

Issue 1-2007
March

ISLAND ECHOES

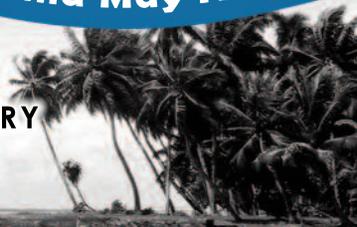
Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



That Every Island May Hear



PACIFIC
MISSIONARY
AVIATION



That Every Island May Hear

by Norbert J. Kalau, President/CEO

Last month, four young people on the island of Pohnpei committed suicide in a period of only one week. The youngest was 12 and the oldest 25. Micronesia, though very small, has the highest number of suicides per capita of any country. I'm deeply troubled by these statistics and by the trend that seems to show little sign of change.

We at PMA are constantly burdened with the challenge to make a positive difference in the lives of young people before they fall into the fatalistic thinking that suicide is the only answer to their problems. Through our youth programs and Bible studies we're reaching a small percentage of the youth, and through discipleship groups we are trying to reach more. If you were to observe a group of young people on our island, you would see that many, just as in San Francisco or Berlin, are listening to a CD player, iPod or punching keys on a cell phone. Technology is everywhere, it's global and it's in the islands.

Enter FM radio: What if we could provide Christian radio with contemporary Christian music and great Biblical teaching to the island of Pohnpei? Would our young people listen? You bet they would. Their parents would listen as well.

Imagine yourself as a pastor on a small, isolated atoll in the Pacific, just one mile long and a half mile wide, often hundreds of miles away from the nearest islands that have roads and electricity. You have no formal education, very limited access to good resources, and every week you have a congregation to teach and you're expected to minister to your island community. And when the sun goes down you put your Bible or book away because there's no longer any light to read by.

Enter Short-Wave tropical band radio: Wouldn't you love to hear Christian radio? With no form of entertainment powered by electricity on the island, what do you think your family and friends might be doing on a Friday night if they could listen to the radio? Our desire is to **Encourage**, **Equip**, **Empower** and **Entertain**. **Encourage** the islanders in their faith walk. **Equip** them in their knowledge of the Word of God, and for the work of service. **Empower** island communities with

knowledge, not only from the Bible, but in health, family, social and educational issues that will help them where they live; and **Entertain** the islanders with wholesome, motivating programs and good music.



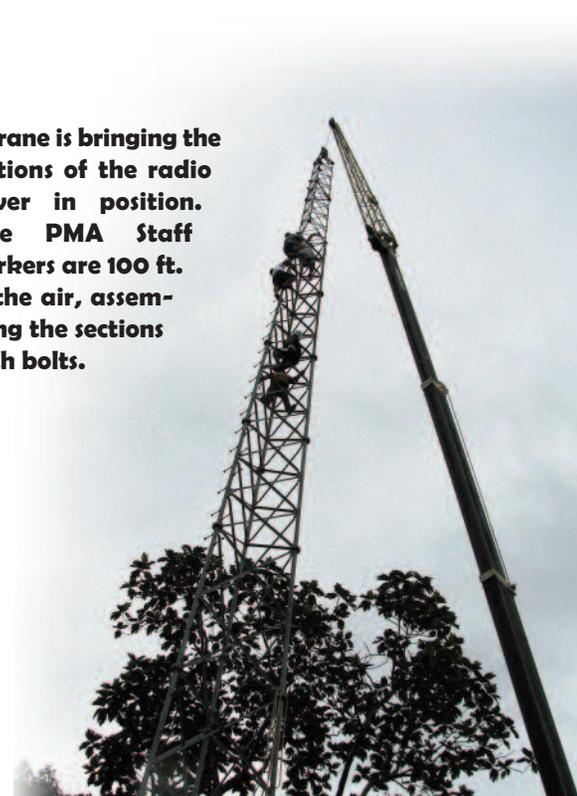
Radio studio and antenna tower on the island of Pohnpei. Please pray for guidance and provision as we get this ministry started.

We look forward to being on the air with FM and short-wave tropical band radio. Please join us in praying that this will soon become a reality, and that it will be a powerful and effective tool to reach the islands and atoll communities where PMA serves. For our desire is truly that every island may hear.

