

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #3 - 2024

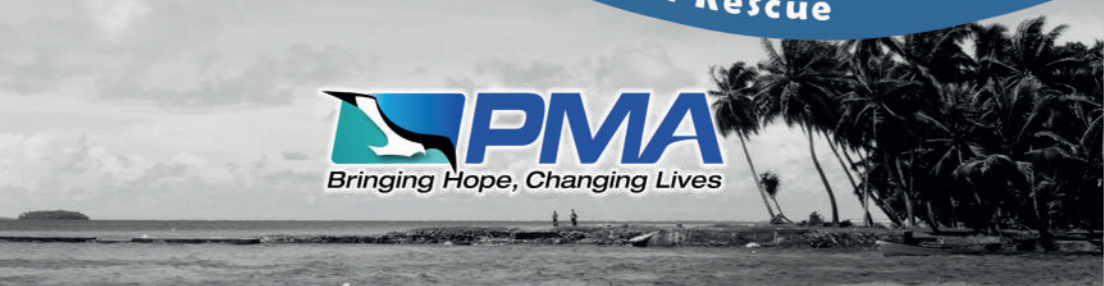
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Rice and Rescue

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA).

Issue

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On our Cover

PMA's Rice/Personal Locator Beacon Program

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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 Children's Ministry and Administrative Office
- Multipurpose Center /Church - Patnanungan

*"Give thanks to the Lord, for He is good.
His love endures forever."
Psalm 139:1*



Nob Kalau

God With Us!

I never come to Christmas without thinking of the people in our islands who are lonely, diseased and troubled at this time of year. Christmas is a reminder from our Lord Himself that we are never alone. The Prophet Isaiah said and they will call Him Immanuel which means “God with us” Matthew 1:23. Our God revealed in the life, death and resurrection of His only begotten son, Jesus, a reconciling love that rescues us from separation and loneliness.

This was the message of the first Christmas night and it has not changed for 2000 years: *“You shall call His name Jesus, for He will save His people from their sins.”* Matthew 1:21.

The Christmas message says that God’s grace is greater than our sin. It says that the sin question was answered at the cross. Christmas says that the cross went as deep as our needs. The cross was the cure - offered, paid for and administered by a loving God in His beloved Son.

The message of Christmas is God with us. And we can proclaim that amazing truth throughout the whole year. It’s important to remember, especially during those times when we are going through great difficulty and challenge. The Psalmist said, *“If I take the wings of the morning, and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there Your hand shall lead me, and Your right hand shall hold me”*. Psalm 139:9–10

It is especially reassuring and encouraging for us at PMA to know that God is with us on tiny islands sprinkled across the big blue boundless ocean. God is with our care givers at the Orphanage as they love the babies and little children day in and day out. God is with our Pastors in the Philippines who live in remote villages on isolated islands and preach from makeshift bamboo pulpits. God is with our pilots as they fly over the vast Pacific Ocean delivering passengers, flying cargo, searching for missing boats and people, bringing patients to the hospital, dropping much needed medicine via a parachute on an island with no runway.

God is with us as we carry out medical clinics for remote villages. God is with us as we build friendships, lead Bible studies, send out the Good News via radio, work in the office, apply for grants, live the Gospel of Jesus Christ. God is with us... and in this fact, we rest and continue to serve

This Christmas, accept Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. Give Him the gift that He wants - your heart, your soul, your life.

Celebrating “God with us”, at 6.9 Degrees above the Equator,
Nob Kalau

LEAP OF FAITH!

by Virgilio Penafiel, Grants Manager

"... But one thing I do: forgetting what lies behind and straining forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus." Philipians 3:13-14

In my 2nd year of college as an Army ROTC Cadet with the University of Guam, I was introduced to the meaning of faith. It was a hot summer day in Georgia. I was flying on a C130, and after some heart-pounding moments, I took three steps and jumped out the door of a perfectly working aircraft. As I fell from the sky to earth, I prayed, praised, and thanked Jesus for opening the parachute and granting me another day to serve my God and country. Although this was ages ago, before I worked with PMA, I felt it necessary to share how God entered my life in a profound and personal way to take a leap of faith to trust in God with all my heart and not lean on my own understanding.

