

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #1 - 2025

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



The Best is Yet to Come!

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA).

Issue

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On our Cover

Children at PMF
Patnanungan, 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

Current Positions Needed

- Two Missionary Pilot/Mechanics for twin engine turbine aircraft
- 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

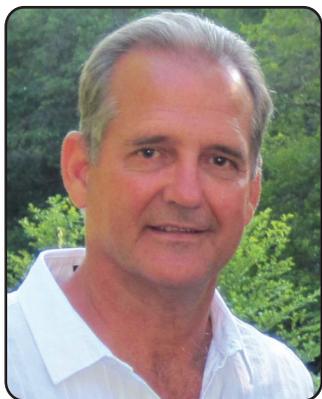
Projects in Micronesia

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

Projects in Philippines

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

*"I will exalt You, my God the King;
I will praise Your Name for ever and ever."
Psalm 145:1*



Nob Kalau

As I continue to preach on Sundays through the Gospel of John, I was drawn to one of the most prayer-encouraging promises Jesus ever gave:

“If you abide in Me, and My Words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you.” John 15:7

In missions we tend to pull up a prayer list we can start praying for, at the get go. But when we do this, we’re missing the point. Because Jesus said, *“If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you...”* means we’re getting our will in alignment with God’s will and our desires start changing. We’re spending time in His presence.

Abiding in Christ allows His Word to fill our minds, direct our wills, and transform our affections. As Christ’s Word dwells in us and the Holy Spirit fills us, we will begin to pray in a way consistent with the will of God

When we come into a relationship with God, we like to spend time in His presence. We like to listen to Him. We like to talk to Him. I’ve been married for 38 years. My wife and I know each other pretty well, So well, in fact, that we can finish each other’s sentences. We can read each other very easily. That is because we spend a lot of time together. And I never get tired of spending time with her.

True praying is not overcoming God’s reluctance, but laying hold of His willingness. Martin Luther once said, “By our praying, we are instructing ourselves more than Him.” God only answers the requests which He inspires.

So, as you pray for your missionary and the work of PMA in the islands, remember that the key to answered prayer is abiding in Christ.

In this issue of our Island Echoes, you will read once again how God uses people on remote islands to glorify His name. A sea search in Palau for divers found on a far lying reef. First aid training to improve our Orphanage. Teamwork in salvaging a plane for future needed parts. Thanking and praising God for another year of fiscally sound and balanced financial statements as well as another year of ECFA accountability. Compassion International partnering with us in the Philippines and how God surprisingly uses detours in our lives to move us in the right direction according to His timetable, not ours.

Thank you for your abiding prayers, that our missionaries would abide in Christ. You are making a big difference in the lives of island people for eternity and we thank you for partnering with us as we begin another year of service together.

*“I am the vine, you are the branches;
he who abides in Me and I in him, he bears much fruit,
for apart from Me you can do nothing.”*

John 15:5

Fiscal Year End Report – 2024

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

*“Not to us, O LORD, not to us, but to Your Name give glory,
for the sake of Your steadfast love and Your faithfulness!”*

Psalm 115:1

Again, we give God all the glory for what has been accomplished in His Name! He has provided for all our needs, and we have mission staff in Pohnpei, Yap, Palau and the Philippines who persevere and are committed to serve the Lord in good times and in challenging circumstances. They have been called and chosen to put their hands to the plow and for them, there is no turning back.

April 2024, PMA celebrated 49 years of its founding. The Lord indeed has been so faithful! On April 24, 2025, we will be 50 years old! From a mission station in Yap, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), starting with one aircraft, the Evangel, PMA has been blessed to expand its ministries in Pohnpei, FSM, Republic of Palau and the Philippines. God’s goodness and faithfulness through the years have been so evident!

Our Founder and first President, Rev. Edmund Kalau, a pilot himself always said: “PMA is not only about airplanes – it has a far greater vision.” And that was always and still is the mission and vision – demonstrating the love of our Lord Jesus Christ in action and in truth. PMA aims to reach and minister to the total person: body, soul and spirit, and “To Bring Hope and Change the Lives” of the people we serve.