A crane is bringing the sections of the radio tower in position. Five PMA Staff workers are 100 ft. in the air, assembling the sections with bolts.



The radio station is ready to be outfitted with the production and broadcasting equipment.



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Issue
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Cover Pictures
Radio Station Construction
Story on page 2.

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God Continues to Direct Our Path

by Lukas & Mahela Schadegg, PMA Volunteers

Since our wedding two years ago in Switzerland, we've dreamed of traveling around the world. We didn't want to travel to well-known places, but wanted to visit places few people ever see. On a world map we found Micronesia, a place we'd never heard of. We decided to take a six-month trip, and two months of that with a mission organization. Before we began planning we asked God for His guidance, and we saw this throughout our entire trip. During our research we came across PMA's webpage on the Internet.



Lukas and Mahela were a true blessing to our ministries in Pohnpei.

We found out more about PMA and then applied with PMA Switzerland, where we interviewed with board member, Klara Moser. After paperwork and correspondence with the PMA Guam Office, we were accepted. We travelled via Canada and the U. S., and arrived in Pohnpei on August 14th, 2006.

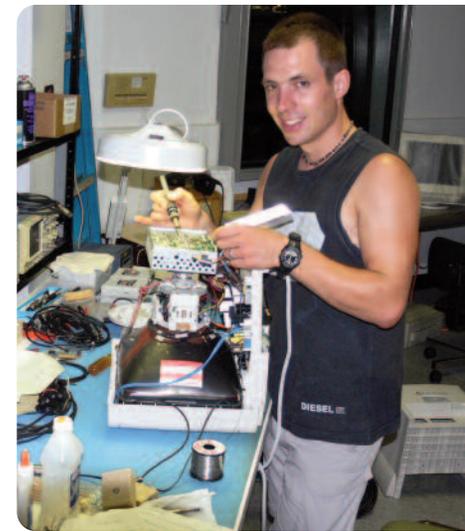
We were warmly welcomed by Sylvia Kalau and the staff and quickly settled in. Thus began our two month's service half a world away. The first few days we explored the island with PMA's Pia Kaufmann. She told us much about the country, its people and their cultures. That helped us begin to understand the people. We made friends with PMF Church members and were often invited for lunch, dinner, water skiing and fishing. We quickly felt at home.



When we started our journey we didn't know where God might have us serve. We knew it might not be easy to find work that suited our abilities yet would also be a great help to the mission. But we had come with a servant attitude and wanted to do anything God wanted, even if it might not be fun.

Once again the Lord proved Himself to us. He gave us joy as we found areas to help where we were gifted and trained. Mahela, a Kindergarten teacher, used her creativity to prepare crafts and help Pia prepare new Sunday school materials.

Lukas, a trained radio/TV technician, repaired various equipment and appliances "with God's wisdom". We thank God for His perfect guidance. He had brought us to the right place at the right time. An added bonus was the enormous pleasure we found using our God-given gifts.



Lukas repairing studio equipment.

The Lord blessed us spiritually. The Bible studies, girls' discipleship and Sunday services were a great blessing, and we learned so much. It was interesting to experience another church's life and see how members related to one another and influenced the community for God. We were fascinated with the enthusiasm and work that people put into the kingdom of God.

