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To our Faithful Mission Friends,

Living on an island in the Pacific Ocean may sound exotic and romantic to you, and yes, while it is tropical and beautiful, there can be unexpected delays and disappointments that are just a part of island life. A few months ago, I ordered hydraulic fittings for our medical vessel Sea Haven by express mail to be delivered in 7-10 days. Instead they were sent by parcel post and when they finally arrived after 2 months by ship mail, they were “crimp on” fittings not the “reusable” type that I had ordered. My expectation dissolved into disappointment and then even delay for the departure time of the Sea Haven.

Have you ever wished and waited for a gift and when it finally did come and you unwrapped it, it wasn't what you had hoped for? Perhaps it was an anticipated Christmas gift or special birthday wish you had. You had to change your expectation and you grumbled inside.

The Jews waited 2000 years for a Messiah, but when the Messiah finally did come, they were confused and disappointed. This wasn't what they were expecting. A baby, born in a manger was far different from the proud powerful leader they were waiting for. Perhaps they were looking for someone like Herod, but instead they got a gentle, little, baby boy born in a dirty stable, surrounded by animals. The Savior of the world!

Isaiah 55:8 says: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the LORD." God's plan and timing may be different than yours, but if you take a moment to reflect upon the Christmas story, you will realize that man's disappointments are beautiful opportunities for God's appointments. As we come to the reality that we don't have all the answers, we have the opportunity to trust and rely on a God who has provided the greatest gift ever given to man. Wrapped in a different package than was expected, but the very present.... His very presence... which we all so urgently need in our lives today.

Our missionaries have many challenges throughout the year. Without God's presence, without trusting His timing, we too could fall into disappointment. Instead, we live in daily dependence on God to provide what we need, when we need it and learn to be consistently thankful people.

The message of Christmas is: God will be with you. God will help you. God will strengthen you. Thank you for praying and standing with us as we serve in Micronesia and the Philippines. May our amazing God fulfill your expectation as you choose to trust and believe in Him this Christmas and in the New Year.

Nob Kalau
President/CEO

MISSION NEWS UPDATE

GUAM. Once again at the end of this year, the Lord has proven to me and to PMA that He is able to do exceedingly, abundantly, all we can ever ask, imagine or think. God has no limit and able to provide for all our needs, even before we ask. I thank God for all our faithful partners who have consistently and faithfully provided for the needs of PMA and for the missionaries they support. Their prayers and provision are greatly appreciated. We are strengthened and encouraged by them. May the Lord bless them all the more!

PHILIPPINES. We are thankful to God for sparing and protecting our churches and homes in Polillo islands during onslaught of the last typhoon, Lando. However, brother Cesar from Catmon reports that a lot of the farmers suffered agricultural damage – their only source of livelihood. Please pray that help will come their way and for our PMF churches in the islands to be a source of blessing and hope to those who have so little and suffered so much.

BAHAY KALINGA ORPHANAGE, NAUJAN, MINDORO, PHILIPPINES. Looking back, we celebrate God's goodness as we now have been in our new compound for a year now! He indeed has sustained us. We celebrated Jazie's 3rd birthday, an abandoned child. We pray that her documents with DSWD will soon be processed so that she can be qualified for adoption. Please pray with us. ~ **Jeny Flores - Gutierrez**

PALAU. It is amazing to be part of divinely ordained circumstances: On Sunday afternoon while taking a walk without my cell phone, my wife 'accidentally' saw the incoming call and picked up the phone. It was a request for a sea search of a group of divers gone missing. It so happened that my wife found me at a remote location. Before we dispatched the aircraft we prayed with the searching crew for the success of this mission. The divers had drifted with the current and the boat driver waiting for them never found them. After 4 hours of drifting towards the edge of the reef out to ocean, at times surrounded by sharks as the dive guide later told me, they were found by another boat participating in the search. By God's grace our mission ended well for the divers, an adventure they will most likely not forget. It reminds me how much we can trust God to time things right. God is good, all the time. ~ **Stephan Schulz**

YAP, MICRONESIA. As this year draws to a close, we have much to be thankful for. God has truly blessed our ministry this year here in Yap. We thank God for the protection He has given us in all our flights. We thank Him for allowing us to bring hope to the isolated communities in the islands. And we thank God for the work He has done through our PMF church ministry as He grows up new believers here in Yap as well as in the Outer Islands. God has been very good to us, and we look forward to His provisions in the coming year. ~ **Amos Collins**

POHNPEI, MICRONESIA. Sea Haven is preparing to bring another load of school supplies, furniture and books to a school in Chuuk called Berea. The 1000 mile trip with 6 crew, will take a week and the blessing for the students who have no desks or boards and limited books will last through the years. Another opportunity to display the love of God, this Christmas season. ~ **Sylvia Kalau**

God gave His greatest gift to us on that first Christmas Day. May the wonder of it always guide and light your way... have a Blessed Christmas and may Faith, Hope and Love be your treasures in the New Year! God bless you more!

In Him we live and move and have our being

Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator