

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue #2 - 2025

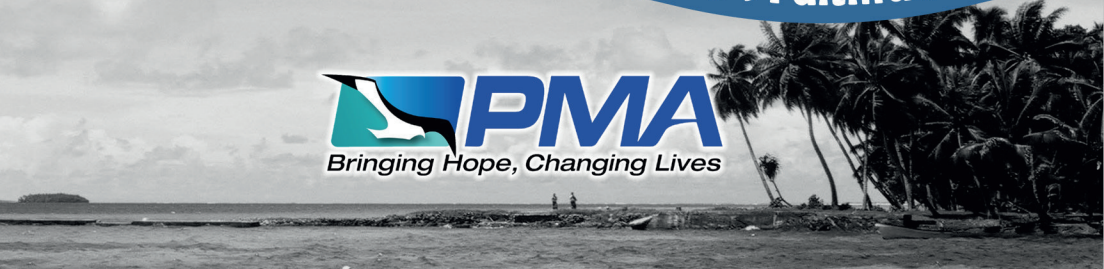
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Celebrating 50 Years of God's Faithfulness

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of Pacific Mission Aviation (PMA).

Issue

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On our Cover

Celebrating PMA's 50 years in the island of Ulithi, Yap – the first island reached with air services by PMA.

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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 serve in Yap
One to 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)

Projects in Philippines

- Van for Orphanage 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*

What a great honor it was to celebrate the 50-year Anniversary of PMA and to reflect on the enduring faithfulness and partnerships that have shaped our journey. A 17th-century pastor in England, John Donne once said, “No man is an island”. No one is self-sufficient, everyone relies on faithful partnerships with others. From our humble beginnings in 1975 to today, we have experienced unwavering support and a deep bond of friendship. This celebration is not just a milestone; it is a testimony.

First and foremost, we celebrate the faithfulness of God, whose unwavering love and providence has sustained PMA through every challenge and triumph. His guidance has been our compass, our true north, and His grace, our strength and courage to keep on keeping on. Thank You, to the only Sovereign, The Lord Jesus Christ!

We honor the faithfulness and perseverance of our missionaries and staff, who have served with humility, courage, compassion and hard work. Most having served 10, 20, 30, 40 plus years, often quietly behind the scenes with no big fanfare, serving as unto the Lord. Their lives have been a living witness of Christ’s love across the Micronesian islands. Thank you to all PMA missionaries and staff. You are an amazing and special group of people, and I am privileged and honored to serve alongside you.

We recognize the faithfulness and support of the island nation’s leaders, whose partnership and trust over these 50 years have empowered PMA to serve remote island communities with excellence and integrity. In unity and shared vision, we have together, nurtured a spirit of collaboration and mutual respect, for the good of the people.

Thank you island governments, for your trust and confidence in PMA.

We applaud and value the faithfulness and friendship of the island communities, whom we have served to the best of our abilities, with whom we have shared times of joy and laughter. And in times of grief, we have mourned and cried together. Ours is a friendship and a bond that has been nurtured and built over 50 years. Thank you precious Island people for walking this journey with us.

We deeply appreciate the faithfulness of our international boards, partners and supporters - from Germany, Switzerland, the Philippines, the USA and Guam, whose prayers, generosity, and steadfast support have made PMA’s vision and mission possible. Thank you for standing with us.

Together, these expressions of faithfulness and partnership form the foundation of PMA’s legacy. As we look to the future, we do so with gratitude, hope, and a renewed commitment to serve the people of Micronesia and the Philippines in the name of Jesus our Lord and Savior.

*“Not to us, O Lord, not to us, but to Your Name be the glory,
because of Your Love and faithfulness.” Ps. 115:1*

To God be the glory for 50 years of faithfulness!

The Founding and Growth of Pacific Mission Aviation

by Ma. Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

This year PMA celebrates 50 years of service in Micronesia with Headquarters in Guam and mission stations in Pohnpei, Yap, Palau and the Philippines.

“Unless the LORD builds the house, those who build it labor in vain.”

Psalm 127:1

In January 1956, Rev. Edmund Kalau and his wife Elisabeth began their missionary work in Palau and 3 years later moved to Yap, Micronesia. During numerous trips to the outer islands aboard a Trust Territory field trip ship, Rev. Kalau witnessed firsthand the tragic loss of life among sick individuals being transported to district hospitals, due to the slow travel times. Troubled by these repeated occurrences, he envisioned a more effective way to provide medical assistance by air. This dream became Pacific Mission Aviation.

Determined to turn this vision into reality, Rev. Kalau personally raised funds for the mission's first aircraft in the United States and Germany. In July 1974, he and fellow pilot Maurice Pickard ferried the first aircraft from the U.S. across Europe and Asia to Yap. However, the Mission Society they had served with for over 20 years did not share their vision for an expanded aviation program. Knowing the immense potential of airborne aid in critical medical situations and firmly believing in God's calling, the Kalau family chose to step away from the Mission Society and follow the path they believed God had called them to. With three teenage children studying in the Philippines and no guaranteed financial support, the journey was uncertain. Yet, faithful friends in Germany and the U.S. provided modest assistance for their family and the necessary resources for aircraft maintenance and fuel.

In 1975, PMA was incorporated in Guam. The vision grew beyond Micronesia, and in 1982, PMA extended its mission to the Philippines.

As PMA's impact deepened, God continued to expand the mission. In addition to aviation operations, medical/relief vessels were deployed to serve remote islands and atolls without airstrips. Church planting and evangelism efforts intensified, opening doors to communities previously unreceptive to the Gospel due to PMA's committed service.

Beyond aviation and maritime outreach, PMA developed various ministries to address the needs of communities in Micronesia and the Philippines. Initiatives included youth centers, a printing shop, a multi-purpose auditorium, and an FM radio station, further strengthening PMA's Mission.

As part of nation building initiatives, in 1990, a Maritime & Fisheries Academy (MMFA) with a campus ministry was established in collaboration with the Yap State Government. PMA raised the funds for construction, equipment, staff and operations and managed the academy until its transition to the National

Government in 2000. During PMA's administration, 300 students graduated with 98% actively serving in the maritime field world-wide: U.S.A., Japan, Australia and FSM. A trade school, Construction Manpower and Development Center, (CMDCC) was established in Pohnpei, FSM, in 1996. This was also turned over to FSM Community College in 2001 with approximately 150 students having graduated in carpentry, masonry, electrical and plumbing during the five-year period.

Each milestone of PMA stands as a testimony to God's unwavering faithfulness and the dedication of our missionaries, staff, and supporters. As Rev. Edmund Kalau often reminded us, "The work of the Mission is not the work of one man."

We are deeply grateful to God for calling men, women and families to serve through Pacific Mission Aviation. Their perseverance and dedication have shaped PMA's story—a story that continues to unfold under divine guidance and with the favor of local governments and island communities.

At the heart of all PMA endeavors lies an unchanging purpose: to glorify God and make Him known to the beautiful island people throughout Guam, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and the Philippines.

PMA's story is His story. To God be the glory!



PMA Mission staff from Pohnpei, Yap, Palau, Guam and the Philippines gather for a remembrance photo on PMA's 50th Anniversary Celebration on the Island of Ulithi, Yap, Micronesia.



Divinely Guided Stopover!

by Ma. Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

“The heart of man plans his way, but the LORD establishes his steps.”

Proverbs 16:9

A historic journey takes flight. What was intended to be a technical stopover in Zamboanga City in July 1974 became a divine spark for Mission. Pastor Edmund Kalau and fellow Pilot Maurice Pickard (MAF seconded missionary) flew PMA's first aircraft, the Evangel, from Germany through Europe and Asia only to be detained when they landed in Zamboanga City, Philippines. The government had declared marshall law as rebel forces had ambushed the government military installation, and several high-ranking officials were murdered. It took a while for Pastor Kalau to communicate with the US. Embassy. This was not just a technical ferry flight; it became a divine spark for mission.