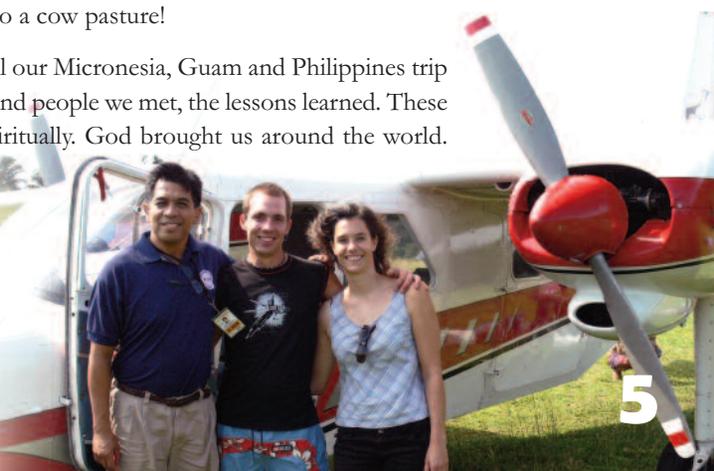
We were never bored. In our free time we visited waterfalls, enjoyed diving, swam in rivers and the ocean, and walked through jungles, exploring Pohnpei. A highlight was an invitation to a celebration which gave us insights into the culture of the island people. More importantly, our time in Pohnpei gave us quiet time to think about our lives, our future. Even before we came to Pohnpei we often thought about how God might use us. Being there made us more aware of our life's purpose. It was helpful to see what it means to be a missionary. Testimonies of PMA missionaries and things we experienced encouraged us to commit our lives to God even more.

After our time in Pohnpei we met PMA founders, Edmund and Elizabeth Kalau, in Guam. Edmund shared with us about the mission's beginning and showed movies from their experiences in Micronesia. We were very impressed by their lives. We hope that one day we, too, can have rich lives like theirs - a direct result of trusting the Lord and serving Him wholeheartedly.

From Guam we travelled to Manila, staying with Malcolm Cleope (PMA Philippines Officer in Charge/Pilot) and his family for a few days. Visiting the Polilio Islands via a PMA plane gave us a glimpse of the PMA Aviation Ministry in the Philippines. It was exciting to land on a tiny island whose airstrip was also a cow pasture!

Back in Switzerland we recall our Micronesia, Guam and Philippines trip as a rich, blessed time. The kind people we met, the lessons learned. These have allowed us to grow spiritually. God brought us around the world. We've been blessed to experience our great God who continues to direct our path.

Lukas and Mahela with Malcolm in the Polilio Islands, Philippines.



A Place Called Grace

by Sylvia Kalau

At Pohnpei's Pacific Mission Fellowship (PMF) church, the month of December means nightly practices for our annual Christmas performances. Every year we have the privilege of creating a program that speaks to the culture of the people of Micronesia. This year the story centered on grace, or undeserved favor, and the presentation was appropriately titled, "A Place Called Grace".

The story begins in "Bethlehem", the place where grace began that first Christmas, and there the drama's opening scene sets the stage. It ends with a modern-day Micronesian prodigal son who, through his own bad choices, separates himself from his earthly father. However, by a moving and accepting act of grace, the father reaches out to his son with unconditional love. One of the songs entitled, "When God Ran", describes the theme so beautifully: *"And then He ran to me, He took me in His arms, beld my head to His chest, said My son's come home again, Lifted my face, wiped the tears from my eyes, with forgiveness in His voice He said, 'Son, do you know I still love you?'"* The central thread woven throughout the musical drama is God's incredible provision through His Son's birth, His life, death and resurrection. He is the God of all grace.

Our whole church was involved: some sewing costumes, artists drawing and painting props, kids practicing "praise action" dances, our choir rehearsing, other members taking care of the audio, the music and lighting set-ups. Yes, everyone participated to make this program a huge success. The drama was presented four times the week between Christmas and New Year's. All seats were taken at each presentation, about 300 per night in our auditorium!

