

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #2 - 2024

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



All Things Work Together For His Glory

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives

ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA).

Issue

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On our Cover

VBS Team in the Island of Woleai, Yap, 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

Current Positions Needed

- Two Missionary Pilot/Mechanics for twin engine turbine aircraft rated
- Two Missionary A&P Mechanics Turbine engine experience
- One Missionary Construction Foreman Lead on new building projects
- Three Missionary Construction/Maintenance Personnel Maintenance of buildings and grounds
- Two Missionary Pastors (One) to live and serve in Yap (One) to live and serve in Palau
- Three Missionary Youth Pastors Each to live and serve in Yap, Palau, and Pohnpei
- Missionary IT Manager Based in Guam Maintain website, cybersecurity, and other IT needs across PMA's bases

Infrastructure Needs

Projects in Micronesia

- Multipurpose Center / Church - Yap
- International Medical Evacuation Aircraft (King Air B200C)

Projects in Philippines

- Vehicle Van for Orphanage and Administrative Office
- Multipurpose Center /Church - Patnanungan

God is Always on Time

by Nob Kalau, PMA President

In the waiting room of life, when things aren't happening as quickly as you had envisioned, you can choose to be impatient or to panic... in fact, that's our natural response! We tend to focus on what's going on around us. We let our circumstances convince us that there is no reason to wait patiently, to be at peace, to trust, or to hope in the Lord.

But instead of panicking, we have a choice, we can choose to trust God who sees the big picture and remember these truths from 2 Peter 3:8–10:

“God is never in a hurry: The Lord is not slow about His promise, as some count slowness, but is patient toward you, not wishing for any to perish but for all to come to repentance. But the day of the Lord will come ...”

God is never late. His timing is always perfect.
*“A day with the Lord is like a thousand years,
and a thousand years are like a day.”*

This Sunday, I am preaching about waiting and the story of Lazarus from John 11. Lazarus was one of Jesus' best friends, with his two sisters, Mary and Martha, they lived in Bethany, which was just a few miles from where Jesus was on the day Lazarus got sick. They sent word to Jesus that his friend was gravely ill and asked Him to come to the house of Lazarus. Jesus could have easily made it to Bethany the next day, yet it took him 3 days to make the journey. When he got to the home of Lazarus, what did they tell him? “You're too late! We've already buried Lazarus.”

Was Jesus late? Jesus already knew what He was going to do. His goal was not to heal Lazarus. His goal was to raise him from the dead. Jesus' goal was not to just make Lazarus well but to do a miracle of awesome proportions. Jesus walked up to Lazarus' tomb, and said, “Lazarus, come out.” And Lazarus did!

Sometimes God lets a situation get so bad that we are overcome with desperation. Don't panic. Hold on. Keep praying and serving and meeting with God's family. Keep sowing. Keep believing. Because you're getting ready for God to do something amazing.

At PMA we too could use a few miracles. As you read about the Philippines and Micronesia in this Island Echoes, we thank you for praying that our missionaries would be trusting in God's timing and provision as they move forward in ministry.

Thank you for joining us as we pray for Children's VBS on various islands, typhoon damage to our PI churches, medical outreach that happened at just the right time, volunteer pilot who came to serve at an important time of his life, an orphan placed in a loving home, a time of sorrow, and Bible studies and weekly ministries that continue each week.

God has given us the right amount of time to do what is most important to Him, the message and testimony of salvation... all according to God's timetable.

Remaining Steadfast through the Storms of Life

by Maria Melinda Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

On May 26, I received a message from Teacher Mercy, that Patnanungan would soon be hit by Typhoon Aghon. She asked for prayers for all PMA staff and churches. She and her daughter Faith would be going to the PMA Learning Center building to ride-out the storm. She was not sure if the house she was staying in would withstand the winds and rain.

The news network in the Philippines said: “Severe tropical storm Aghon (international name: Ewiniar) made another landfall over Patnanungan Island, Quezon, on Sunday night, the state weather bureau said. Prior to this, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa) reported eight landfalls in various parts of the country over the weekend.” The Typhoon lingered over the Philippine islands for several days, before shifting northeastward away from the archipelago. All storm warnings were lifted by Tuesday.

