

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #3 - 2022

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Medical/Dental Outreach

ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA).

Issue

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On our Cover

Medical/Dental Outreach,
Patnanungan Bayan,
Philippines

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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”

- Missionary Pastors/Missionaries/Youth Workers for Island Churches (Guam and Micronesia)
- Boat Captain for Medical/Relief Ship
Sea Haven, Micronesia
- Boat Mechanic for Medical/Relief 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 have completed the Healtika building expansion project and fence for the PMA Academy, both in PMA Patnanungan Bayan Complex. The Busdak Church building project will begin 2023. We have already begun the purchase of materials and transport thereof.

“And the angel said to them, “Fear not, for behold, I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God and saying, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace among those with whom he is pleased!”

Luke 2:10-14



Nob Kalau

“As we pray to our God and Father about you, we think of your faithful work, your loving deeds, and the enduring hope you have because of our Lord Jesus Christ.”

1 Thessalonians 1:3

We just celebrated the grand opening of PMA’s new hangar in Palau. Because of Covid, this day was delayed for 2 years. But we were all energized to celebrate and give thanks to God and to all our friends and partners, present and absent who rejoiced with us.

What a joy it was for us as his Excellency, President of Palau, Surangel Whipps Jr. and his Cabinet, the governors of Airai, Angaur, Kayangel and Sonsorol (island states of Palau), traditional leaders, members of the diplomatic corps of the United States of America, Australia, Taiwan and Japan, members of the clergy, family and friends and PMA’s amazing staff were present to celebrate with us!

This celebration reminded me of why we are in Palau. The Kalau family relationship with Palau began back in January of 1956, when my parents, PMA’s founders, Edmund and Elizabeth, landed on the shores of Palau as missionaries to oversee Emmaus High School. I spent the first year of my life in Palau before we moved to Yap in 1959.

In 1974, seeing the urgent need for reliable and fast air transportation, to help the outer island people, my father, Edmund Kalau, who was trained as a pilot in Hitler’s Luftwaffe, purposed this commitment to God in his heart: “Lord, I was once trained to kill and destroy human life with aircraft in war, now let me use my aviation skills to bring hope and change lives of the people of the islands.” So on his own accord, he shared this vision with churches, friends and family in Germany and in the US and raised the funds needed to purchase PMA’s first twin engine aircraft to begin flight operations in the state of Yap, Micronesia.

In 1977 PMA opened its second base in Pohnpei and in partnership with the government, built 4 airstrips on Pohnpei’s outer islands. In 1983, we also opened a base in the Philippines to serve the remote islands.

On March 7, 2011, I received an email from the former Governor of Angaur, Maria Gates-Meltel. Governor Meltel requested PMA to assist her State with regular air transportation, medical evacuation and referral patients. By boat, I visited Angaur in May 2011, and saw the need that Governor Meltel had described. We then wrote a proposal to Minister Jackson Ngeraingas in October of that year. A public hearing was held with much enthusiasm from the people of Angaur and Peleliu on February 13, 2012, and our proposal was approved. Palau National Aviation Administration (PNAA) gave us their requirements for PMA to comply with. In August 2012, we were given approval for air service in the Republic of Palau.

Shan Essen, a retired pilot, joined PMA as a volunteer and flew our first twin engine aircraft to Palau. Over the last 10 years, we have had various full time missionary and volunteer pilots/mechanics serve with us in Palau. This year, we are also celebrating 10 years of air service in Palau.

It has been said: “It is the set of your sail, NOT the wind, that determines the final destination of your canoe”. We have set our sails and followed what we believe God is asking of us. PMA is about People, not Profit ... about Bringing Hope and Changing Lives. Aviation is expensive and comes with many challenges out here in the Pacific, but we have seen the Hand of God provide for all our needs. He has been faithful and has never failed us.