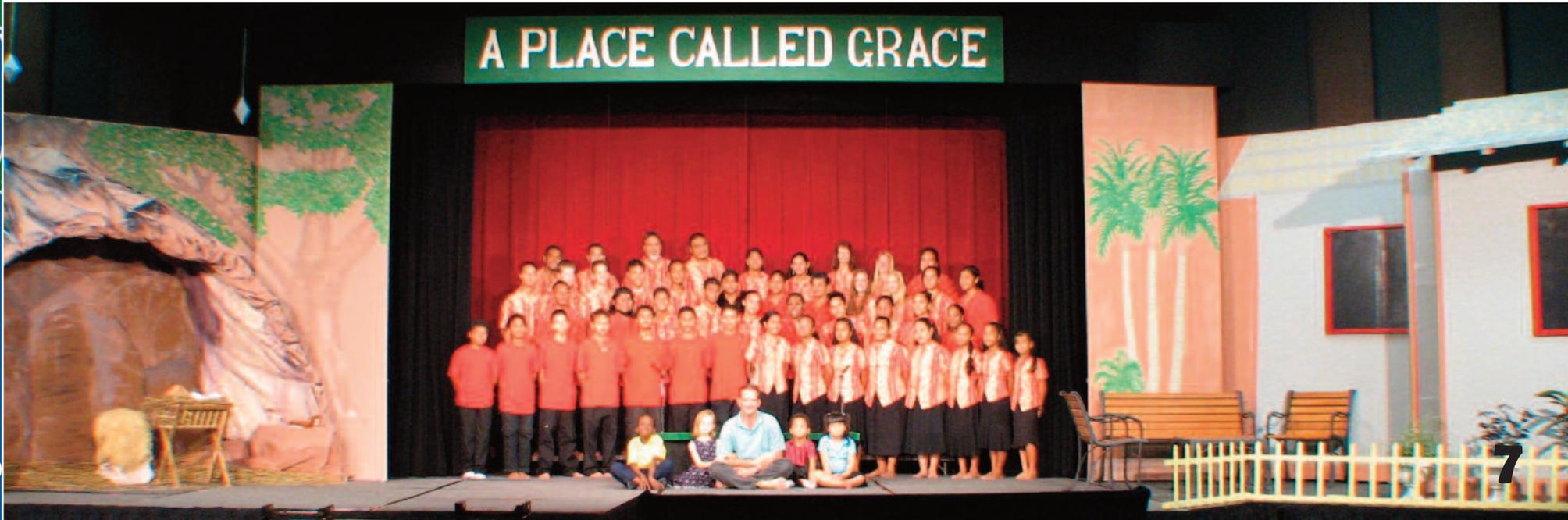
It's wonderful to see the effect that drama and music have on the Micronesian people. The message presented has more impact than just mere words. More importantly, we have seen how the youth gravitate toward this genre of art form - art with a message - the life-giving message of the Gospel. And islanders are amazed at the talent the young people have. We praise God for the witness which drama and music present to this island community.

Indeed, we thank God for grace to be able to present His message in many different ways. Truly, He is the God of grace, who desires to empower His people with that same grace in order to continue sharing His wonderful message of unconditional love and grace.



Pohnpeian youth actors depicting the modern-day Prodigal Son story.

Choir and stage setup for the Christmas program in the PMF Pohnpei church.



That Little Voice...

by Norma O. Neriquita, PMF Palau member

It was Thanksgiving weekend. At the PMA's Pacific Mission Fellowship Thanksgiving worship service I watched the children as they praised the Lord in their unique ways with the song, "Give Thanks". One of these little ones is my six-year old daughter, Charlene. It was a delight to see her participate with her vibrant smile and clear voice. I grew teary-eyed as I recalled how her little voice had led me to PMA/PMF in Palau in the first place. Many times I had searched for real meaning and joy in my life, but didn't find it. That morning I felt that I, too, should be on stage giving thanks to the Lord, because my life had become meaningful and I'd found a wonderful purpose.

I thought about earlier days. Like so many parents, I wanted my daughter to have the best of everything so she'd have a well-rounded life. I enrolled her in piano and dance lessons. I sent her to a kindergarten known for its quality education.

When I heard about PMA's Achievers Club on Saturdays, I signed her up. It would be a great way for her to be with children her age and develop friendships. She really enjoyed this and looked forward to Saturdays. She also invited me to join her when I didn't have to work. Within a few months of attending the club, she started asking me questions. Why we didn't go to the PMA/PMF Sunday school where her friends attended? She kept mentioning that Mama Joy, her teacher Joy Balayo, (who's also Pastor Bambit's wife), wanted her to attend Sunday school, and bring me, too. At first, I ignored her promptings, telling her that Sundays were busy, but she was persistent. After several months, I finally gave in. I began attending Sunday services, but only for my daughter's sake.

As months passed, I started looking forward to the services myself. I felt bad if I missed one. I felt guilty when my daughter asked me why we didn't go. Her little voice was always there, prompting me to go. I realized that God was working through my daughter, and revealing Himself to me through my little one.