Confined to house arrest at Hotel Lantaka, Pastor Kalau witnessed the dire conditions of families living in homes on stilts over the ocean. Moved with compassion, he prayed, “Lord, if you allow me, please let me return and begin a ministry here.”

Birth of Flying Medical Samaritans (FMS) By 1982, the Lord opened the door. FMS was incorporated in the Philippines, and one year later, operations officially began.

- 1983: Dr. Paul Saliba led medical missions in the Sulu Archipelago.
- 1983: Capt. Ernie Magaoang and his wife Gloria joined; Ernie became FMS's first pilot and later Executive Director. A Clinic was established along Zamboanga's west coast amidst nomad settlers.
- 1985: Floating Clinic was launched, and the Aero-Medical Unit was born, staffed by Dr. Macrohon, Capt. Mangaoang, and Capt. Ephraim Lacanilao—using a Piper Super Cub aircraft with Dr. Joel Ruiz as Medical Director.

Hardships and transitions due to security threats and tragic incidents—including a pastor's son being lost during a rescue—FMS moved its headquarters to Manila for safety and stability. Expansion of Ministries:

- 1991: An orphanage was founded in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro (see story in this issue)
- 1993: A Britten Norman Islander aircraft was donated, enabling expanded medical evacuations.
- 1995–2002: Churches were planted in Katakian, Kilogan, Patnanungan, Jomalig, Calutcot, and Amaga. A Boys' and Girls' Dorm supported high schoolers in Patnanungan.

- 2002: An Eye Clinic was opened in Lopez, Quezon, by Dr. John Escote, supported by PMA.
- 2003: Patnanungan Learning Center was launched—with 509 learners who have graduated to date.

From FMS to PMA Philippines. On August 20, 2007, FMS formally became Pacific Missionary Aviation Philippines, Inc. Our churches were renamed Pacific Mission Fellowship from being, “Christ the Good Samaritan Church”. And since then, the ministry has continued to expand with new churches in Catmon, Guinaygayan, Apad, Casuguran and Busdak. Pastors, some serving multiple churches, continue with unwavering commitment. Biblical values training outreaches to local schools and police forces. Pastor Marty, OIC and Head Pastor, faithfully mentors our leaders, ensuring effectiveness and spiritual strength, supported by Fred and Edna Ranada, who’ve served since the earliest days of FMS in Zamboanga.

The legacy of a stopover. What began as a stopover became a spark for transformation. The hand of God moved through brave missionaries, passionate leaders, and a faithful community to reach the outer islands of the Philippines with healing and hope.

As PMA presses on with its mission—Loving all people, Building the Body of Christ, and Discipling the Faithful—we declare: To God be the glory!



PMA Philippines mission staff celebrate the goodness and faithfulness of the Lord.

Celebrating God's Faithfulness: A Look Back at Bahay Kalinga's Beginnings

by Ma. Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

As we celebrate 50 years of God's faithfulness to PMA, I am reminded of the humble yet significant beginnings of PMA's Bahay Kalinga Orphanage in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, Philippines.

In 1989, Mayor Melgar expressed enthusiastic support for a partnership with PMA. In conversation with Pastor Edmund Kalau, the vision of establishing an orphanage emerged—a project that would soon become a beacon of hope. Through Mayor Melgar's assistance, PMA was granted access to a property owned by the Women's Association of Naujan for as long as we needed it. The land required fill work before construction could begin. What followed was a labor of love: sourcing materials, recruiting workers, designing, and overseeing nearly a year of construction amid challenges—inclement weather and scarce resources meant purchasing from Manila, over 112 miles and a sea crossing away.

On May 1, 1991, we dedicated the completed building to the Lord, and house parents Joey and Pam Hilado were installed.