What has allowed PMA’s aviation service to grow? People! They have faithfully partnered with us through the years, along with government agencies and private businesses who have backed us and supported us beyond what we could have asked for. From allowing us to operate with a “temporary hangar” (temporary of 6 years) of two containers covered with a tin roof, next to the international terminal; and providing us with a spacious lot at the North Apron, where we are situated now – with a building 120 ft wide and 122 ft long with the ability to withstand 175 mph typhoon force winds with its door closed, and 90 mph winds when the door is open.

God has been faithful to PMA, bringing all these generous people, amazing talent and expertise together to empower us and bless us. We count it a privilege and honor to serve the people of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia in the best possible way we can. And with God’s help and guidance to “Bring Hope and Change Lives” to our beloved islands. To God be the glory!

Our greetings to you and your family for a very blessed Christmas as we celebrate the Birthday of the King of Kings and Lord of Lords! O, come let us adore Him!

“Glory to God in the highest, And on earth peace, goodwill toward men!”

Luke 2:14



After the Hangar grand opening, President Surangel Whipps, Jr. posed with PMA Mission staff and guests: L-R Melinda Espinosa, PMA CFO, Brock Welge, PMA Palau Manager, PMA President, Nob Kalau, Angaur State Governor Kennouske Suzuki, Rev. Billy Kuartei, Amos Collins, PMA Chief Pilot and President Whipps.

Great Reunion after three years with PMA Yap and Palau Aviation Team.



Thanksgiving and Christmas Rolled Into One

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

“Trust in the Lord forever, for the LORD God is an everlasting Rock.”
Isaiah 26:4

Have you ever felt that events in your life gave you so much joy that it felt like Thanksgiving and Christmas rolled into one? Well the Lord has blessed me with so much joy! Truly amazing how He worked it out that the door would open for me to visit Germany. I was supposed to go there in September of 2020, however, the Pandemic spoiled those plans. The big draw was attending the famous Oberammergau’s Passion Play, which the town presents every 10 years. By God’s grace, this opened up in 2022! This was part of a Pilgrim’s Tour, of following the footsteps of Martin Luther. I am a student of history, and it was such a blessing to follow “His Story” in the life of Martin Luther and how Reformation began.

Toward the end of my trip, I attended PMA Germany’s Conference in Berlin. It was so great to meet old friends and get acquainted with new ones, to meet for the first time Markus Rudin of PMA Switzerland. We all got to know three young men who desire to serve with PMA in Micronesia as pilot and aircraft mechanic. We thank God for them: Jonathan Paulsen, Jonas Schuh and Samuel Jaissle and pray for God’s continued direction and provision in their lives. Our PMA Germany Manager, Matthias Keppler, arranged for the greater part of my trip to visit churches and fellowships. The Lord enabled me to present PMA and share the wonderful things God has been doing in and through PMA in the islands. I thank God for the good responses we received after each presentation. What a blessed and fruitful trip it was! God is so good!



PMA Germany Board dedicate 3 missionary candidates to serve in Micronesia: Jonas, Jonathan and Samuel (all sitting down)

Outdoor Worship service with Melinda sharing her testimony and Esther Goral translating





PMA Germany Board and members

As soon as I arrived in Guam, I had to prepare to leave for Palau for our hangar’s grand opening and celebration of 10 years of God’s faithfulness in our aviation ministry. Although we started the ministry there in 1986 by planting a PMF church, the commencement of an aviation ministry started only in 2012. It was so good to see and meet all our staff and PMF family! After three years of not seeing each other face-to-face – it was a joyous reunion!

I have included here an excerpt of a message from the Office of the President of the Republic of Palau, Surangel S. Whipps Jr. during the celebration: “As we rebuild our nation and our economy, it is also imperative that we work together. The Pacific Mission Aviation-Palau Hangar and the operations it allows is just one amazing example of the potential we have when we partner together with a shared goal of helping our community. Thank you for your perseverance in seeing this project through. This partnership is an example of the government and the community working together to help the “Rechad er Belau” (People of Palau). We look forward to our partnership with you for years to come.”