Checking each of our island churches in the area, here were the reports from Pastor Marty:

PMF Church Catmon: Roof was blown away, some of the fence barb wires were down and the kitchen and Sunday school area were also destroyed by the storm. As of this writing, we are only able to meet together when there is no rain. The Vacation Bible school was postponed until we have the roof in place.

PMF Guinaygayan Church. There was minor damage in the outside ceiling of the Church. The house of our Pastor was fine and his family as well. The Church had become an evacuation place for 7 families during the storm. Praise the Lord!

PMF Visayan Village. We do not have a church building in this area but are using the Child Care Facility of the village. The hard part of this is that Pastor Freddie’s house was blown away including some of the family’s personal items. We pray that we can construct with strong materials a church and parsonage in this area. At present, they have built a makeshift house.

PMF Calutcot. Praise God that the church in Calutcot was strong enough to keep its roof during the storm. There was no damage in the building except for the rain coming into the building. Most of the damages were in the house of Pastor Ed. The roof of the newly repaired outhouse was blown away. Their kitchen was also torn by the winds and was slightly damaged, but they immediately repaired it since the tin walls are still intact. The church here also needs to be built with strong materials.

PMF Amaga. Two of the tin roofing of the Church were damaged but it was easily covered since it was not totally ripped off. The Sunday school place of gathering that the church built with nipa (thatched roof) did not withstand the wind and the whole roof was ripped off. Pastor Tayangona recovered the roof and placed it back – but it was not the same as before – when it rains, it leaks. We really need to replace it with new nipa.

The rest of our churches suffered rain coming into the buildings, broken trees and scattered debris, and therefore needed a lot of clean-ups afterwards. Agricultural products (bananas, avocados, jackfruit, etc.) were destroyed and the cell phone towers were down. But our Pastors pressed on, cleaned up, tried to fix what they could and continued to do the work of the ministry. They continue to wait for God’s provision to repair what has been damaged by the storm. I hear no complaints from them but a continued, “We continue to pray, Ate (that is what they call me – meaning “older sister”). We know that God will provide.” Please pray for the infrastructure we need to provide in the Philippines. Thankfully we own most of the properties where our churches are. Of the 11 - only two are with “rights only”, so we cannot build anything strong.

The one verse that keeps them going is *“Therefore, my beloved brothers, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain.”* 1 Corinthians 15:58



PMF Catmon church damages. As the rainy/typhoon season in upon us, we await for better weather to repair the damages in the church. Meanwhile home visitation is a must.



God's Perfect Time

by Pastor Marty Lumigis, OIC PMA Philippines

A medical team was set to serve the islands particularly in Barangay Busdak and Calutcot for the last quarter of 2023. One of our board members, Dr. James Wee, desired to join the team in 2023 but unfortunately wasn't able to make it due to health reasons. Many months have passed, but the desire to serve in the Pollilo islands remained in his heart. Now in this second quarter of 2024, the medical outreach was realized.

The Lord made a way for Dr. Wee to lead the medical team to Patnanungan, Guinaygayan, Apad and Jomalig. Bringing with him his family (all medical practitioners), and other doctors who committed themselves to serving the people in the islands through PMA.

The medical missions took place from June 2 to 6, 2024. We had general check-up for both adults and children, circumcisions, and eye check-up. The children sponsored by Compassion International also underwent medical check-up during this time.

The team served 181 patients in Patnanungan and 290 patients in Apad. Altogether there were 471 patients served.

Indeed, the Lord granted the desire of Dr. Wee to serve in the Islands through PMA. He and his team returned to Manila full of joy in their hearts knowing that God used them as an expression of God's love to the people in the islands. PMA is delighted to see our Board members visiting our stations. I only now understood why God did not allow Dr. Wee to come last year because God had a special ministry prepared for them this year.

PMA is a partner of Compassion Philippines Intl. All eligible children need to have medical records set up for each of them. The Lord is always good and made this happen.