After meeting my military officer obligations, I worked as a solutions provider in education, computers, sales, marketing, media, and advertising, serving various organizations as an independent. I also took to learning by taking additional courses at the University and software accreditations in Manila during this period. Each experience and lesson learned continues even now. Still, life took a different turn when my mom was diagnosed with pre-Alzheimer's, and I needed to dedicate more of my time to taking care of her. During this period, my focus changed, and I learned the challenges of being self-employed and caregiving. I realized that with each passing day, my mom would require more significant support. It was another profound life-changing event where I asked our Lord God to keep me strong and put my trust in Him. During this time, I had an opportunity to reflect and think about where my life was going since caring for my mom would eventually become a full-time responsibility.

A few years later, my sister called me and said she would take over care for our mother. I was both thankful and regretful since I would miss her presence, but knowing my sister Kathy could better care for her, God's will would be done.

After this transition, I received a call from Cel, a friend who wanted me to enter into a new career in public service with the Government of Guam, the Guam Transit Authority. I realized it was an opportunity to serve the island's poor, including people with disabilities. It was a great cause but also one that was difficult and full of challenges. After reflection, I felt my mom's ailment and being allowed to serve others with a disability was perhaps a sign from God. I again took the leap of faith to trust the path He had laid to transition to public service. At Guam Transit, I worked on several projects and grant writing/management to help improve communications and the lives of the island's disadvantaged. Despite the challenges, I found joy not necessarily in writing grants and projects but in the thought of how they would help many lives.

After a few years with Guam Transit, I received a call from Melinda who serves as PMA's CFO and Administrator, whom I knew while working on my degree. She wanted to discuss grants. She introduced me to PMA's CEO Nob Kalau, and I learned more about the need to serve the island community. The message of "Bringing Hope and Changing Lives" for Micronesia and the Philippines struck a strong meaning when I saw how I could be of service and bring hope to more people. Once more, I took a leap of faith and trusted in God.

At the end of the day, the path that brought me to PMA and the joy it brings is not just about the work I do in writing and managing grants. It is the joy of hope and the opportunity to make a positive impact upon PMA's missionaries and ministries. Although each of us in PMA has different roles to play and skills unique to us, we are all one in His amazing service. As the years have passed, I thank and praise God for my being a part of PMA and witnessing His miraculous work when grants are awarded and completed through His team of people.



Team Guam! It takes a team to realize a dream. We learned that we are together, each with different talents and gifts from the Lord – not to compete but to complete and complement each other to attain PMA's vision of "Bringing Hope and Changing Lives".

From left to right: Virg Penafiel, Rahanne Pinaula, Melinda Espinosa, Wai Ma, Alex Kalau.

Echoes from Patnanungan Bayan

by Pastor Bryan Bantucan, PMF Church Missionary Pastor

“Let them give glory to the LORD and proclaim His praise in the islands.”
Isaiah 42:12

We praise and thank God for all He has done! We thank Him for sustaining us, giving us joy in what we do. Enabling us to serve Him with gladness.

We thank God for our partner, Compassion International, through our Partnership Facilitator, three families who were adversely affected by Typhoon Carina, were granted to receive aid of grocery items each for \$100.00 from the Disaster Fund. How thankful these families were, that the Lord sustained and provided for their needs!

We conducted the Health Drive for Health and Personal Hygiene for the participants and caregivers for those in the Compassion program, which we have called CDC. It made them aware of personal cleanliness and how to prevent themselves from getting sick. It was well attended by our participants from Barangay Poblacion. We thank God for the resource speaker, a registered nurse from our Rural Health Unit. After that event, as part of our program, we held a Feeding Program. This was a five-day feeding affair for the undernourished participants. Our CDC provided healthy meals which included meat, fish, egg, vegetables and fruits. 30 out of 33 participants gained weight. The participants enjoyed eating together, and the parents were thankful for the program. I praise and thank the Lord for all the CDC staff/volunteers who serve joyfully.

