

Issue 4-2007
December

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



God's Faithfulness through the Years



PACIFIC
MISSIONARY
AVIATION



God's Faithfulness: Celebrating 25 years in the Philippines

by Melinda R. Espinosa, PMA Missionary, Guam Headquarters

On a recent visit to the Philippines, Edna Ranada (wife of our Chief Mechanic, Fred) and I reminisced while waiting for the PMA flight that would take our team to Jomalig Island that morning. The Ranadas, who've served with us for twenty years, are our longest serving missionaries in the Philippines. We recalled our start in the southern area of the Philippines in Zamboanga City, on the large island of Mindanao. As we remembered, we marveled at what the Lord has done, and how He has carried us through the past twenty-five years.

It was in 1982 that PMA Philippines was incorporated as Flying Medical Samaritans (FMS), but it would be another year before FMS would begin its outreach and activities. We began with the aero-medical ministry, and establishing medical clinics in the surrounding area of Zamboanga City. Hand in hand with

these was our fervent desire to share the Gospel message to those we served. In 1984, the vision of reaching indigenous and tribal people living in the Zamboanga peninsula: Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi, was realized when our medical ship, the M/L Samaritan, began its service. As the years continued, the work progressed; however, the peace and security situation began to become tenuous. Our clinics were ransacked, our mission staff threatened. We needed to secure our people and assets, and, so, in 1986, we established our Manila Office.

Our work in the Southern Philippines closed, except for two ministries: our church in Jolo still served the community, and the M/L Samaritan continued its medical tour, expanding to the Palawan Islands. But a few years later our missionary pastor and his family had to leave because their lives were in danger. And because of security reasons, the ship, too, later had to be transferred to the Polillio Islands, a small group of islands to the east of Manila.



Despite pouring rain, faithful members of PMF Calutcot church come together for Sunday worship.

Later on, after we realized this ship was not appropriate for the Polillio Islands, it was sold, and our staff rented bancas (two-outrigger canoes) when we needed to travel from island to island.

The same year we had begun in Manila, our office received a call for urgent medical assistance from Jomalig Island. Thus, our first medical evacuation was made in that region, and with that came our introduction to the Polillio Islands. The Polillio Island group is about 20 miles off the northern coast of Quezon Province, and composed of 27 large and small islands; Polillio Island is the largest, then Patnanungan, and Jomalig.

Katakian, a village in Patnanungan, was the first to be open for church planting. Then followed Patnanungan Bayan, Kilogan, Jomalig, and the latest island, Calutcot. **We realize now that God had closed a door for us in the Southern Philippines, only to open wide windows of opportunity in these Polillio Islands.**

Aside from church planting, student dormitories were opened to provide a safe haven for young boys and girls completing their high school education. With the only high school for the outer-islands and villages of Patnanungan, the dormitories provide a healthy environment for their spiritual and intellectual growth, and character development. A learning center was established to provide early childhood education and feeding programs. The Polillio Island people are hungry for God's Word and ready to receive it. The harvest is plenty and we need more laborers in the field, as well as resources to plant churches. Resources are needed to meet the needs of the people, not only spiritually, but physically, through our aviation and medical services, youth and children's programs, and to assist them economically through livelihood programs.

Working in the Polillio Islands is extremely challenging. Our staff travel via air, sea (often encountering rough seas) and then by land and on foot. But our staff is committed, despite the rigorous life they live - to be able to share the Gospel to these island people - is just a way of life to them. Their joy is contagious but also heartbreaking for one who's used to a comfortable home with everything easily available.

ISLAND ECHOES

is a publication of
Pacific Missionary Aviation
(PMA).

Issue
4-2007 (December)

Cover Pictures
PMA Ministries in the
Philippines.

Editors
Melinda Espinosa
Sylvia Kalau
Barbara Pace

Layout
Roland Weibel

Pacific Missionary Aviation
P.O. Box 3209
Hagatna, Guam 96932
Phone: (671) 646-6464
Fax: (671) 649-6066
guam@pmapacific.org
<http://www.pmapacific.org>

Pacific Missionary 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. The business office is located in Guam and a field office in Pohnpei.

A Fresh Start on Yap

by Amos & Heidi Collins, PMA Missionaries, Yap

AMOS: After serving with PMA for two years, I returned to the United States with special permission from PMA management to build more flight time so that I would qualify for the aircraft insurance we carry in Micronesia. I had two years working as an aircraft mechanic under Chief Pilot Peter Reichert, and also had the chance to fly with him once in a while. Now there was a growing need for full-time pilots in Yap, and all I needed was more time and experience. At the time it seemed like a big speed bump and I almost felt like I was backtracking in my ultimate goal to become a missionary pilot. But, in hindsight, it is clear that it was all a part of God's perfect plan.



Married in Washington State this summer, Heidi and Amos begin their lives together serving as teacher and pilot/mechanic.

That last year I was in Yap, I'd begun a long distance relationship with a longtime friend, Heidi. Both of our parents were missionaries in the Philippines, and she and I had met when we were just 12 years old. We'd been classmates from the 7th grade until we graduated from high school at Faith Academy in the Philippines in 1999. We returned to our home countries to continue our education, Heidi to Tasmania, Australia, and I to America.

After Heidi completed her BA in Languages, she accepted a job teaching English as a Second Language (ESL) in Indonesia. The two of us resumed communication for several months via email. Even before plans had been formulated for me to return to the U.S. in the summer of 2006, Heidi had scheduled a trip to visit her parents at their home in Michigan. God graciously allowed our time in the U.S. to overlap, and our relationship grew and deepened. We became engaged in October 2006, and married in April 2007.

Having been a missionary with PMA, I already had family and friends who supported me through prayers and finances, but before we could return as a couple, we needed to raise additional support. So after our wedding, as I continued building flight hours, we wrote letters, traveled, and trusted the Lord that He would provide the remainder of our support. God did provide, and on August 15, the two of us arrived together on Yap! Ready to begin as a team!

In 1989, we were invited to begin an orphanage in Naujan, Oriental Mindoro, and Bahay Kalinga (House of Love) was born. The construction project was completed in 1991, and we first began a Day Care program for underprivileged children. Later it became the present-day Learning Center. Bahay Kalinga Orphanage adequately provides care for twelve children at a time (infants to 12-years old). We attempt to find homes for these children as soon as possible, so we can care for additional little ones and find homes for them. Since our doors opened, we've cared for 143 abandoned, abused and neglected children. We praise God for allowing this, for it is a great blessing to be a part of their lives until we've found them permanent, loving and caring homes.

In 1990, we began the medical eye ministry when Dr. John Escote, who'd graduated at the top of his class, joined PMA Philippines to serve with us. What makes him unique is his dedication to missionary work, rather than seeking a lucrative position in his medical profession in the Philippines or abroad. He is blessed with the much-needed technical skills as an ophthalmologist. He serves among the rural poor in Lopez, Quezon Province of Luzon and regularly visits our mission stations for medical outreaches. He's sometimes alone; other times with his assistant Geneziel; and sometimes, accompanied by a team of volunteer doctors, dentists and other medical personnel when available. The eye program is a vital medical outreach because it is not available otherwise to these people in remote areas. Restoring their eyesight through cataract surgery, or simply dispensing eye glasses, brings immeasurable joy and a better quality of life to these people, and opens the door for the Gospel unlike any other way.

We've walked a long, interesting road in the Philippines. Beginning with aviation, the ministry has now blossomed into one that reaches the very soul of people - it's the heart of all we do, making our Jesus Christ known to the people in these far-away islands through our church planting ministry. We thank God for that God-incident that detained Pastor Edmund Kalau in Zamboanga City in 1974, when he had to refuel there while ferrying PMA's first airplane, the Evangel. His being detained was God's way of showing him that there was mission work to do in the Philippines. At that time Edmund promised God, that if He allowed him, he would come back to help these poor and needy people, to bring hope to them and help transform their lives through the life-giving Word of God!

And God was faithful. He allowed Edmund to come back, to establish PMA Philippines, and the rest is God's story. God's power and provision have never failed us. We believe, because He remains the same - yesterday, today and yes, forever - that He will always be faithful. He is able to use people for His glory when they are willing vessels.

*"Not to us O LORD, not to us but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness." Psalm 115:1*



One of our unanswered questions was, “What will Heidi do in Yap?” We’d hoped there would be a vacancy at one of the schools so that she could volunteer as a teacher to impact the lives of the young people. In Yap, PMA reaches the community through the church, youth retreats, adult bible studies, and a weekly youth group, but we didn’t have any teachers serving in the schools. And, as in any culture, school teachers can be key influences for students. It would be unfortunate if they had no Christian influences at this crucial time in their lives. God answered our prayers quickly because shortly after we arrived on Yap we found out there was a vacancy for a 10th grade Geography teacher.

HEIDI: The teaching position at Yap High School (YHS) cropped up so soon after Amos and I arrived on the island that I was amazed at God’s timely providence! On any given day, Yap High School is a very busy place, and each day I have six classes for 145 very rowdy, but kind-hearted sophomore students! At first I was a little nervous about the information I would need to absorb (the differences in culture, setting up the curriculum, learning students’ names, school policies, correct method of grading, etc.), but once the academic year was underway, I was able to pick up helpful tips from fellow teachers. So far the students and I have studied the major themes of Geography: physical features, cultures and population; and over the next quarters we’ll cover the world’s regions in more detail.

At the suggestion of a friend, I have also been writing a Bible verse on the board each day and try to give a short explanation or illustration to accompany it when possible. I feel very blessed to be able to serve as a volunteer teacher at YHS, and I hope as the year progresses, that God will use these moments to teach my students about His wisdom and love for them, too.

Another huge blessing in my life is the Yap Church’s Wednesday night prayer meeting that I’ve recently been attending. It’s just a small group of friends getting together to sing and pray, but it is so encouraging, and helps us all to finish the week strong in the grace of Jesus Christ. Falrog, a Christian Yapese woman from Edmund and Elizabeth Kalau’s early days as missionaries on Yap in the late 50’s, has been faithfully leading the meeting for many years, and she’s full of wisdom and passion for God’s Word. She is a wonderful example of a godly woman to me. The prayer meeting and singing is all in Yapese, and since I’m trying to learn the language, it is great to get a little language immersion after using English all day at school. I’m having a great time untangling the Yapese grammar structure and fine-tuning my rotten pronunciation with the help of local friends!

AMOS: Returning to work at PMA was an easy transition and I almost felt like I’d never left. Only now my new wife was with me. And there would be added responsibilities. Not only would I be handling my duties as a mechanic, I was also going to be flying. The dual roles as aircraft mechanic and a fledgling pilot are exciting, but also very demanding.

Peter Reichert, who has more experience in the specific field I’m pursuing than anyone else, is a luxury that not many young people have available. As I begin this career as a lifetime missionary pilot with PMA, I feel very blessed to have such a seasoned veteran as a mentor. As I do flight training to become qualified, I’m also able to go along with Peter on some of the emergency medical evacuations and the regular flights that we make to the outer islands.

Sometimes as I work to maintain these aircraft in this humid and salty environment, the work can become routine. But when we receive a call to pick up a seriously ill patient on a remote island, and we have well-maintained aircraft ready to serve, it all becomes clear that it is necessary. That is the reason we’re here. To serve the people with love, and then ultimately, their lives can be impacted for the gospel.

These first few months for Heidi and me in Yap have been very positive overall. We are encouraged daily as our relationships grow with our PMA team members and also those friends we’re making in the community. We look forward to our years ahead, and we earnestly appreciate your prayers as Heidi and I serve in the Islands of Yap.

Newlyweds, Heidi and Amos, grew up as missionary kids in Indonesia and the Philippines, and have the God-given talents and gifts important for cross-cultural ministry.