Now I am a regular participant at the PMF Church, I learn much from the Word of God, and I continue to learn from my daughter. She shares what she's learned in Sun-

day school and Achievers Club. Like my daughter, I am still a toddler in my faith. I have much to learn and I want to grow, yet I still stumble and fall. I thank the Lord for church friends who've become my family. They help me in my spiritual walk. Most of all, I thank God that He is gracious and gives me the strength to stand up again after I fall.

I attend a weekly Women's Bible Study. The Lord is teaching me, and supporting me, through my weekly interaction and fellowship with these women. It was difficult, at first, to make a habit of studying God's word. But I persevered, and the Lord gave me joy as I spent time with Him and began to understand His Word.

I've learned to hold on to His promises, especially when life gets tough or frustrations set in. He's always there. In times of trial, I mustn't worry or be afraid of what lies ahead. In 1 Peter 5:7 we read, "Cast all your anxiety on Him because He cares for you" and in Hebrews 13:5 the Lord promises, "Never will I leave you, never will I forsake you". These verses have become realities to me, a solid foundation to cling to, rather than trusting my feelings and emotions. Indeed, I have placed my life, with its burdens, and my trust into His hands.

I'm thankful for my PMA/PMF family. Much more, I'm thankful that the Lord has given me a very special gift - my daughter. With that little voice still prompting me, and encouraging me to live for Jesus.



Norma with daughter Charlene.

Charlene with Achievers Club members performing at the PMF Palau church.



Making History at Calutcot

by Malcolm Cleope, OIC/Pilot, PMA Philippines

Our recent medical outreach to the atoll of Calutcot, in the Polilio Islands, proved extraordinary by the sheer fact that it was extremely difficult to reach! This first outreach took place in January 2007, thanks to the assistance of medical friends from Iowa. The trip from Manila to Calutcot took over three hours: an hour by our plane and over two hours by boat. It was impossible to make it a one-day clinic, so our chances of recruiting doctors or dentists from Manila were minimal. Most of them can only give one or possibly two days because they also have their own practices.

Our team from Iowa included: Nurse Practitioner Dennis Pruckler, along with R. N. Amy Venenga and husband Al. Also joining us were Ruth, who taught English in China, and from PMA Philippines: Dr. John Escote and Cesar Cabrera, a Mechanic Trainee.

This was Dennis' third trip to the Philippines. He, wife Bonnie, and son Daniel have been our frontline partners

at our home church in Iowa. He has great nursing skills and medical knowledge. Amy, gifted in leadership and compassion, has excellent nursing abilities. Her husband Al is a man of many talents, can fix anything, and help wherever needed. He and Dennis, both insightful, are also experienced in construction.

That first scheduled day didn't go as planned, as we couldn't land on the airstrip at Jomalig due to bad weather. We were scheduled to catch a small boat there which would take us to the tiny atoll of Calutcot. Earlier that morning the satellite pictures hadn't shown any disturbances for that day or even the week. But upon our descent into Jomalig, thick clouds appeared and heavy rain forced us down to just 500 feet above the sea. The sea boasted 15 - 25 foot white caps. Upon seeing the island, we noticed large amounts of water on the airstrip, preventing us from landing. After one circling approach, I aborted a touch down and headed back to Manila. The group had been primed for the trip and was understandably discouraged and a bit frustrated. But they had just learned a valuable lesson from Missionary Life 101: "Plan for setbacks!"



Outreach team: Ruth, Dennis Pruckler, Al and Amy Venenga, Cesar Cabrera, Dr. John Escote and Captain Malcolm Cleope.

The next morning God gave us the clear weather needed to head for Jomalig Island once again. By that time the airstrip was dry. We had an uneventful landing, and then quickly loaded the boat with medicines, medical supplies, and our team. After two hours across the sea, which had calmed down considerably from the previous day, we arrived on Calutcot.

Pastor Ed Genotiva and others from the PMF church we planted in the island, warmly greeted us and we enjoyed a hearty breakfast of squid, fish, and crabs. By 11:00 am, our team was set up and ready to work. We saw patients for a day and a half, diagnosing and treating 124 adults and children, along with dispensing free medicines to the people of this poor community.

