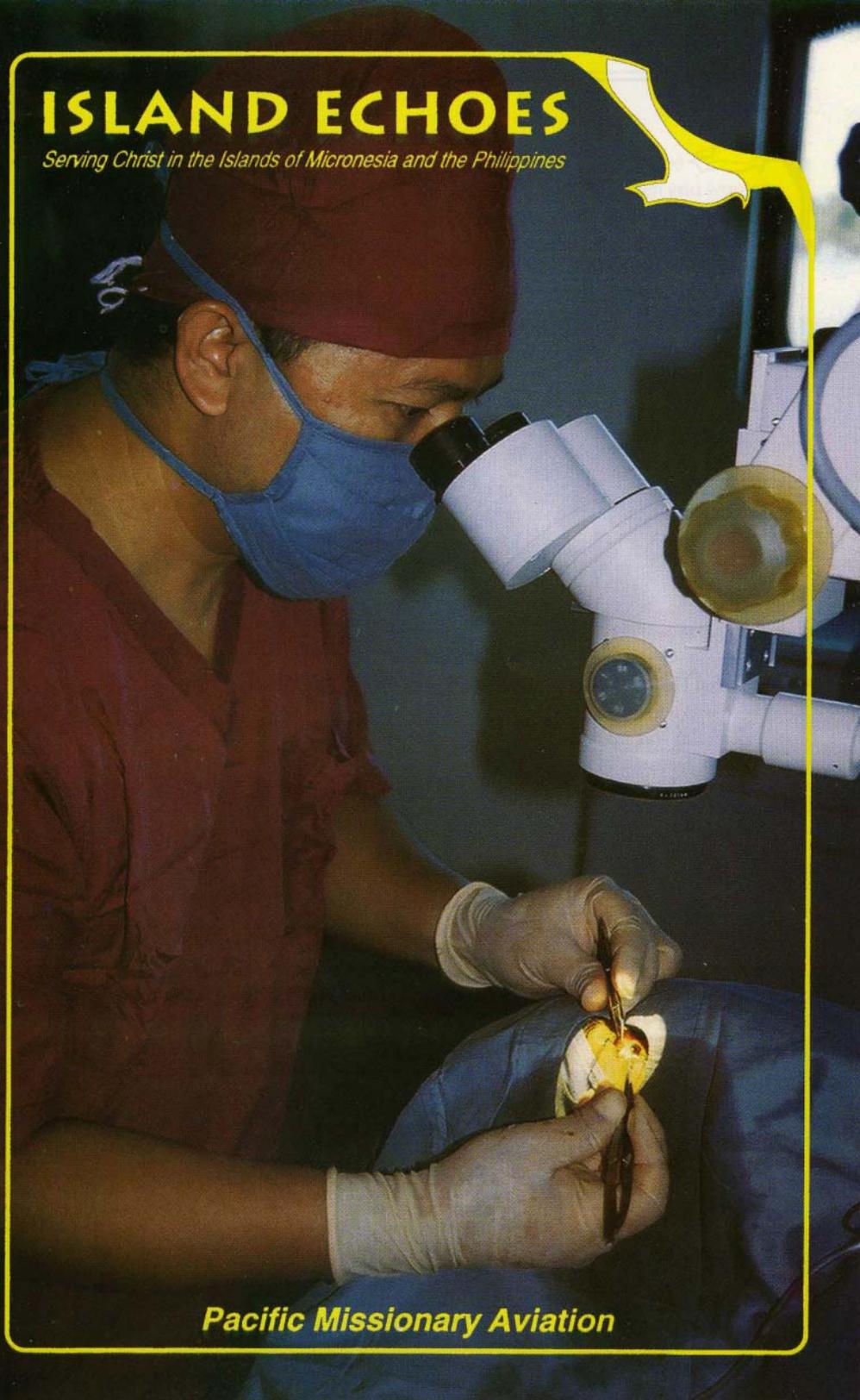


ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Pacific Missionary Aviation

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Praying Friends and Faithful Partners,



PMA President Nob Kalau

We have so many reasons to look back over 2005 with gratitude and say, “Thank you God for your protection, your provision, for your ever watchful presence with us.” In the islands, we live with the constant threat of storms, typhoons and even tsunamis. The Marianas Trench, the deepest part of the world’s ocean, with a depth of 36,198 feet, lies just Southeast of Guam, ever reminding those of us who live in the islands of the Pacific, of the fragile balance of earth’s geological plates and their potential for disaster.