We also had a visit from Biclatan Christian Church Team from Cavite led by Pastor Felix Lacumbo. They visited the island because they wanted to share the Gospel to a particular family that they knew. But God had a plan for their team, as some of their church members gave the team used clothes, shoes for kids, goods for children and common medicines that they could give for PMF Patnanungan. Being their primary contact and recipient and being also the Ministerial Chairman of our Ministerial Council here in Patnanungan, I informed Pastor Felix that we rather give these to two PMF churches (PMF Visayan Village and PMF Guinaygayan) since we had CDC participants from there. The 22 families received the blessings they brought. What happened was amazing, they shared the Gospel and many received the Lord Jesus Christ as their personal Lord and Savior! They were all properly endorsed and entrusted to the care of our PMF church pastors for their spiritual guidance and continued spiritual growth. It was indeed a wonderful, blessed day!

Pastor Marty continues to hold monthly discipleship and mentoring classes for our PMF pastors, aside from visiting all the PMF churches as well. The classes are held at the Patnanungan Base. It is good for all of us to meet every month for equipping, encouragement, fellowship and prayer. This time, Pastor Marty taught us on how we can improve preparing for Sunday messages and how to effectively deliver them. For most of us, it was a good refresher on formulating our message outline through the “expository method”.

This method may not be new to us, for this is not only to enhance our preaching skills but enables us to check ourselves through God’s Word if we are rightly dividing the Word of God. We should let God speak to us when studying His Word and allow the Bible to speak for itself and not our own interpretation. Pastor Marty also gave us the opportunity to present our message with the other pastors/workers as the audience. After our presentation, we had the opportunity to encourage one another, as well as provide pointers for improvement, which each one accepted with a teachable heart. We thank God for all that we learn during these monthly meetings!



PMF Pastors together to study and learn under Pastor Marty Lumigis, Head Pastor and OIC. At the same time praising God, praying and encouraging one another showing each other love and grace.

From left to right: Capt. Bayani, Pastors Eleazer, Ed, Narciso, Jose, Bryan and Freddie.

Rocky - Trusting on the Rock

by Micah Oda, Center Head

and Ana Caspe, Social Worker, PMA Bahay Kalinga

Rocky was approximately 8 days old when he was admitted to PMA's Bahay Kalinga. The child was named Rocky by the Municipal Social Welfare and Development Officer. "Rocky" was derived from the Patron saint of dogs, Roch (pronounced as rock in English) as he was found surrounded by stray dogs as if they were protecting him from any harm.

The child appeared to be healthy. At one-month-old, he could respond to familiar sounds and voices by smiling spontaneously. He liked bright colored objects, particularly red colors. As he grew, he responded playfully, giggled and often laughed when getting tickled on his tummy. He displayed cheerful behavior such as smiling and making happy noises when caregivers were around and cried loudly when they left the room. He had fun interacting with the other child close to his age at the center. He wanted to be held most of the time and cried out loud to get attention and eventually would stop crying as soon as he was picked up. He could maintain eye contact when someone was talking to him. He responded by looking in the direction when he heard someone calling his name.

At 1-year-old, his appetite increased, and he loved to eat "Marie" biscuits. He could drink 8 oz of milk straight. He learned to walk quickly and loved music as he swayed his body, clapped his hands and wiggled every time he heard music. He seemed to love watching children's songs on television and he imitated the actions of the children in the song. He was taken to church together with the caregiver and the social worker.

No information was available on the child's biological family. The finders, local leaders, Health Workers had no idea of who left the baby inside the finders' backyard. It was then that PMA-Bahay Kalinga also tried to locate the child's birth parent/s and relatives through newspaper publications, and the child's case was broadcasted over the radio. A social media posting on PMA Bahay Kalinga's Facebook page was made with information content about Rocky. Yet no one contacted PMA Bahay Kalinga.