Under a memorandum of understanding between PMA and the government, PMA will assist with medical evacuations from outlying islands like Angaur, Peleliu, Kayangel and Sonsorol, ocean searches, and enforcement of Palau’s Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ), as well as use of hanger facilities during disasters.

The Lord indeed is our everlasting Rock. He always sees us through every plan and vision. We can trust Him!



Melinda Espinosa, PMA CFO and President Surangel Whipps Jr. Lead in opening the door to the new hangar.

Experiencing God's Faithfulness

by Pastor Bryan Bantucan, PMF Church, Patnanungan Bayan, Philippines

It's still so fresh in our memory when super typhoon "Ulysses" stormed through our islands on November 8, 2020, and destroyed our Guinaygayan, Apad and Catmon churches. Now, two years later, we experienced another super typhoon, called "Karding", that made landfall in the Philippines on September 25, 2022.

We thank God for the protection of the lives of the island people and for the modern technology we have today to alert us to prepare and get ready for typhoons. Although we all dread the thought of another typhoon, we were prepared. Our Patnanungan Church announced the cancellation of Sunday morning service so that all the brethren would have time to prepare their homes. When a typhoon is coming our way, we unite in prayer because only our great God who is in control, can take care of each of us. We are grateful that the aftermath of typhoon "Karding" was not like that of typhoon "Ulysses". But still, many houses were damaged particularly those near the ocean. Thankfully, most of the church members homes did not sustain major damages and even though our Patnanungan Church is not typhoon proof and very vulnerable in strong typhoon winds, the Lord kept everything safe. I was thankful for the faithful brethren who helped safely store: sound systems, plants and appliances before the typhoon arrived.



We are so thankful to PMA for bringing the medical and dental mission to the islands right after the super typhoon. This medical and dental team in Patnanungan served people who needed dental operations and provided free consultations for their health issues. The team was able to prescribe medication and vitamins as well. A total of 302 people were served in a day. 100 children were elated to receive gifts of toys and food goods from the generous team. As the pastor, being part of this medical program is such a great privilege and blessing for me. GLORY TO GOD!

Note from PMA Guam HQ: Although our PMF Patnanungan base and the community did not suffer much damage, our other churches and villages were not as fortunate: Our outreach church in Casuguran, Jomalig, was totally destroyed, while the roof and kitchen in the Catmon church building was blown away. Our Pastor's house and church building in Calutcot was adversely affected, with roof and walls collapsing. The roof of our Pastor's house in Guinaygayan and Busdak were both destroyed. But again, God was gracious and we thank Him that lives were not lost. Our strongly built churches in Guinaygayan, Jomalig and Apad were all used by the community as typhoon shelters. We were able to share food packages to all the needy villages who were greatly affected. The same medical team went on to Jomalig after serving in Patnanungan and they served a total of 367 people there in one day! Please pray for our plans to have these outreaches to the islands every quarter. Each outreach costs PMA \$3,500.00. Pray for the Lord's provision and for the volunteer medical/dental team members to be equipped and available to travel and serve in these remote islands.

The PMF Patnanungan Team are a great help to Pastor Bryan. The work of the mission is not dependent on one man, but on a team with one heart, one mission and one vision.



LOVING HIM AND LOVING OTHERS

by Jeny Gutierrez, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Center Head

“Jesus replied, ‘If anyone loves me, he will obey my teaching. My Father will love Him, and We will come to him and make our home with him.’”

John 14:23 (NLT)

The clearest sign that we truly love God is when we love one another and when we obey His Word. As believers, we are called to be loving towards our brothers and sisters in Christ, because our bond is what strengthens our faith. But, more important, we are also called to love the unlovable and the needy.

What a great privilege and opportunity it is for me and the Caregivers at Bahay Kalinga to be able to serve and care for those who are unable to take care of themselves, for those who are vulnerable and need protection. Every day we thank God we are serving Him here at Bahay Kalinga Orphanage.