They later recalled: "It was the summer of 1991 when we first set foot on the island of Oriental Mindoro, known to us only through stories of the Mangyan tribes. A church mate told us that Flying Medical Samaritans (PMA's name at the time) needed a couple to serve as house parents at their orphanage in Naujan. The mandate: care for abandoned, orphaned, neglected, abused, and disadvantaged children. We initially said 'no.' We were already working with street children in Pasay City, Metro Manila and managing community sponsorships in the slums. But after a year and much prayer, we accepted. On May 1, 1991, we stepped into this ministry the Lord entrusted to us."

Their first year was marked by transitions—adapting to a new lifestyle while building community linkages and advocacy. They also launched FMS Kiddie Care, a program for first and second-degree malnourished children, with 30 enrollers from surrounding villages. Joey and Pam have since transitioned to care for their own ministry, while the Lord has continued to provide PMA BK with the necessary staff to care for the children—including a center head, social worker, and caregivers.

In time, PMA acquired property across from the original site to expand the ministry: establishing a separate residence for house parents and creating space for children's classes. The Lord's providence was evident as the local government repurposed our original building for its offices. PMA responded by improving the facility—adding bedrooms, a kitchen, dining area, and enhancing the multi-purpose center for children's activities. An eye clinic and surgery room were also built and ran for years, yet now serve as our Bahay Kalinga admin offices and stock room.



By 2007, the Kiddie Care/Learning Center was phased out, allowing PMA to focus solely on caring for children living at Bahay Kalinga. Since its inception, we have served 444 children. Of these, 77 have been adopted into loving homes—32 in the Philippines and 45 across the United States, Australia, and Europe. Others found homes with relatives or through foster care.

God has truly provided for every need—often before we even knew what to ask for. Bahay Kalinga stands as a living testament to His compassion, provision, and the power of faithful obedience.



Children cared for and loved by our Bahay Kalinga staff show love for one another themselves.



BK children happily display their art work proudly!

Dilkui Marino Medevac Testimonial – Thanking God for PMA

by Dikui Marino

In January of last year, I was involved in a serious car accident that caused a dislocation and fracture in my right hip, leaving me in need of urgent surgery. The orthopedist — who had only been on Palau for a few months — advised that the procedure be done by a specialized orthopedic surgeon within 10 days to avoid complications and to support a safer, faster recovery. His presence on island was a blessing. He recognized the complexity and urgency of my situation and made sure I was referred off-island without delay as the equipment for the surgery was not available in Palau. Without his evaluation, that critical window of time might have quietly slipped by, and my story could have ended very differently. It didn't truly sink in how serious things were until he stressed — more than once — that I needed to leave as soon as possible.

At the time, because of policies communicated by the Healthcare Fund Office, it became clear that I wouldn't be able to travel in time through regular commercial flights. There was already a waitlist of patients needing to go — and I was a stretcher case. I immediately ruled out the idea of a medevac, knowing how expensive it typically is — often upward of \$50,000 — and I was not covered by insurance. I wasn't willing to put my family under such financial strain.

I had honestly resigned myself to waiting a month or more. I didn't see any other option. My sister flew in from Hawaii to be with us and help figure out what to do next.

It was through my sister's efforts that HCF guided us in the direction of Pacific Mission Aviation. PMA offered a medevac service at cost — nearly half of what the commercial providers charge. And while it was still a significant amount, my family came together to raise the funds needed. I'm forever grateful that this service exists in our community.

Looking back now, I truly believe that decision saved me so much more in the long run — not just financially, but by reducing medical risks and giving me a faster, smoother recovery.

From the moment we contacted PMA on Thursday, January 18, to my departure on Saturday,

January 20, everything was handled with such care, professionalism, and compassion. The pilots, Brock and Amos, went above and beyond to ease my fears. It meant so much to me that my family and friends were able to board the plane to say their goodbyes before I left. In a time filled with fear and uncertainty, PMA provided not just critical service, but also kindness, compassion, and unwavering faith.

And I'll be honest — I had a fear of flying. But before takeoff, the pilots gathered us in prayer.

In that Christ-centered moment, my fears were dispelled. I felt calm and at peace.

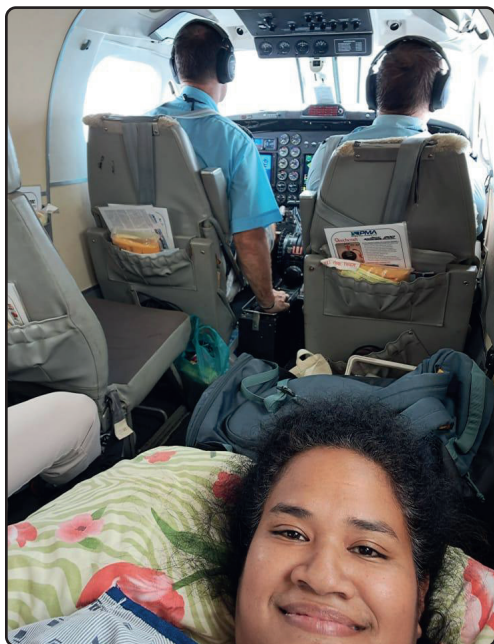
And when I reflect on it now — if we hadn't had that orthopedist at the time, if my sister hadn't come when she did, if my family hadn't stepped up to help, if PMA didn't offer this service at cost — everything would have been so different for me. The way everything came together in just 9 days reminded me that God's timing is perfect. It deepened my faith. It showed me, without a doubt, that even in our darkest hours, God is working behind the scenes, lining up the people and the circumstances we need before we even realize it.

I am deeply grateful to Pacific Mission Aviation for playing such an important role in my healing journey. This experience not only helped me physically — it renewed my spirit and reminded me of the incredible power of faith and community.

Thank you, Pacific Mission Aviation. Thank you, Brock and Amos. Your service is a blessing to our islands — and to people like me.

Happy 50th Anniversary, PMA. May God continue to bless the important work that you do.

PMA Aircraft Arriving safely in Manila, PMA Philippine staff were also there to meet everyone ensuring Dilkui received the excellent care she needed.



Dilkui Marino smiling happily and at peace for PMA taking her to a place where she can get good care.



Celebrating 50 Years of God's Faithfulness

by Amos Collins, Chief Pilot

Last week, Pacific Mission Aviation celebrated a half century of God's faithfulness! PMA was incorporated 50 years ago in 1975. The first flights to reach the remote islands began in Yap, Micronesia, then spread to Pohnpei and Kosrae and to more of the outer islands of Pohnpei. Flight services in the Philippines, and later in Palau were also established. So, it was appropriate that we celebrate 50 years on the island of Yap. We invited board members, friends, and past missionaries to join in the celebration. Despite our remote location, a surprising number of people from the USA, Germany, Guam, and the Philippines were able to attend. We also had a great turnout from the local government officials and local community.

Our ceremony on June 18 included speeches from our retired Chief Pilot Peter Reichert, testimonials from individuals whose lives were physically saved by the medevac services and also lives spiritually saved from PMA's gospel outreach. Government and community leaders spoke of their appreciation of PMA and its services over the years. Our CEO gave a speech on thankfulness, and we also had a time to recognize our faithful staff and share what the future holds for PMA. We ended the ceremony with a song of thanks to the Lord performed by our church band and then a closing prayer.

Refreshments were served afterwards which people enjoyed while they mingled and talked. Banners depicting the history of PMA covered the entire length of the hangar, and a video was projected on a wall displaying PMA ministries over the years.

The next day, we flew 4 loads of guests and staff to Ulithi atoll to celebrate with the community. This was the first island that was ever reached with air services by PMA. The ceremony was followed by a local island lunch and dances from the villages, before it was time to return to Yap.

On the third day, we flew the same people to Palau and had our final celebration in PMA's hangar. This ceremony also drew a large group from the Palauan Government, as well as individuals from the community. It was encouraging to hear testimonies of the lives that have been impacted by the services that PMA has provided over the years.