In a world laden with uncertainties, it is so reassuring to know that God is in control, that He knows the future, that nothing escapes His notice and that He will perform His plan just as He did before time began. Long before there was a town called Bethlehem, a garden called Eden, and a planet called Earth, a decision was made in eternity past that God would send forth His Son, born of a woman. Because of the good news of Christmas, we can face 2006 with anticipation for what great things God has in store for His children, called to be His light and to make a difference in this hurting and unpredictable world we live in.

ISLAND ECHOES

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For additional information,
please contact:

Pacific Missionary Aviation
P.O. Box 3209
Hagåtña, Guam 96932

Phone: (671) 646-6464
Fax: (671) 649-6066
Email: pmaguam@pmafms.org

Field address in Pohnpei is:

Pacific Missionary Aviation
P.O. Box 517
Pohnpei, FM 96941

Phone: (691) 320-2496
Fax: (691) 320-2592
Email: pmapohnpei@mail.fm

What new challenge does 2006 hold for PMA? We continue to ask God for missionary pastors to lead congregations and mentor faithful men and women in the islands; youth workers to give their lives to discipling young men and women. Our ministries of aviation, medical relief, orphanage, church planting, continue with the great desire to be able to reach and help more people for God’s glory in 2006. We serve a great God who has empowered us by His Spirit to be able to do His will if we are willing to listen and simply act with the resources He gives.

We look forward to the New Year with Psalm 116 as an extraordinary expression of gratitude and love—addressed to God! “How do I love Thee, God?” the Psalmist seems to ask:

*“I love the Lord, for He heard my voice;
He heard my cry for mercy.
Because He turned His ear to me,
I will call on Him as long as I live.
The Lord is gracious and righteous;
Our God is full of compassion.
The LORD protects the simple hearted;
When I was in great need, He saved me.*

Be at rest once more, O my soul For the Lord has been good to you.”

Jesus said, “If you love Me, feed my sheep.” Sometimes the physical needs around us on the mission field can be overwhelming. While we give of our time, love and energies to meet some of the needs of the physical man, we ultimately know that only when a man is changed by the living Word of God can life have real meaning and purpose. Will you pray with me that our missionaries will be renewed in God’s Word daily so that they can meet the daily challenges of the silent cry in the hearts of men and women, boys and girls around them?

In the tiny, insignificant village of Bethlehem 2000 years ago, heaven met earth. God’s presence touched the earth and mankind would never be the same again. How grateful we are that He did all this for us. How grateful we are to serve a God who is in absolute control in 2006.

The PMA family of missionaries in Micronesia and the Philippines join me in wishing you and your loved ones a successful New Year, filled with God’s presence beside you each day and before you for the unexpected events of tomorrow. We greatly appreciate your prayers and support throughout 2005. Thank you for caring and for taking an active part in 2006 for the Lord’s work here in the Pacific.

Until every island has heard,

Nob Kalau
President

BEHIND THE FIGURES

By Dr. John Escote

Fourteen, ten, and one—these numbers represent 14 cataract surgeries, ten surgeries to remove benign growths on the surface of the eye (Pterygium), and one minor surgery done during the three weeks of our ophthalmic surgical mission in the outer islands of Chuuk State, Federated States of Micronesia.

The figures do not, however, reflect the amount of travel and labor spent to bless the people. Traveling by M/V Sea Haven during the entire trip, we logged a total of 158 sea hours. Preparing the ship's operating room and sterilization of the same, we averaged 6 hours at each island, and we accomplished five full days of surgery. And lastly, the financial cost of the overall mission, which was incurred.

Here are brief stories of six unique individuals who had cataract surgeries:

MAK SAITO, 76, Lukunoch Atoll, blind in both eyes for three years due to cataracts. After surgery when we removed the patch on her left eye, she uttered things that made people around her laugh, but they were so delighted—she couldn't stop talking, sharing her joy, for now she could see!