PMA received a copy of Rocky's newborn screening test result. Documents were submitted to the Child Care Office and in January 2024, RACCO forwarded the case summary of the child. The social worker facilitated the registration of the child's Certificate of Live Birth with No Known Parents in February 2024 in the Local Civil Registry. In May 2024, PMA received a copy of Rocky's birth certificate.

Rocky needs continuous provision of comfort, love, and basic needs with proper nutrition. He deserves a family who can support him in achieving his full potential. We have the best interest of the child on our hearts. Soon, he will be able to have a permanent family that will love, cherish, care, and support him as he grows. It is recommended for Rocky be declared legally available for adoption and so as to facilitate his permanent placement.



*“The LORD is my rock, my fortress and my deliverer;
my God is my rock, in whom I take refuge,
my shield and the horn of my salvation, my stronghold.”*

Psalm 18:2 Has been Rocky’s Life verse, depending only on the Rock, our Lord Jesus Christ.

The Islander - God's Work Horse

by Brock Welge, PMA Palau Station Manager

"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything in the Name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God the Father through Him." Colossians 3:17

Here in Palau, we have a few different aircraft that we use for our aviation ministry. One of them is a Brittin Norman Islander. The Islander is a twin-engine version of the Cessna 206. It can seat up to 9 passengers and take off and land in very short distances. The best part is there are two engines, which means it is a great option when our missions take us out over open water. Part of our ministry here in Palau is providing search and rescue flights many miles offshore, which work well in the Islander. This airplane is also a good option when we need to fly a sick patient at low altitude for a medevac. It even serves as a good back-up to our larger King Air aircraft for taking passengers and cargo to and from Yap, which is a 250-mile journey.

Earlier this year we were able to use the Islander to perform many search and rescue flights, one of which helped locate 3 stranded fisherman, 15 miles from shore. We praise God we were able to locate the fisherman in time for them to be rescued.



Keeping the islander running is a lot of work, as it takes twice as much maintenance as our single engine aircraft. There are many inspections and lots of maintenance to perform to keep the Islander in good shape. There is also unscheduled maintenance, like having to tear the engine down to replace a worn camshaft or replacing the nose landing gear and rudder control components when the plane had a vibration while landing.

God is faithful to provide what we need to keep this plane flying in ministry service. This month we are especially grateful as we just returned the aircraft to service after an annual inspection and installing the pitot probe and nose gear, just in time to be ready for what the Lord brings our way, as we serve the island people into 2025!

Palau Team, working together for higher purpose: Left to Right: Melody Coleman, Julius Thomas, Jun DeLina, Dillon Wakeford, Paul Hategalfil, Maverick Mwalusholig, Brock Welge.



Rescued!

by Amos Collins, Chief Pilot, PMA Yap, Micronesia

“Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea - the LORD on high is mighty.” Psalm 93:4

One of the services that PMA provides to the fishermen in the outer islands of Yap is to give them Personal Locator Beacons (PLBs). They are also sometimes called EPIRBs. We encourage them to carry the PLBs in their boats when going out fishing, so that if their motor dies or some other catastrophe at sea occurs, they have the capability to signal for help. These PLBs cost about \$300 but there is no cost to register them. Once they are activated, they send a signal to the satellites and instantly the Coast Guard in Guam receives an alert with coordinates for their location. The Coast Guard will call the registered owner (they are under my name) to verify if this is truly an emergency. PMA pays for these PLBs with a program where we bring rice to the islands whenever there is space available on the plane. The rice is sold for \$2 more than they were purchased, and those \$2 are used to buy the PLBs. PMA donates the cost of freight since the bags of rice only fly “space available.”