One of the testimonies was from Dave Rulul Yaluslimar, a Medevac Patient: "I stand before you today as a living testimony of God's mercy and the selfless service of PMA, Pacific Mission Aviation. Many years ago, I faced an unexpected, life-threatening ordeal. I had fallen out of a van—a sudden accident that left me with a severe head injury and internal bleeding. Unconscious and unaware of what was happening, my condition was dire. I could have died. But God had a plan.

Memories of Peter Reichert, PMA's former Chief Pilot, a medevac that saved yet another life!



PMA, Pacific Mission Aviation, stepped in at the most critical time. Captain Peter, alongside my Uncle Jesse Salalu and my Cousin Jesse Tamel, became the hands that carried me when I was unable to help myself. Though I had no memory of those moments, I later learned that their courage and commitment ensured I was medevaced to Palau for urgent medical care.

It wasn't just a flight—it was a mission to save a life. And that life was mine.

Through the skill and steady hands of Captain Peter, the care and devotion of Uncle Jesse and Cousin Jesse, the prayers of my loved ones, and the expertise of the medical team, I survived what could have been my final moments. Their sacrifice and service remind me that we are never alone, even in the darkest trials.

So today, I honor PMA—not just for the role they played in my life, but for the countless lives they continue to touch. Their mission is more than transportation; it is hope in motion, wings of compassion, and proof that service can change destinies.

Above all, I thank God, who orchestrates every moment, places the right people in our path, and never abandons us. It was His grace that carried me through, His strength that sustained me, and His love that ensured I had the help I needed when I needed it most.

To PMA, to the hands that lifted me, and to the God who never fails— my deepest thanks!”



Spear fishing accident and the timely assistance of PMA.

A Time to Celebrate!

by Nob and Sylvia Kalau, CEO

*"For the Lord is good and his love endures forever;
his faithfulness continues through all generations."*

Psalm 100:5

This June of 2025, Pacific Mission Aviation celebrated 50 years of ministry in Micronesia! It was a great celebration of God's faithfulness, PMA staff's faithfulness, island leaders' faithfulness and supporters' and partners' faithfulness to the vision and mission of PMA. This vision was born on the island of Yap. Yap is where PMA began, and the outer island of Ulithi was the first island to receive flight services. Guests from the US, Guam, Germany, Switzerland and the Philippines joined us for the 50th Anniversary.

The people of the island of Ulithi hosted the 2nd day of celebration with each guest receiving fresh flower leis, a woven basket of island food, coconuts, and local dances expressed the people's thankfulness for PMA's 50 years of being a lifeline to their islands. Mission pilots Amos, Brock and Melody flew us to Ulithi and then for the 3rd day of celebration, to the Republic of Palau. PMA's hangars had a 100' wall display of banners describing PMA's history and timeline stretching across the FSM, Guam, Palau and the Philippines.

It was a week full of events and amazing people, sharing stories & making memories that will stay in our hearts for a lifetime. Aerial tours of the breathtakingly beautiful Rock Islands of Palau were also offered. A day of R & R with swimming and snorkeling was enjoyed by all staff and guests. It was amazing ... Reef and Leoni (our grandchildren) even got to swim with a dozen sharks an arm's length away! On Sunday we all gathered together for a worship service with PMF church, Palau. James, Nadya, Reef and Leoni and Alex came to celebrate the legacy of their grandparents Kalau, who started PMA.

The Kalau family



Peter & Esther Reichert, retired missionaries and PMA's chief pilot for over 35 years, came back to the islands as our honored guests for the anniversary and we were all so thankful and glad that they were able to attend!

Reunions are a little taste of what it will be like in heaven. Celebrating as one big happy family, rejoicing over all that God has done, remembering all the times that He was faithful and patient, not wanting anyone to perish but all to come to the knowledge of the truth...His amazing salvation!

Our Lord Jesus bless you with His love, joy, peace and good health. To Him be all the honor & glory!



Peter & Esther Reichert, retired missionaries and PMA's chief pilot for over 35 years, came back to the islands as our honored guests for the anniversary and we were all so thankful and glad that they were able to attend!

PMA's President/CEO thanking God and everyone during the 50 years anniversary!





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