Our God is faithful in providing all our needs. We have partners and prayer warriors –most of them we do not even know personally who faithfully give and pray so that Bahay Kalinga’s needs are met.

During the month of September, we were visited by the wife of our newly elected Mayor. Together with her friends, they brought gifts for the children. Before election, the mayor had promised that he would help Bahay Kalinga as much as he could, and he did not forget his promise. Indeed, God answers prayer and we believe it’s the beginning of a good partnership with them.

Health Care: We thank God for the dental care provided by the Rural Health Unit in Naujan to all our children. What a great service this is and a great praise that our children have healthy teeth. A Barangay (Community) Health Worker also visited us and checked the health of the children, weighing and providing Vitamin E for all them. Two of our babies were taken to the Calapan Health Center for a check-up. All these services were free to the Orphanage and most appreciated!

And then, together with Pastor Marty and Fred, came an 8-member-team of doctors and dentists who performed dental and women’s medical check-ups, as well as other services to the community. 274 patients were seen and checked in a day. Medicines were provided to those that needed them. The team also distributed gift bags for our orphans and the patients’ children. It was a happy occasion for everyone.

The Bureau of Fire Protection, Naujan, performed their annual inspection of our building/facility. We are so thankful for a successful inspection and were able to give a tour of our Orphanage to their new recruits.

The greatest praise however, was with the visit of Pastors Marty (our OIC) and Jose (PMF Amaga), we celebrated Sunday service and fellowship. Thank God for Fred Ranada from HQ Manila who joined them to repair and put in typhoon shutters on all our windows.

On their second visit, Pastor Marty and Fred completed the repairs and the construction of a generator “house”. Now, we are typhoon-ready. Thank You Lord!

Loving Him means loving others. Loving Him means giving. And the greatest gift we can give to others, is the Gospel message so that people can know Him and receive the greatest gift of all time – Jesus Christ!

Thanking God for the children God gave us to care and love for a time. Praying for a good family for them.



We now have 9 children to care for. For six of them, we are working on completing the needed adoption documents. We have cared for 271 children so far.



The Gift that keeps on Giving!

by Amos Collins, PMA Chief Pilot

Once the King Airs were settled in Yap and going strong, Virgil Gottfried, Samaritan's Purse's Special Operations Manager, who had been the main person managing the whole project, asked Franklin Graham what his next task would be. "You should head out to Micronesia and see their operation and see how you can help them." Franklin said. And so, on September 28, once the borders were open after Covid, Virgil arrived in Yap! He arranged for a Samaritan's Purse volunteer, Jay Hibbard, to join him and help with maintenance work. Jay has worked closely with Virgil for many years on different Samaritan's Purse projects and they make a good team.

Right away Virgil identified some areas of our operation that we were almost finished with but were struggling to complete. He helped us finalize our checklists in a way that made them user friendly and easy to follow. With his background at JAARS, Dynamic Aviation and Samaritan's Purse, Virgil had an eye for gaps in our operation that would enhance safety, if we implemented just a small change. We were very grateful for these improvements. Another way that Virgil has been an asset is helping us troubleshoot a couple electrical issues that we have not been able to solve. Virgil is tenacious and will not quit until the problem is solved. He also has a few good ideas for improvements to be made on the aircraft and has made a lot of phone calls to help us figure out the best way to do that.

Jay arrived one month after Virgil, and we decided that there were a lot more maintenance jobs that he could help with at our Palau base. So, two days after he arrived in Yap, we flew him to Palau. He helped us swap the propellers on the Queen Airs, remove the engine on our Cessna 206, install a modified engine mount, repaint the engine bay, and then install a new engine. He is very gifted with sheet metal repairs and so Brock gave him a flap to re-skin, and also a damaged belly skin to repair. Jay works very fast and has given the team a boost as he helps them complete a long list of maintenance tasks which had been piling up. We are so thankful for the partnership with Samaritan's Purse. They have come up alongside us and spurred us on as a big brother and we are so blessed by their servant hearts and kindness. We will miss Virgil and Jay and look forward to the next time we meet again.