POHNPEI, FSM

We keep “pressing on”, as our present President and CEO, Nob Kalau, encourages us. In all areas of ministry, we do not have enough staff or workers, however, the Lord provided those whose hearts are committed to serve Him. We have lost elders in the PMF church due to health issues, but the Lord has good men serving the church and three young men being discipled by Pastor Nob. Prayer meetings, Bible Studies, youth and children’s ministries are thriving. Our Good News Press continues to serve PMA’s printing needs, local churches and provides support for our local staff and the overhead costs for our Pohnpei station. “The Cross Radio” broadcasts the Good News of the Gospel with programs that teach and preach sound Biblical lessons, and play positive, encouraging and uplifting music emphasizing the Word of God. Our medical ship, Sea Haven, has truly served well for 24 and a half years. She has been a great help in rescue and disaster relief, transporting medical teams, and people, in the outer islands of Chuuk and Pohnpei. Because of her age, she was sold and is now serving as a commercial vessel in the State of Chuuk. We need a replacement vessel. Please pray for the Lord’s provision.

YAP, FSM

“We have a strong and faithful team here,” shared our Chief Pilot and Station Manager, Amos Collins, with a thankful praise to God. Total flight hours for Yap for the period reached 566 hrs. compared to last year’s 626.80 hours, with non-revenue flight hours of 142.14 hrs. or 25% of flight hrs. equivalent to a cost of \$120,742. Non-Revenue flights included sea search, support of PMF church outreaches in Ulithi, Fais and Woleai, transport of medicines, crew supplies, transport of deceased for burial in their home island, and transport of medical patients, doctors, nurses and attendants from outer-islands to Yap Proper. We thank God for the ability to fly these for free supported by our user charges we make to regular passengers and their cargo. Pastor Petrus and wife Queen continue to lead the PMF church to the outer-island people who are living in Yap proper. The activities include worship and prayer meetings, youth and children activities, home Bible studies and discipling of men to meet the needs of the outer-islands. One of these is Pius who serves with Pastor Petrus and who assists in the ministry of the church.

Who would have thought that 12 days after the end of our fiscal period, PMA would experience a total loss of one of our aircraft when on July 12, our Pilot Jonathan Paulsen reported that his plane had run off the runway on his attempt to take off the Woleai runway. We are truly thankful that pilot and all 9 passengers were safe! While waiting for the weather to break, Pastor Petrus, his wife Queen and the VBS team from PMF Yap were busy sharing God’s Word and they even had a baptism! Praise God! It had been 34 years since PMA lost an aircraft, and no loss of life either! On July 18, Amos was able to fly to Woleai and pick up everyone. Meanwhile, we were able to salvage the aircraft seats, avionics, and equipment. Many lessons to learn and through all these we pray that the Lord will reveal how this incident is for our good and His glory.

REPUBLIC OF PALAU

Our Station Manager and Director of Maintenance, Brock Welge, has been running a tight ship with pilot/mechanic Melody Coleman, intern pilot Dillon Wakeford, Rolly and Angel De Lina (Aircraft mechanic and accountant) and our local staff: Julius, Maverick and Paul. We also had Tobias Glockner and Jonas Schuh, short-term volunteers from Germany. Palau flew 457.3 hours versus 264.50 hrs. last year – an increase of 192.8 hrs. or 73%. Palau’s non-revenue flight reached 102.9 hrs. or 29% of total flight hours equivalent to \$14,741. These non-revenue flights include sea searches, transportation of pastors from the Koror Evangelical church who do weekly visits to the outer islands, our PMF church men and our mission staff who do Bible studies with adult and children in Angaur, transport of patients and their attendants, and flight training of our staff and maintenance recurrence. We are thankful for the user-charges that support our aviation operations in Palau and which enables us to be always ready when an emergency flight is needed. Our PMF church still does not have a Pastor. The elders and other church leaders faithfully serve so that our weekly worship services, prayer meetings and Bible studies, and ministries to pre-teens and children continue.