Many times, we ask the Lord why our hearts' desires were not granted, but in hind sight we recognize He has a better plan. We only have to trust Him. Sometimes with our impatience and limited knowledge about who God is, we forget He is in control and knows what is best for us. As Ephesians 3:20 says, *"that He is able to do far more abundantly than all we ask or think according to His power that is at work within us"*.

Our hearts' desire may sometimes be delayed, or not granted, but one thing is sure, God is working to fulfill it according to His perfect plan and purpose. To God be the Glory for what God is doing in the islands of the Philippines.



The 4-day medical outreach was a great help and encouragement to the people of Patnanungan, Guinayagan, Apad and Poblacion Jomalig. Dr. James Wee, a member of PMA Philippines' Board of trustee (picture below) was a great help in putting the team together.



Jasmine - A Gift from God

by Ann Caspe, Bahay Kalinga Social Worker

*“The LORD is close to the broken hearted
and saves those who are crushed in spirit.” Psalm 34:18*

Jasmine was referred to PMA Bahay Kalinga for further case management by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Office in December of 2019, and entrusted to us for temporary shelter. The child had allegedly been abused by her step father.

She was six years old when admitted to PMA BK. She wore a pink floral dress with lace and cried uncontrollably during the BK admission process. Prior to her acceptance by PMA BK, she was examined at the local Municipal Health Office and was found physically fit. Today we continue to thank God that she remains healthy. She has not experienced any illness requiring hospitalization since her admission.

Jasmine is now ten-years-old and has developed interest in volleyball and badminton. She loves to play Chinese garter, and local games like “tumbang preso” (which involves hitting an empty can with slippers and avoiding being tagged). With encouragement from her caregivers, she likes singing with karaoke and dancing using a hula hoop. She has been given only one hour screen time twice a week to allow her to have more time to play with the other children in the BK and to study. We are happy that she engages well with the other BK children. She likes to help the care givers and the social worker with a cheerful heart.

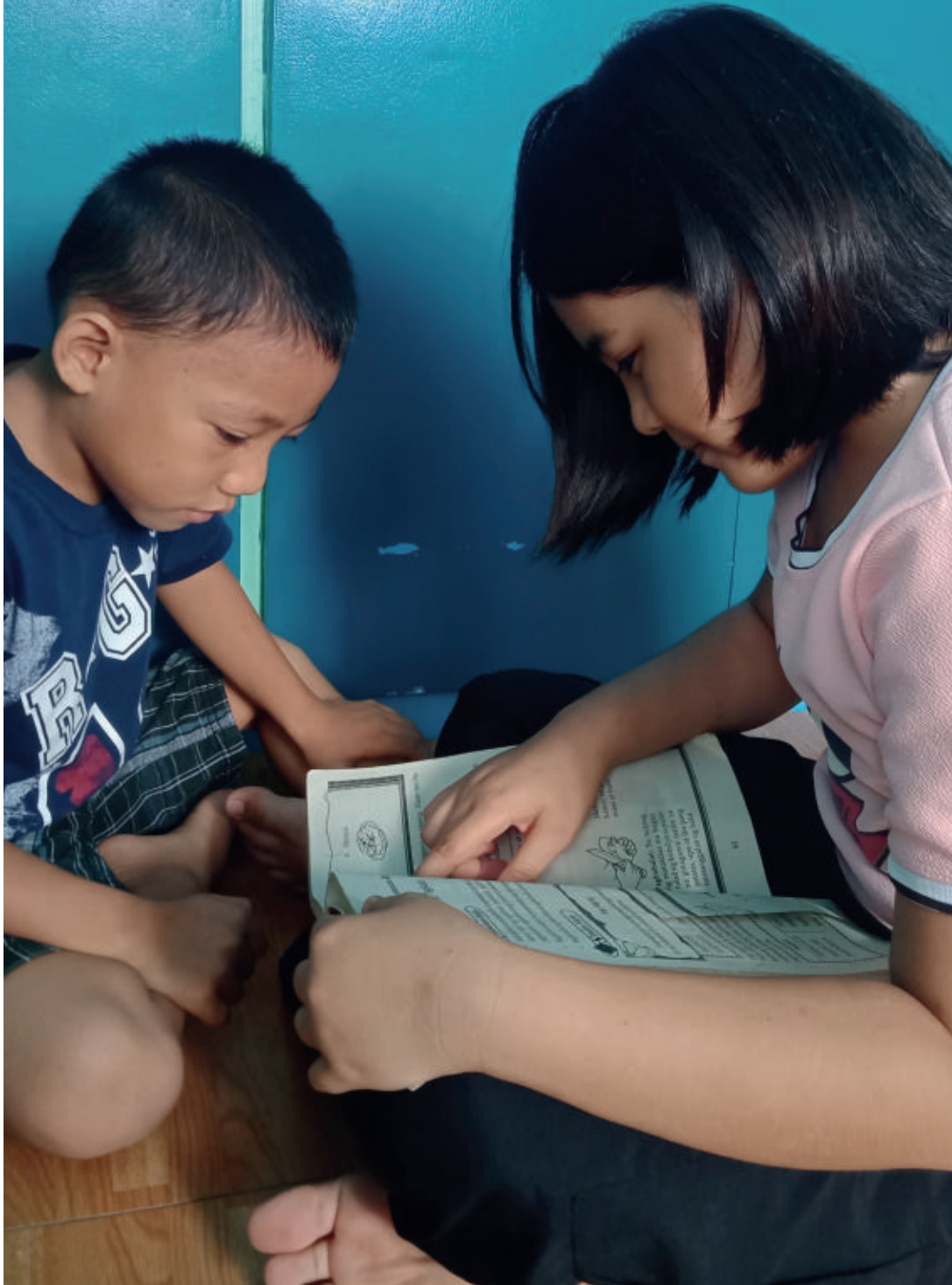
Jasmine is currently enrolled in grade 4 in one of the public schools of Naujan, Oriental Mindoro. She consistently receives an academic excellence award every quarter.