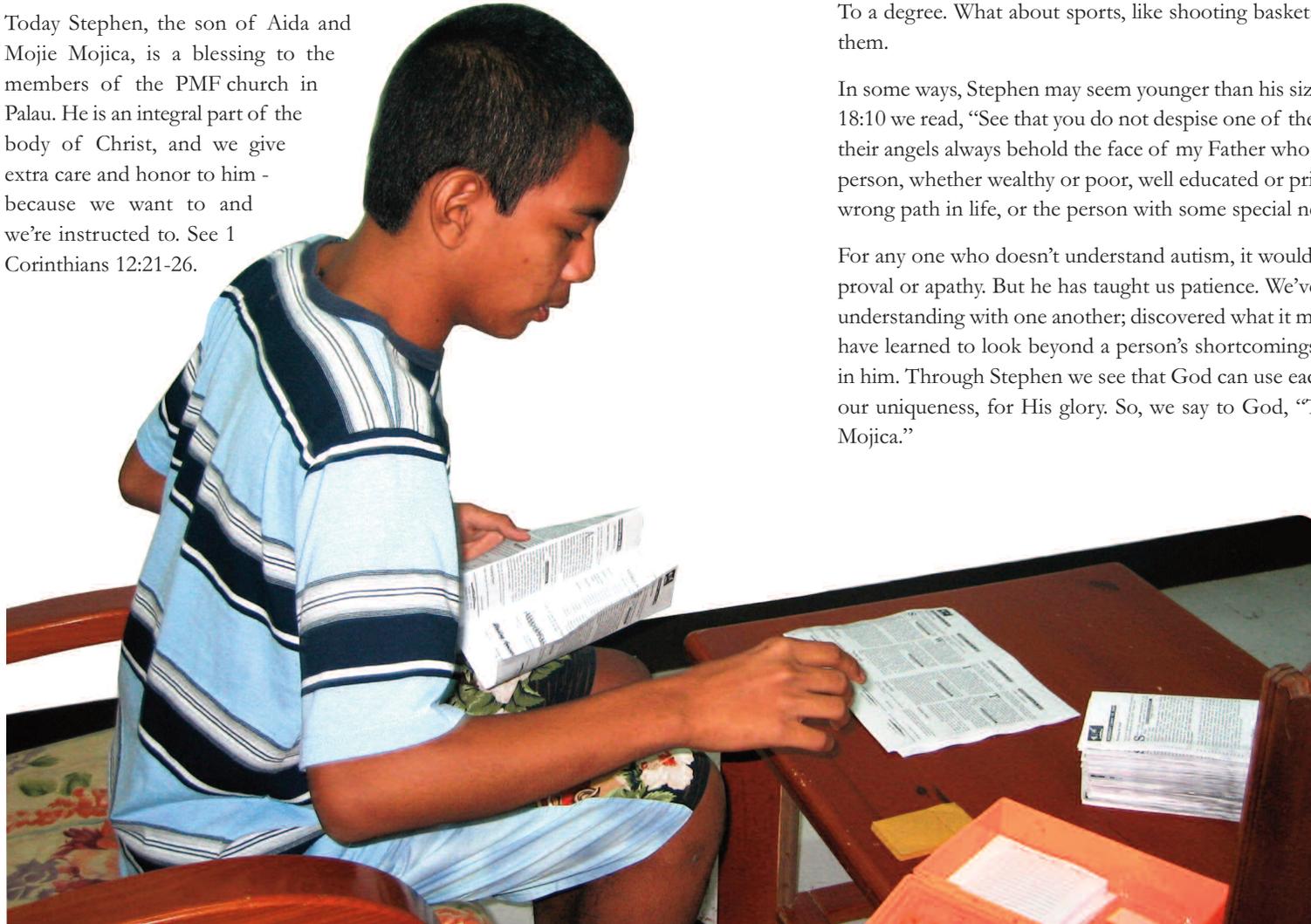
Lessons from Stephen

by Eileen Uyehara, Member - Pacific Mission Fellowship Palau

First-timers to a Pacific Mission Fellowship worship service in Palau may be startled to see a teenager wander on stage for no apparent reason during the service. Or they may hear his frustrated outbursts when he can't do what he thinks needs to be done. They may wonder why no one in the congregation does something for Stephen or disciplines him.

At the age of 3½ years, young Stephen was diagnosed with autism. Mayo Clinic's website tells us that: "Autism is a brain disorder that is associated with a range of developmental problems, mainly in communication and social interaction... A child won't "outgrow" autism, but he or she can learn to function within the confines of the disorder...".

Today Stephen, the son of Aida and Mojie Mojica, is a blessing to the members of the PMF church in Palau. He is an integral part of the body of Christ, and we give extra care and honor to him - because we want to and we're instructed to. See 1 Corinthians 12:21-26.



We love Stephen, not only because he's God's child, but also because God is using him to help us grow spiritually. Indeed, this young man has been wonderfully made. "For you created my innermost being; you knit me together in my mother's womb. I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." Psalm 139:13-14

Our healthy and loving relationship with Stephen can be a direct result of our own healthy relationship with Christ. This helps us grow in our faith and become more Christ-like. "I tell you the truth, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers of mine, you did to me." Matthew 25:40

As we have come to know Stephen better, we've seen a spirit in him that inspires the rest of us. Stephen always makes sure electric fans are in their proper places for Sunday morning worship. He often helps his mom at church with baby sister Rinnah, making sure she's with mommy, despite her objections. It shows his concern for little Rinnah. Stephen has also taken over the task of folding weekly devotionals during our "volunteer" Saturdays. Stephen has come to own this task and takes pleasure in completing it. Can he interact with other teenagers? To a degree. What about sports, like shooting baskets? Stephen sinks baskets like the best of them.

In some ways, Stephen may seem younger than his size, less mature than some, yet in Matthew 18:10 we read, "See that you do not despise one of these little ones; for I tell you that in heaven their angels always behold the face of my Father who is in heaven." We're reminded that every person, whether wealthy or poor, well educated or privileged, those who've started to take the wrong path in life, or the person with some special needs - each one of us matters to God.