PHILIPPINES

We have more churches (11) than workers and our pastors are focused on discipling leaders who can assist them in the ministry, not only in preaching, but also in Bible study, ministering to the flock, home visitation and attending to needs of the congregation and community. OIC and Head Pastor Marty Lumigis conducts monthly Biblical trainings with our pastors and visits the churches as well to actively observe and provide pointers for continued improvement in ministry. Our partnership with Compassion International has contributed so much to our reach in the communities of Poblacion Patnanungan, Guinayayan and Jomalig Bayan. Children and their families are actively involved with the church and are growing in the wisdom, knowledge and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ. There is much to be done and we are thankful and mindful to know that our job is to be faithful, knowing that it is God's work to grow each member of the church to be faithful, available, teachable and be actively serving in the church.

Our Learning Center, headed by teacher Mercy Sulad, has taught and graduated 534 children since it started this community outreach in 2003. Curriculum especially includes values training from the Word of God, preparing a child to begin their first-grade education. Many parents desire for their children to start their education in our Center. Our scholar Ruth Genotiva has graduated and has a degree in Elementary Education. She is teaching in our center and very much involved in our PMF youth and children's ministries and the worship team. She now is preparing to take the teacher's licensure exam. Please pray for her.

We praise God that our organization at the Bahay Kalinga Orphanage is complete with the addition of Micah Oda as Center Head. By the end of fiscal period, 442 children have been served to date. 67 of them are surrendered (Parents who have relinquished their parental rights and given the children to PMA BK for adoption). Children for temporary shelter have since been returned to their families. Adoptive families originate from the Philippines : Palawan, Occidental Mindoro, Laguna and Manila, in the United States : Oregon, Colorado, Nebraska, among others and families from Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Australia, France, Italy, Spain, Canada and Netherlands. Praise God for the love and tender care BK has given to the children in our care, thanks to all our Caregivers, Social Worker and Center Head! To God be the glory!

Pastor Marty together with PMF Philippine pastors.



GUAM HQ

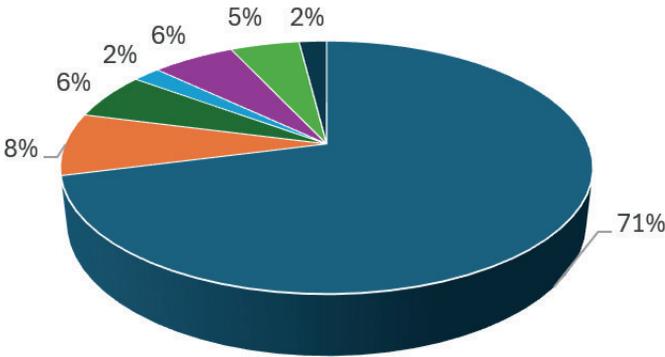
Praise God that we continue to provide financial accounting and administrative support to all our mission stations. We have been accredited once more with the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA), had a clean external audit report and given by the Guam Revenue and Tax a Certificate of Good Standing again. To God be the glory for enabling us to be accountable to God and man!

We truly are thankful to God for all He has done! And, of course, we are very grateful for our dedicated mission staff, our partners, prayer warriors, our PMA Boards in the Philippines, Guam/U.S., Germany and Switzerland. Together we move forward on our knees and with a faith to believe that He who has done a good work will complete it until the day of Christ Jesus!

“And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that having all sufficiency in all things at all times, you may abound in every good work.” 2 Corinthians 9:8

How Funds were used:

Fiscal Year End June 30, 2024



- Aviation - 71%
- Church Growth and Evangelism - 8%
- Media - 6%
- Sea Haven - 2%
- Philippines Support - 6%
- Management and Administration - 5%
- Fundraising - 2%

The Best is Yet to Come!

by Pastor Bryan Bantucan, PMA/PMF Patnanungan, Philippines

*“Oh, how great is Your goodness, which You have laid up
for those who fear You, which You have prepared for those
who trust in You in the presence of the sons of men.”*

Psalm 31:19

A New Year... we face changes, and fresh challenges but we are grateful that God's love for us remains unchanged. And we trust He will do great things this year! We began the year with our annual “Prayer and Fasting Week”. We dedicate this week of prayer to exalt the Lord, to remember His goodness and faithfulness to each one of us and as a church, to humbly come before Him with our petitions and prayers for one another. We thank the Lord as He brought the faithful ones every day by foot, through the cold nights and relentless rain.