Her case is still on-going. The PMA BK social worker and regional childcare offices conducted a series of conferences regarding her case. Her known mother will be re-assessed on her capability to parent Jasmine again as well as prove her willingness to undergo the necessary process to reclaim her custody.

Jasmine, like any other child, needs a safe, secure environment, where she knows she is accepted, loved and cared for. All these reinforce her self-esteem. We are thankful that she knows the Lord and that being His child and part of His forever family gives her stability.

We praise God for PMA BK – a place that has given her hope for the future and unconditional love. Please pray for future plans for her – for the Lord to guide all of us concerned with her well-being as she is growing older. We entrust her and her future to the Lord who has a good plan for her!

Jasmine's love for the other children manifests in her actions. Here she is reading a story to one of the children, both engrossed and enjoying the story. Update: We praise God that Jasmine was matched with a family for foster care. Toward the end of July our Social Worker and one of the Caregivers will accompany her to her foster family. Pray that Jasmine will be able to settle well and adjust to this new place. May this become for her a safe and loving home.



Navigating the Storm

by Dillon Wakeford, Missionary Pilot, Palau

Recently I experienced a reality check on Medevacs. Piloting isn't just being the hero, soaring in and saving lives. It is about so much more. It's about being there when a loved one's life is lost. It's about the days and weeks after when the shock and often sadness turns to anger. Recently an islander suffered a stroke, a nurse cared for him for several hours and called for a medivac. He made it to the hospital, but sadly passed away there. How does one comfort and encourage family and friends who have lost a loved one in this manner? How do we demonstrate the love of Christ during these painful times? What I could do was be with them, answering questions and praying with them. Some attend my Bible Study group in Angaur and so I could share with them where their loved one was now. My prayer to God is that as I continue to meet those impacted by the loss, that I find the right words to use when the locals speak of their loss.