Dr. John with Roland Weibel assisting

Atoll. One easily sensed the compassion and strength of this large islander as he let others be examined before him. His heart is as big as his body.

REV. YCHITARO PARK, 65, showed spiritual fervor matched with the zeal of the youth. However, he had a mature cataract on his left eye. Four years ago, his right eye underwent cataract surgery. Thank God, his hypertension did not hinder the surgery and—a day after the operation on his left eye—he was able to see again!

I cannot imagine being a blind man and having to be assisted by two people in order to walk anywhere. This was the case of HEAS, a 50-year old guy of stocky build, from Oneap Atoll. Nursing a failed cataract surgery on his left eye—performed 2 years ago—and a blind right eye due to a mature cataract. The fear of constant darkness haunted him. It showed by the sadness in his countenance. But his gloom changed to a joyful disposition after having successful surgery on his right eye.

Sixty-four year old SEBASTIAN, Satawan Atoll, had already lost sight in his right eye five years ago. His problem was compounded two years later when his left eye developed a cataract, which eventually left him blind. But hope sprang back after surgery when he was able to see the letters in the visual test chart, the first time in three years!

Sebastian is the assistant pastor of the evangelical congregation on Satawan



I can see!

MENAS MARKUS, 46, portrayed a person without hope. But after his successful operation, he was like one who'd been brought back to life!

This last vignette is special. The youngest of the group, PETER, 39, Ta Atoll, was a sad picture. Blind in both eyes due to mature cataracts, he, too, had been helpless without someone to lead him. For two years he had dealt with this. It must have been difficult for his wife

and four children. But all of that changed a day after surgery on his right eye. Peter had had to stop working for five years because of mature cataracts in both eyes. Two of the M/V Sea Haven crew were his good friends, and really cared for him. So as soon as the ship arrived at Weno, Chuuk, one of them looked for him. It reminds me of the New Testament story of the paralytic's friends who brought him to Jesus to be healed. Such was the love of these men for their friend.

The language barrier between the patients and us made it difficult for us to understand their exact words, but the changes in their behavior and their facial expressions, after surgery, conveyed their thankfulness very well.

This medical work greatly impacted the lives of those we served, and also those around them. But a greater mystery happened. While doing this work, my life, as their surgeon, was impacted as well. But that is another story.

Being aware of the high cost of this voyage, the huge effort by all of our staff, and the numerous difficulties encountered, we think, was all of this worth it? The realization that it is not the work, but the positive impact on people's lives, that is what makes everything worthwhile.



Dr. John Escote

SEA HAVEN OUTREACH

By Melinda R. Espinosa

“The LORD watches over you – the LORD is your shade at your right hand; the sun will not harm you by day, nor the moon by night. The LORD will keep you from all harm — He will watch over your life; the LORD will watch over your coming and going both now and forevermore.” (Psalm 121: 5 – 8)

This was the Psalm that went through my mind after I had spoken to **Nob Kalau**, M/V Sea Haven Boat Captain, over the single-side band radio. The Sea Haven had just left early morning, October 7, and at 7pm (our scheduled radio time), he reported they were 35 miles out of Pohnpei, the weather



Boat loads of supplies for delivery to Namonuito Islands

clear, the ocean flat as a mirror, and the moon lighting their way through the night. What a great start to their voyage! The weather and ocean conditions continued to be great all throughout the voyage and we are so thankful to God for that. He indeed watched over the Sea Haven and the crew – their coming in and going out.

On board the Sea Haven this voyage: Brothers **Edwin** and **Edson Romolow**, the former having served with us for more than 10 years, and Nob’s right hand man, the latter, a crew member; **Lihno Agrippa**, crew member; **Thomas Hansen**, boat engineer and mechanic, **Roland Weibel** (missionary volunteer from Switzerland), **Dr. Dennis Yeoman** (Dentist from Guam who was volunteering for a second PMA trip), **Dr. John Escote** (our own PMA Philippines Medical doctor and eye specialist), and **Nancy Martin** (dental hygienist and assistant from Hawaii).