We thank God for the Mission, for our leaders in PMA, and for all the people who continue to support PMA and its ministries. We also thank the Lord for guiding us (church leaders, workers, volunteers) as we revisited our church annual plan (fiscal year), and shared ideas on how we can best improve every area in our church ministries.

Our ministry through CDC (Child Development Center), sponsored by Compassion International is growing better and better. Many families with children are involved in church worship, Bible Study and Sunday school.

We were grief stricken by the loss of one of our participants last December. A 4-year-old boy got into a motor accident together with his father. His father suffered no injuries, but the child was seriously injured. His spinal cord was dislocated and he was not treated right away or brought to a hospital where he could have been correctly cared for. Because of poverty, the family felt no hope. This boy continued to suffer pain, experienced severe weight loss and was unable to walk again. This is how we met him and his family and they became one of the participants of CDC outreach. Although CDC and the PMF church provided help during his health battle, it was one to be lost. However, we are at peace knowing that he is already with our God, no more pain and no more death. But God was not finished with this family. We rejoiced that the mother together with her remaining son still continue to attend our worship services. The Lord spoke to my heart and led me to challenge the church to continue to support the family, particularly the younger brother who now receives monthly financial support from our PMF church.

What a great opportunity for our church to have a ministry of supporting and reaching children in our community. We are reminded that God had compassion for us first and chose to love us. In return, we have love and compassion for our neighbors. Our prayer is for the Lord to continue to teach us to be more and more compassionate for others. And as we obey in loving others, God is being glorified, and His name is being exalted.

When Disaster Strikes... By God's Grace, we are ready!

by Micah Fien N. Oda, Center Head, Bahay Kalinga, Philippines

On January 24, 2025, Bahay Kalinga staff participated in the “First Aid & Disaster Mitigation and Management Training” with Pastor Marty Lumigis. Resource speakers from the Local/Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (MDRRMO), conducted the training.

One session emphasized the importance of first aid knowledge during emergencies. The staff was instructed on first aid interventions for various incidents, including wounds, fainting, convulsions, and nosebleeds, highlighting both correct practices and common mistakes. For instance, the misconception of tilting the head back during a nosebleed, instead they demonstrated the proper method to stop the bleeding. One of our teachers demonstrated effective bandaging techniques, with enthusiastic participation from the staff of the Orphanage.

Pastor Marty had given a word of encouragement to the Orphanage staff, emphasizing the importance of staying alert during disasters to respond quickly and prevent harm, especially in our child-caring facility. He reminded everyone that our primary responsibility is the safety and well-being of the children in our care.

Marty also highlighted the significance of not only physical preparedness but also spiritual readiness in the face of disasters by quoting Psalm 119:50, “*My comfort in my suffering is this: Your promise preserves my life,*” to underscore the strength and hope found in spiritual faith. He further illustrated that while bandages are essential in providing first aid for physical injuries, the Bible serves as the ultimate first aid for our spiritual wounds, offering comfort, guidance, and healing in times of distress.

In conclusion, the training provided the staff with valuable additional learning, equipping them with the necessary skills and knowledge to respond effectively to emergencies and disasters at Bahay Kalinga, our Orphanage. Their commitment to acquiring and applying these skills highlight their dedication to ensuring the safety and well-being of the children and colleagues in Bahay Kalinga.

Thank you, PMA and partners, for the opportunities that you have given to BK Caregivers and Staff! To God be the glory!



Our Bahay Kalinga staff with the MDRRMO representatives as they completed their First Aid & Disaster Mitigation and Management Training.

Rejoicing after the Storm!

by Angelyn De Lina, Finance/Admin – Palau

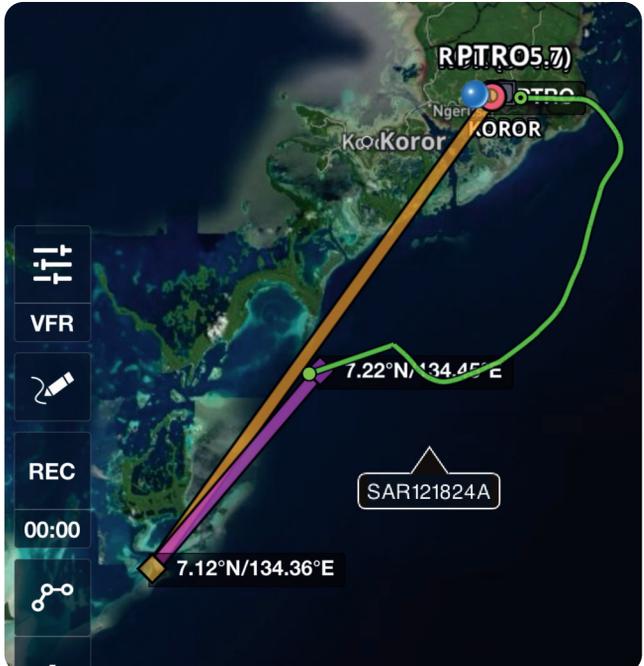
“In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father who is in heaven.”

Matthew 5:16

We thank God that the Islander aircraft was used as God’s work horse after returning it to service. It had gone through a big inspection and lots of maintenance. And just in time for what the Lord was about to bring our way. Just after Christmas Day, we received a call from a Tour Company requesting for search and rescue for 9 missing divers. Praise God we have the aircraft to use for search and rescue flights that is able to go miles offshore in open water and still be safe. Our search could only cover a small part of the eastern reef because the weather was so bad and it was starting to get dark, so we flew back to the hangar to prepare to search the next day.

We continued early morning of the following day, with a U.S. Marine Law Officer and some Tour Company representatives on board. The government gave us coordinates to search based on winds and current drifts that we used to create a flight plan. The divers had already been missing for about 18 hours. We departed for a 5-hour flight searching the grid pattern from the middle of the Rock Islands south and west. We noticed a diving safety marker/sausage but no divers around, and by noon we came to the end of the leg.

Searching for the missing divers based on the coordinates given to us by the government based on winds and current drifts enabled us to have a flight plan and a grid pattern.





Thanking God that the Islander's inspection and maintenance were completed just in time for the Lord to use it for a search and rescue mission!

We thank God that even during this time, we had the opportunity to pray with their coworkers and seek help and guidance from the Lord Most High. We refueled and just started a third search and rescue flight when we were notified that a boat found the divers on the reef, close to where we located the diving safety marker/sausage! The 9 divers were brought back to the island all safe and sound. We are grateful to God that we have been part of this search and rescue, and the outcome was a victory.

Palau is known for being a pristine paradise, and people come here especially for activities such as scuba diving, snorkeling, island hopping, but tragedy like this can happen anytime to anyone. We are normally providing help in the form of medical evacuation or searching for local fisherman; however, we are thankful that God has provided PMA Palau ways and aircraft to help all people in need. The search was over, but the impact of this experience on each of the divers will be imbedded in their memories; and we hope that the love of Jesus shone through our service and prayers during this operation will not be forgotten. All glory and honor belong to Him!

N44MA Salvage

by Amos Collins, Chief Pilot/Yap Station Manager

*"Even when we are broken we can praise God.
He will bring us joy and for that, we can be thankful."*

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

You may recall that our Queen Air aircraft, N44MA, had an accident on July 12, 2024. While on its takeoff roll from Woleai, it struck a flooded portion of the runway, lost control, and ran into the brush. The aircraft was totaled, but by the grace of God, neither pilot nor passengers were injured.



In the months to follow, we worked with the FAA and our partners at MSI (Mission Safety International) to analyze the accident and seek ways to avoid another mishap in the future. The FSM National government was the only agency that sent an investigation team to Woleai to see the accident site, and once they were finished with their investigation, we were permitted to begin our salvaging of the aircraft.

Actually, the salvage of all the removable parts had already happened in the week that followed the accident. While we were waiting for the weather to improve so that we could rescue the pilot and passengers, the pilot had already removed all the radios, instruments, and chairs from inside the cabin. This was good, since those items will deteriorate very quickly in the humidity and salt air.

On January 30, 2025, we finally had a break in our flight schedule to allow us time to make a trip to Woleai to begin disassembly and salvage. Four of our PMA staff and myself flew to Woleai early in the morning.

We began by elevating the whole aircraft up off the ground so that we could access underneath for removing parts. This was a challenge with limited tools, but ultimately, we prevailed and set the whole aircraft on some coconut logs to hold it up.