On August 17, 2024, at 12:30 PM, I received a phone call from the Coast Guard that one of the PLBs that PMA had assigned to Satawal Island was transmitting a distress signal 23 NM NE of Satawal Island. I got connected to Andrew Yatilman who is the Emergency Management Secretary for the FSM, who himself is from Satawal. He was in Pohnpei and was able to reach Satawal through their Starlink internet. He verified that a boat had left at 2:00 am for a submerged reef. They had not returned as planned, and the motor they were using had been known to have problems in the past.



An Islander with a Personal Locator Beacon (PLB) provided by PMA – A great help when looking and rescuing people lost at sea.

We relayed this information to the Coast Guard who diverted a cutter, the Oliver Henry, which was 223 NM to the North of Satawal. They arrived on site at 2:00 AM the next morning. When the sun came up, they found the boat at the location the PLB had given them. They were then taken back to Satawal.

Evidently the boat had engine problems when they were about 8 miles from the submerged reef. The fishermen activated the PLB but they also were determined to save themselves. One of them took his thu (loin cloth) off and made a makeshift sail out of it, and the others took turns paddling with the covers of the buckets that they use to keep their fishing gear in. In this way, they started making slow progress back to their island.

The fishermen had seen the Coast Guard cutter in the night, but were afraid they might be pirates, so they did not signal to them. When the sun rose the next morning, and they could see it was the Coast Guard, so they signaled to them and were rescued. The Coast Guard brought the men back and they spent the whole day on Satawal touring the island together. The local people fed them food and coconuts and made flower leis (wreaths) for them.

PMA's Rice/PLB program was started as a solution to minimize the sea searches that we must do. It can be so discouraging to search for people lost at sea and not find them. These PLBs are such a simple solution which provides the island people with a safety device that can help us pinpoint their exact location if they are lost at sea. This will greatly reduce the search time when someone gets lost. In the case of these fishermen, PMA was indirectly able to help the fishermen get rescued.

Always a welcome sight when we find people lost at sea. Thanks to the PLB search time was reduced as we could pinpoint their exact location. Thank You Lord!



Go and Make Disciples, Disciples, Disciples ...

by Nob Kalau, CEO/President - Pohnpei, Micronesia

Jesus modeled both discipleship and mentoring throughout His earthly ministry. He helped His followers, so they'd be able to help others, making them fishers of men. Jesus also commanded every follower to learn from Him, then teach others about Him. Paul mentored Timothy and Titus. Naomi mentored Ruth. Elijah mentored Elisha. Jesus last command to His disciples was for them to go into all the world and reproduce by making disciples (Matthew 28:19-20, Mark 16:15).

Our PMA church plants, in Micronesia and the Philippines are growing. Following Jesus example, pastors are being disciplined with on-going training for church leadership. This will always be one of our top priorities as we continue to follow our mandate to bring hope and change lives. The succession plan for our PMF churches is to disciple the next generation of leaders, elders and pastor teachers.

Each year I challenge every one of our PMF pastors... to disciple one young man purposefully. Do life together from the personal to the Biblical and from the Godly values to what God in His Word requires of a leader of His church.

There is indeed an urgency as the days are getting more and more evil and lawless. Pour yourself into them, spend time in the Word together and put into practice what you are learning together. In sports we say, "you play like you train".

Ron, Calvin and Allston are 3 young men that I meet with each week for the purpose of discipleship. It is my goal in discipleship and mentoring for them one day to take up the mantle of leadership of PMF Pohnpei church as the Lord leads and provides. Ron is a businessman managing a hotel/restaurant. Allston is working in finance for the island fuel company. And Calvin is a very talented musician leading the band in our Worship team. I look forward to every time we are together and note their faithfulness and eagerness in understanding God's Word, then practicing what they learn by leading the youth and young adult ministries.

Christ's master plan of evangelism is essentially ... make a disciple who can go and make disciples without you: *"And the things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses entrust to reliable people who will also be qualified to teach others."* 2 Tim. 2:2



Allston Abraham, Calvin Yetasurmwai and Ron Keller meet with Nob for mentoring and discipleship.



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