The gift of two King Airs from Samaritan's Purse, and many other things were just the beginning. Virgil and Jay coming in person to help us is just like "the gift that keeps on giving" – just like our Lord Jesus Christ – the Giver of ALL things! We cannot help but give thanks to Him and stand amazed at what our God continues to do and give through Samaritan's Purse! We praise the Lord for He indeed is good and His love endures forever!



Amos Collins, PMA's Chief Pilot with Samaritans Purse's Virgil Gottfried and Dave Kendrick, PMA's Director of Operations.

Jay Hibbard from Samaritan's Purse at work on the Cessna 206.



God's Plan for My Life

by CJ Misajon, PMA Palau

I recall a sweet distant memory – I believe I was 5-years-old – when I got to experience my very first flight in a light airplane. I remember that we went up for a quick flight over the beautiful Palau Islands, and even got to sit on the co-pilot seat for a photo opportunity after landing.

That airplane happened to be one of Pacific Mission Aviation's Beechcraft Queen Airs that had flown into Palau that day for a Medevac. Little did I know, that 19 years later, God would lead me to serve as a missionary aircraft mechanic with PMA! God has given me the blessing of experiencing Him from a very early age, and even up until now, He has never left my side. Again, that is what He has promised His children.



*CJ on co-pilot seat
having an experience of a lifetime.*

Through the ministries with Pacific Mission Aviation, I have been so privileged to mature in my personal walk with Christ, in my faith, and even with skills and gifts that would be used to bring God all the praises and glory.

Having grown up with PMA and PMF (Pacific Mission Fellowship), I have been surrounded by such godly examples, leaders, mentors, co-missionaries, and dear friends and families.

The PMF church manifested what true fellowship in the body of Christ meant. To love God and love others, take care and serve one another. I was on the Praise and Worship Team all these years a humbling and joy-filled experience. It has become a ministry dear to my heart.

I learned that worship is more than just a song, but a way of life. With the very breath and strength God gives us, we give back to Him all the praises. We acknowledge Him as the creator of all things, the giver of grace and eternal life, our provider, our healer, Savior, and coming King.

With the aviation ministry, God's kingdom work continues. I have been so blessed to be a part of our aviation team. Yes, the absolute safety and airworthiness of PMA's aircrafts is of top priority, but the souls of those whom we witness and minister to, the people whom we serve, are of even greater value. The airplanes are such powerful tools to further the Gospel of Jesus Christ and His love in the islands.

It is humbling and fulfilling to know that, through this ministry, God can use our gifts, skills, and abilities to touch the lives and make a positive impact in the nation where we operate, in the community, to the people, both body and soul.

I will always consider Palau as my home, I was born and raised here. This island is where the Holy Spirit convicted me, and by grace, gained a relationship with Jesus Christ, and joined Him in His activity, and Palau is also where I would meet the love of my life, Sherlyn! God is amazing! He has led the both of us toward a new chapter in life, and we will be migrating to the state of Tennessee, USA. We are just in awe of God's leading in each of our lives, everything leading up to this point, and our hearts are ready to be used by Him, wherever, and however.

The value of having a relationship with Jesus is the greatest treasure, and with that gift, we are also called to go witness, minister and serve. Matthew 28:19-20 *“Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”*

May we all be ready and open to be God's tools and vessels, wherever He may lead.

Note from PMA Guam HQ: CJ has been a very vital member of our team. As he leaves PMA after 19 years of service, we are sad to see him go, but we rejoice for the new journey that God is leading him and we pray for the Lord to bless and use him wherever he goes!

***By God's grace, CJ and wife Sherlyn
press on to achieve God's wonderful plan for their lives!***





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