We spent the rest of the day and into the night dismantling the tail surfaces, flaps, ailerons, and outer wings, and propellers. By 9:00 PM we stopped and left the site happy as we had accomplished more than we had expected. We went to the high school, took bucket showers and went to sleep.

The next morning, our goal was to remove the engines from the airframe and then pack up for returning to Yap. We succeeded and then we selected certain parts that were undamaged and also some engine components that we needed for our other Queen Air aircraft. We loaded all these parts into the King Air and returned to Yap, arriving at about 2:30 PM.

Three weeks later, on February 20, we made a second trip out to Woleai. This time our goal was to separate the fuselage from the wing center section so that it could be more easily transported to the shore to be loaded on the National ship that was coming through the islands.

Since the fuselage is built into the wing, the only way to separate the two was to cut through the aluminum until the two pieces were no longer connected. This was a pretty big job, but with many hands, we were able to get it all done in time.

With the use of a trailer which we had carried down to Woleai on a flight back in July, we were able to transport the heavy fuselage, as well as wings and engines down to the shore with relative ease. In one day, we got the remaining pieces of the aircraft disassembled and delivered to the shore where they would be picked up in a couple weeks.

The Woleaian community helped us a lot on both trips, providing us with fresh coconuts, fish, bananas and other local food. They also set up a large tent over the site so we could work in the shade and helped us lift and transport everything to the shore. We are glad that we were successful in removing the entire aircraft from Woleai and that we can use some of the parts as spares for our second Queen Air. Praise God for all He has done!

How grateful we are for the Woleaian island community who helped us with the salvage project of 44MA Queen Air aircraft! what a blessing from the Lord!



God is the Light on my Path and Always with me

by Sabine Musselwhite, Missionary, PMA Pohnpei

Ever since my octogenarian parents have developed medical issues, I go back and forth from Germany to Pohnpei every 3 months. This time, I postponed my return to Pohnpei until after Christmas. It was sweet to spend Christmas with my family but then I was also looking forward to returning to my second home – Pohnpei and my PMA Family. On January 11, I touched down and found myself with a cough infection that would slow me down considerably. In my heart I wondered what the Lord had in mind for me. I was so ready to serve and now could hardly talk for a month, even while taking antibiotics.

But then I realized what a special time it was. My neighbor Inoki came over to bring soup and give me a massage. Sylvia sent me a menu with 5 delicacies to choose from and came over to serve me homemade lunch. Friend Petra spent a whole afternoon cleaning my house because a friend from Germany would come to visit for 2 weeks and I had no strength to prepare for her visit. It was a very special, comforting, reassuring experience to receive all this beautiful support thanks to the Lord who moved my sisters' hearts.

One heart-wrenching experience upon my return was a new one: I asked my neighbor why my dog, who she feeds when I am offisland, didn't come to greet me. She was a little embarrassed and answered: "Your dog is in dog heaven". Yes, I had been afraid of that every time I returned. Pohnpeians eat dogs and this time my dog was the New Year's barbecue dinner. Talk about a clash of cultures and emotions!

So, within my first 2 weeks I experienced how sadness about a dog and the joy of comfort by friends can be very closely knit. When I had recovered from my cough, our PMF church celebrated a water baptism for a father of five who had just recently given his life to the Lord, a teenage boy who had come to Pohnpei with his family to celebrate grandma's 80th birthday and a teenage girl who had grown up in our PMF church and gave the testimony of her faith in Christ. As a Sunday School teacher it is ever so special to witness such seeds in the young ones you taught come to fruition.

In the last ladies' Bible study that I taught, we were contemplating God's path with the people of Israel when they left Egypt, walked across the desert and then received marching orders from God that they were to turn around and take a detour so that God gave Himself the glory through Pharaoh and his army. That was God's way of teaching them the lesson to trust Him. (Exodus 14:1-4)

As I am gaining back my strength from the infection and enjoying my friend's visit, I can see God's provision in my life through dear friends. And I can praise Him, even if He slows me down with a detour of sickness.





What great joy as we celebrate the baptism of those who have dedicated their lives to Jesus.



Sabine (center) with Inoki on her right and Sylvia on her left. Thanking God for friends!



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