On one occasion, I had the honor of flying the Governor of Angaur who was participating in the moving up & graduation ceremony for about 5 to 6 children. Although the weather was fine when we left, it quickly turned stormy, and clouds caved in. It wasn't wise to navigate through them and I circled around trying to find a clearing. By the grace of God, I was able to find a path and landed the Governor safely. I contacted our home airport and was informed that the storm was too great to return. I prayed it would pass, but also prepared to spend the night at the pagoda style 'international' airport with the monkeys. Yes, monkeys do live in Angaur and hangout at the airport. I was relieved when the storm passed and it was safe to return. Thank You, Lord!

Palau is in the rainy season, which is at its greatest July thru October. This weather can keep our planes grounded or in the air circling unable to land. Please pray with us that our weather does not impede future emergency evacuations, or – for that matter – our regular flights!



The pagoda style International Airport in Angaur was Dillon's safe place during the recent storm. We thank God that He is our Anchor and Safe place during the storms of our life. He is faithful and able to keep us safe!

Weeping May Endure for a Night

by Amos Collins, Chief Pilot, PMA Yap

"Weeping may endure for a night, but joy cometh in the morning."

Psalm 30:5

On July 12, 2024, our PMA family was in tears as we heard the sad news reported by our Pilot Jonathan Paulsen telling us that his plane had run off the runway while on takeoff from the remote island of Woleai shortly after 11:00 AM. The runway in Woleai is our most challenging runway as it is very narrow and also easily floods when it rains. While on takeoff, Jonathan hit a large puddle which caused the aircraft to lose directional control and veered him off the runway and into the brush. The damage is such that the aircraft will never fly again. Our sadness turned to joy as we learned that Jonathan and all 9 passengers who were from our PMF Church VBS team, walked away without a scratch. For 6 days they remained on the island as we all waited for the weather to clear and the runway to dry up. On July 18, the Lord allowed us to fly in and pick them up and bring them back home to Yap. We do not know all the reasons why the Lord has allowed this to happen. There are certainly lessons to be learned, and policies that need to be made to increase safety. On the spiritual side, the Lord used our Pastor Petrus, wife Queen and VBS team, who were there for an additional week, to minister to the people and it became an open door for them to share the Gospel. They even had a baptism! It has been 34 years since PMA last lost an aircraft. It is very sad to have an accident happen, but we look ahead to what the Lord wants to teach us and how He will use this for His Glory. We appreciate your prayers for the emotional recovery of the people involved, and also for the salvage and replacement of this aircraft.



Gap Year Experience

by Tobias Glockner, PMA Volunteer, Yap

As my final year of high school was coming to an end, I looked for an opportunity for a gap year, a common thing for students to do in Germany before starting an apprenticeship or attending university after high school. The student spends a year doing something completely different to gain life experience. I was searching for an opportunity to help people with practical work, improve my English, and actively contribute to God's kingdom.

I came across the topic of "Mission Aviation" through a flyer, and instantly was very excited about it. Landing with small planes on rough airstrips at "the end of the world", all in the service of the Lord – for me, it was clear: I wanted to serve Jesus in mission aviation.

After some attempts, I finally got in touch with administrator Matthias from PMA Germany, who prepared me for the different culture. After several long months, the time had finally come. On December 12, my journey to Micronesia began.

In the past six months, I have had a unique experience with PMA on Yap and have gained many valuable life lessons. One highlight came right at the beginning; with PMF Pastor Petrus, I had the privilege of distributing Samaritan's Purse OCC (Operation Christmas Child) gifts to various schools in Yap. It was a special experience for me because my home church has been taking part in this ministry for years, and now I got to see children on the receiving side.

In the hangar, I assisted with daily flight operations, maintenance, and the construction of the hangar extension. It's so enjoyable to work with Tommy, Dave, and JR, who are always up for a good joke.

What made the time particularly special for me were the countless "once-in-a-lifetime" moments, whether it was a kayak tour to small, deserted islands with the kids of Chief-Pilot Amos and Pastor Petrus, or climbing a Banyan tree at an absolutely crazy height. For a European, it actually starts with the ride at the back of a flatbed truck (which is not allowed in Germany) ... my first devotional in English, and definitely the airplanes and the flights to the outer islands, especially when you get to take over the controls yourself!