Pastor Ed and Pastor Dolauta (Pastor of Jomalig's PMF church) interacted with the people, showing them love, and sharing about God's love. A sense of revival permeated the crowd as they were hungry to listen to the Word of God, and hear about Jesus. What a blessing to see their generosity. The church members, who had so little, gave us the very best of what they had. We pray that many people found what they were seeking that day, that peace that only the Lord can give us.

And without expecting to, PMA has made history in that small atoll. We were the first Non-Government Organization (NGO) to visit the island, the first NGO to conduct a medical outreach there, and we were informed during our visit that we were the first non-Filipinos to visit Calutcot. PMA is also the first evangelical missionary group to work on the island to plant the first evangelical Christian church in the area. I know our trip was worth all the effort and our presence on that remote island has been a blessing to everyone there. That is history through God's grace!



Practical Nurse Dennis Pruckler examining patients with Cesar assisting.

Calutcot - one of the remote Polilio Islands.



Great Is Their Reward

by Ruth, Volunteer Missionary, PMA Philippines

"I know, but I'm not going to tell you..." Captain Cleope and I had been absorbed in one of the many deep discussions about life and God that took place during my two-week trip with Pacific Missionary Aviation (PMA). He was busy cooking dinner, truly a man of many talents, and I was watching, deep in thought. Completely overwhelmed at all that I was seeing and experiencing I hardly had the words to describe how God had been broadening my horizons.

I teach English at a university in China and when I made plans to spend my semester break in the Philippines, I was eager for the trip! One of the most notable experiences was my trip with PMA - a dream come true - to be able to travel with their medical team to several exquisite, remote Philippine islands.

At the very first island we visited, Calutcot, the pastor opened the medical ministry time by leading everyone in several worship songs. As I looked around the small crowd passionately worshipping, I could only be in awe of our great God. Here I was, on a remote island in the Pacific, as God opened my teary eyes to the beauty of this body of believers. Unknowingly, these brothers and sisters were being used by God to remind me of something important. As I watched intently, a simple thought came to my mind, "Great is their reward". In the midst of many hardships that were facing these believers - and many had come for medical help - they seemed so content in the Lord.

Several more times throughout the trip, at moments when my thoughts seemed to stop and I was moved to be quiet before the Lord, God spoke that short phrase to me again, "Great is their reward". Sometimes I felt so overwhelmed at what God was saying, I don't know if I was fully aware of those around me! And I was desperate to know why... why was their reward so great?

Once, when waking up in the middle of the night on Katakian Island, I heard quiet singing and speaking coming from the kitchen. Knowing that it was 3 or 4 in the morning I thought it was strange, but I was so sleepy I simply rolled over and fell



Ruth with Moses in Katakian.

back to sleep. Later, I found out that one of the local pastors had been unable to sleep and had spent most of the night in the kitchen in worship and prayer. He then spent the entire next day tirelessly translating for our team's nurse.

Another time I was working at the pharmacy table early one morning and a young boy, Moses, came and sat with me quietly singing worship songs for over an hour. His smile, even more noteworthy than his singing, blessed me. Great is their reward.

What Captain Cleope had been saying - that he wasn't going to tell me - were the gifts he saw in my life. It wasn't that he didn't want me to know, but he wanted me to go through the journey of discovering them on my own, of learning to hear God's voice speaking and showing me the path I'm to follow.

I am excited to see what God reveals to me and to continue in the important tasks in front of me right now - tasks that I can pour my heart into. As God continues to broaden my horizons I want to maintain that contentment and joy in the Lord. I will never forget the many faces I



Ruth and Kathleen playing with Garigene at the Bahay Kalinga Orphanage.

met through the PMA trip and the many believers who provided a great example to me of service and contentment. And I won't soon forget Captain Cleope's encouragement to seek God's direction for my life. God exceeded even my greatest expectations by providing me with these truly extraordinary opportunities to see Him at work!