The Sea Haven traveled 1,250 miles, visited the Mortlock Islands (Lukunoch, Oneap, Ta, Satawan) for medical and dental outreaches, and delivering supplies to the Namonuito Islands (Pisiras, Onari, Ono, Magur, and Ulul). Total dental patients seen were 223. Our dentist, Dr. Yeoman, performed 367 extractions and 44 fillings, while other many patients’ teeth were cleaned as they waited for extractions and fillings. Dr. Escote performed 14 cataract operations, ten surgeries to remove benign growths on the surface of the eye (Pyterigium), and a few minor surgeries. One hundred twenty eye patients were screened. Dr. Yeoman also gave medical aid to several patients.

For Senator Moses Nelson, the Sea Haven delivered 805 sacks of food to the Namonuito Islands. Local food delivered from local church families were five boatloads including taro, bananas, and preserved breadfruit. Through the auspices of Ayuda Foundation, approximately three pallets of medical supplies were delivered, including gloves, crutches, IVs, needles, vitamins, bandages, ointments, and other supplies. Also included was a 20-foot container which included: 130 student desks; 3 teacher’s desks; Math, Science, Grammar, Literature and Spelling books for elementary students; and Math, Science and English high school books. In addition, several teachers’ aids, charts, bulletin board materials, games, teachers’ tools, supplies, backpacks, pens, scissors and other school supplies.

More than all of these services, we thank the Lord for opportunities for our mission staff to share the Word of God and the Person, our Lord Jesus Christ, who can bring ultimate healing, hope and new life to all who receive Him.

As our CEO Nob Kalau always says, “Serving the islands is never the work of one man or one organization.” Indeed many people have worked and provided to make this medical outreach happen. We praise God and thank the following for their support and encouragement have enabled us, once again, to serve the people of the Micronesian outer-islands:

Christoffel Blindenmission (CBM) our faithful partner in all our medical eye services,

The children and teachers of **Faith Bible School**, Aloha, Oregon who raised funds by doing jobs around their homes and neighborhoods, even collecting pop cans to raise money.



Delivery of books, medicine and supplies



Delivery of school desks



Sea Haven on dock at Weno, Chuuk

- **Ayuda Foundation of Guam** for logistical support
- Kyowa Shipping for shipping container movement to Chuuk
- Guam Port Authority for waiving fees on Guam
- Guam Public/Private Schools for donated textbooks
- Price Elementary School for school desks
- Guam Medical Clinics and Pharmacies for donated medicines and medical supplies
- Rathbun Chiropractic Clinic for collar braces and crutches
- Mobil Oil for providing reduced fuel costs
- Continental Airlines for providing Dr. Yeoman's round trip plane ticket
- Bruce Best who assisted us in the communication network
- European supporters thru PMA Germany

Most of all, we thank and praise our God who has provided, protected and used so many individuals to be His instruments of blessing and love!



Patients on board the Sea Haven

A MISSION OF LOVE

By Nancy Martin

With love and support from family and friends, I was able to give a part of myself to Pacific Missionary Aviation this fall. With our voyage starting from Pohnpei aboard the Sea Haven medical boat, we made a twenty-four hour trip to the Mortlock Atolls. Within 30 minutes of anchoring at both Lukunoch and Satawan, the islanders came to warmly welcome us, their canoes filled with gifts of coconuts, bananas and taro.

As a dental hygienist, my assignment was to work with Dr. Dennis Yeoman, a dentist from Guam. We were able to address the dental needs of many patients, relieving their pain and discomfort. We extracted 367 teeth and did numerous fillings. After we removed decay and placed white filling material on their teeth, seeing their smiles was priceless.

The people of the Micronesian Islands still need much more dental treatment, along with additional medical attention and more supplies. My personal goal is not only to help PMA reach out to the medical and dental needs of these Micronesians, but more importantly, to enable them to hear the Gospel and put their faith and trust in our Lord Jesus Christ.

I have made life-long friendships with the Sea Haven crew and their supporting doctors. Thank you so much, PMA, for a most memorable experience!



Dr. Dennis treating a patient on board the Sea Haven



Treating a dental patient on board the Sea Haven dental clinic



Nancy Martin