantages. Not only could I adjust the pressurized cabin to bring the atmosphere down close to sea level, but the aircraft is built with a medical oxygen mask for this very reason.

I showed the nurse where to get the mask and they were able to give the patient oxygen supplied by the aircraft. Of course, we had to recharge the system before I departed for the second flight, but we got both patients to the hospital in Yap for much better treatment than they could get out on the remote islands.

Through all these challenges and changes, we see the Hand of God faithfully leading, protecting and guiding us! Thank You Lord!

Medical evacuation and assisting families with their sick by transporting them for medical help in the main island are just a few things that PMA does to bring hope to the island people.



Thanking God that we continue to be a vital life line to the remote islands: connecting island states by transporting medical teams, government officials, students to go back to their outer-island schools and transporting patients to the main island for proper care.

Bringing Hope, Changing Lives

by Brock Welge, Palau, PMA Aviation Manager

The Republic of Palau is battling its first surge of COVID. In January, Palau had just over 1,000 cases of COVID on the island, now the country is past 3,000 positive cases.

At PMA, we continue to serve the community despite the risks we face. As things worsen, we are needed more than ever to Bring Hope, and Change Lives for those the Lord has called us to serve. In the aviation ministries, we are performing medevac flights for COVID patients from the outer islands. We are also working to transport doctors and nurses to the outer islands of Peleliu and Angaur for COVID testing, administering vaccines, and giving treatment. The Kalau Gym is being used at full capacity for quarantine, vaccines, treatment and testing. This is where our PMF-Palau church met, until the Palau Ministry of Health used it for COVID relief as part of the national response program.



We are thankful that the building that used to bring the hope of the Gospel of Jesus is bringing physical hope and healing for the community. The church continues to meet at rented facilities, but now that there are restrictions for gatherings, the church has moved to online services via Facebook Live until we can meet in person once again.

During these times where we are put through physical trials, these practical ways of helping are only a glimpse of the true hope we have by trusting in our Savior Jesus Christ. As Paul said in Romans 15:13:

“May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope.”

Serving the people of Palau with the present surge of COVID meant transporting doctors and nurses for COVID testing, administering vaccines and treatment. We thank God that we are able to meet the needs of the people at such a time as this.





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