While I am still processing much of what I saw and did these past two weeks, several things have made an impact on me already. What was being confirmed in the believers I met through the phrase, "Great is their reward" was their contentment and peace. It seems so simple, but this was exactly what I needed to hear. These people were serving God where they were, and were joyful while doing it. If you ever get the chance to experience the ministry of PMA first-hand, don't hesitate; it will no doubt change your life! As it did mine!



Ruth as our Pharmacist in Katakian and Calutcot.

The Lord Has Done Great Things for Us

by Melinda R. Espinosa, Chief Financial Officer

We began the fiscal year with great anticipation, as always, knowing that we serve a great and living God and that He would see us through. And He did.

We experienced a slight decrease in our support donations and self-generated revenues by 3% over last year; yet our ministry/program and support activities showed a 10% increase over the same period. Medical Relief, which includes the Sea Haven ministry and Aviation services, that provide transport of patients, doctors, medical teams and supplies; medical evacuations, search, rescue and relief operations contributed substantially to the increase in operating costs. Fuel costs both for our aircraft and medical ship have increased tremendously over the years and continue to be a great challenge for us.

However, we recognize that these ministries are so essential as they not only meet the needs of the outer-islanders, who are the least among the brethren, but most especially, are instruments of the Lord to open doors for the Gospel and have given our missionaries the right to be heard, and for churches to be planted.

In the Philippines and Micronesia, ministry outreach in evangelism and church growth, the heart of all we do, continues to be on the upswing. Whether in Yap, Pohnpei, Palau, Guam or the Philippines, the wonderful story is being repeated - lives are being transformed, and many are being disciplined for spiritual growth and leadership. Although the work is not easy, and funds are often limited, our mission staff members have learned to persevere, and with God's strength, have not grown weary in well doing.

For many of us who wear so many hats, the two things that keep us going are 1) that Jesus Christ is our joy and our reward, and 2) we have such a good team working together with the same heart and vision.



Teachers Ruth (left), Ethel and Melinda (right) with some children from PMF Guam Kids Club.

With the financial constraints during the period, we were faced with the challenge to be so prudent in our spending, making do with what we have, yet not sacrificing the quality of our services and ministries. Quite a challenge, yet with God's grace and wisdom, we were able to accomplish these. We had to make difficult decisions in terms of prioritizing projects - and let me share with you that this was very challenging, as all of the projects are of great importance and contribute to achieving our mission and passion of knowing Christ and making Him known to the peoples of Micronesia and the Philippines.

Yet, we did have to forego some of our building projects, such as completing housing facilities for our mission/pastoral staff, constructing more island churches, and doing much needed repair of our many facilities which deteriorate quickly due to their proximity to the ocean. Also, frequent typhoons and ever-present termites add to the challenges. We desire to replace all of our wooden structures with cement, and pray that we may be able to raise funds for these as the Lord touches hearts to give.

The challenge during the past year was truly great, but it made us all the more reliant on our God who, time after time, showed Himself mighty and able to provide for our needs. We are so thankful to you, our faithful partners and supporters, for your sensitivity to God's leading - so many times, we had needs that only God knew, and funds would arrive by mail because you had obeyed the Lord's prompting. Thank you sincerely. We praise God that you have not tired of praying for our work and that you continue to be channels of God's grace and resources.

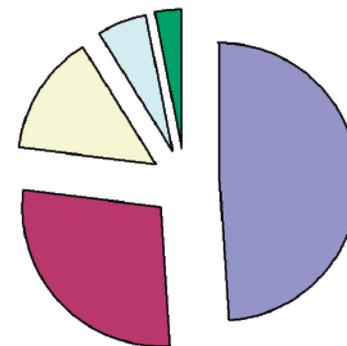
To God be the glory! With the Psalmist, we gladly say, "The Lord has done great things for us, and we are filled with joy!"; Psalm 126:3.

PACIFIC MISSIONARY AVIATION

Program and Support Activities Micronesia and the Philippines

Period ending June 30, 2006

Medical and Relief Services	49%
Evangelism and Church Growth	28%
Media (Good News Press, Studio)	14%
Management and Administration	6%
Fundraising	3%
Total	100%



- Medical and Relief Services
- Evangelism and Church Growth
- Media (Good News Press, Studio)
- Management and Administration
- Fundraising





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