A special highlight at the end of my stay was the five-day journey with the vessel Hapimohol 2 along the outer islands to Woleai. Sleeping on deck in the moonlight swinging from a hammock, I could experience the beauty of the islands and their cultures up close once again.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time with PMA. I have collected a lot of great experiences and memories. PMA is made up of ordinary Christians that God uses to do an amazing job for the island people and especially for the Kingdom of God. I am happy and honored to be part of this unique and growing ministry.



A gap year for Tobias involved serving with PMA in Yap where he had experienced many life lessons not only in aviation operations, but ministry as well as he helped in PMA's church Pacific Mission Fellowship's Pastor Petrus. After his service in Yap, Tobias went on to the Philippines and visited our mission station in Patnanungan, for a week, where he experienced more grassroots missionary work with our PMF church there and enjoyed the fellowship of the PMA team headed by Pastor Bryan.



Temptation is not a Hopeless Matter ...

by Sabine Musselwhite, PMA Missionary in Pohnpei

Our Ladies' Bible Study group in Pohnpei has an average attendance of 12. Most of them have an active ministry in our PMF church such as Sunday school teacher, worship team member and prayer group warrior. They are very eager to advance in their Bible knowledge and understanding.

Inspired by the Bible Project miniseries on Spiritual Being (<https://bibleproject.com/explore/video/intro-spiritual-beings/>), I had it upon my heart to talk about God's creation of spiritual beings – The Divine Council, the Elohim, cherubim and seraphim, angels, the Angel of the Lord and Satan with his demons. It was quite a study and the ladies had many questions as we gathered together for the sessions.

Even though the Micronesian islands have had Christian missionaries and Biblical instruction available to them, there are still many people in the islands that are in contact with black magic and belief in dark spirits. While growing up, the ladies were familiar with such dark practices. It is no wonder that they were curious with many questions about Satan and his demons and inquired about their influence on us as Christians: "Does Satan know what I am thinking? Can he influence my thoughts and actions? Can he make me say things I don't want to say?"

We immediately turned to the Bible and found that many Scriptures speak about this topic. "We are sealed with the Holy Spirit" (Ephesians 1:13) and "*only God knows the heart of a man*" (1 Kings 8:39) and "*God knows what we will say before we can say it, while the thought is still formulating*" (Psalm 139:4). Consequently, we are protected from outside influences.

The Apostle Peter reminds us to "*Stay alert! Watch out for your great enemy, the devil. He prowls around like a roaring lion, looking for someone to devour. Stand firm against him and be strong in your faith.*" (1Peter 5: 8, 9a). Many other Scriptures have a similar meaning. Martin Luther said, "You cannot prevent the birds from flying over your head, but you can prevent them to build a nest on your head." When the devil came to tempt Jesus in the wilderness after being weakened by fasting, Jesus countered each of his attempts to seduce Him with the reminder of what the Scripture clearly says. He commanded the devil to back- off and go away. (Matthew 4:1-11).



We all agreed that based on what we learned from the Bible, we can be tempted but only on the outside – we always have a choice of which voice we listen to – the Godly voice or the worldly voice because, “the Spirit who lives in you is greater than the spirit who lives in the world.” (1 John 4:4).

Dr. David Jeremiah said this about resisting temptation: “Two natures beat within my chest. The one is foul, the one is blessed... The one I love, the one I hate – the one I feed will dominate!”

Yes, there is still the old nature in the life of a Christian that tries to contradict what the Holy Spirit is leading us to think or do, but we always have a choice whom we choose to follow. Is it easy to fight off temptation? By no means! But as a Christian, my Lord is the God of Heaven and Earth. Satan has no authority over me.

This Bible Study comforted some of our sisters who were not really sure how much influence the devil can have on their lives, especially when we wrapped it up with 1 John 5:18b: “...for God’s Son holds God’s children securely, and the evil one cannot touch them.” It was a very blessed lesson and all of us realized how essential it is that we read and know our Bible and quote it when tempted.

Ladies from PMF church Pohnpei meet once a week for Bible Study where they dig in deeper into the Word of God. It makes them more aware of the Truth and by God’s grace, wisdom and strength, enable them to live it as well.





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