For any one who doesn't understand autism, it would be easy to think of Stephen with disapproval or apathy. But he has taught us patience. We've learned to be more compassionate and understanding with one another; discovered what it means to love others in difficult times; and have learned to look beyond a person's shortcomings or differences. We see God's goodness in him. Through Stephen we see that God can use each one of us, with our imperfections and our uniqueness, for His glory. So, we say to God, "Thank you for blessing us with Stephen Mojica."

Stephen doesn't let his autism keep him from serving at the church and engaging with others. He is eager to help wherever needed and takes joy in being a blessing to many. Folding the bulletin and adding inserts is Stephen's favorite job and he honors God by doing it excellently.

Retreat on the Reef

by Sylvia Kalau, PMA Missionary, Pohnpei, Micronesia

One of the advantages of living on an island is that summer weather never ends. In fact, our seasons range from six months of summer weather without trade winds to six months of summer weather with the trade winds. This makes organizing a retreat that takes place on a barrier-reef island uncomplicated, no matter what the time of year! In October, our ladies had an unforgettable experience enjoying a retreat entitled, "Lord, Teach us to Pray."

Our group of thirty ladies from Pohnpei took a short boat ride through the mangroves and blue ocean to reach our destination. Our setting: a tiny island, ¼ mile long and 50 - 200 ft. wide, and surrounded by a reef teeming with brightly-colored fish and coral. We spent two nights in small huts and three days enjoying the ocean breezes and moist, salty air.

Gathering each morning for aerobics at the beach, we were surprised our very first morning to see jumping dolphins doing their own exercises in the waters nearby! My husband Nob and PMA missionary Roland Weibel (multimedia and IT), volunteered to plan and cook our meals over open fire and gas stove, so we wouldn't be distracted from the teaching sessions. Would it surprise you that none of us wanted to leave at the retreat's end?

We had come because we wanted to learn more about prayer and praying Jesus' way. With the Lord's Prayer as our text, we learned that our prayers should include: worship, allegiance, submission, petition and provision, confession and forgiveness, and watchfulness and deliverance. Carol Erb, our guest speaker from the Island of Kwajalein, wove her life's experiences throughout the topics of prayer, and showed us how our prayer lives could touch the heart of God. She taught us that prayer is a discipline, which when exercised, will give each of us a greater intimacy with God, but when neglected, makes one feel far from Him.

On the second day of the retreat, three women spontaneously requested to be baptized at the beach, and because Nob had come along as our chef, he was available to counsel and baptize them. Each of us, with our unique challenges, had the opportunity to learn and understand that God is bigger than any problem we face and that prayer is the key to unleashing God's power on our behalf.

One woman recently lost her son whom she had adopted as an infant. She struggled with bitterness and could not free herself. God did what she could not do... and we witnessed her being set free through the power of prayer. Another woman said she was battling an addiction. She asked for prayer to be delivered and with God's help, she was going to make new choices.



Three women eagerly requested to be baptized in the ocean during our 3-day retreat. What a joy for the other women to witness their step of obedience.

Another said she was troubled over many things and could not sleep at night. As a result of what she learned about God and prayer, she received a long awaited peaceful night's sleep. We embraced a woman who lost everything as she recently watched her home burn to the ground. Another woman, hurt by divorce learned about forgiveness. She came to understand the teaching on unforgiveness and how it can be a hindrance to prayer.

This retreat was a "first" for most of the women and the Lord had an incredible blessing for each one. At our last teaching session the testimonies given brought us all to tears - and amazement - at how God had worked in our hearts: to change our thinking and attitudes, and to deepen our commitment to the power of prayer.

God had great blessings in store for these women who joined the ladies retreat on the topic of prayer. Friendships were encouraged, prayer lives were strengthened, rest with relaxation all took place at a small island situated on an ocean reef.



Angels Guarding Me

by Rahel Bugmann, Volunteer, PMA/PMF Guam

"For He will command His angels concerning you to guard you in all your ways." Psalm 91:11

This verse from God has been a faithful companion of mine all of my life. My mom told me that this same verse was given to her shortly after I was born. When I reflect on it, I see so many of God's blessings, especially at times when I was not even aware that God was right beside me.

Earlier this year I was going through some difficulties. And my good friend couldn't accompany me to spend a vacation together. So I talked to God and asked Him if this might be an opportunity for me to take a mission trip. Deep down, I felt that my life was a mess and the lives of those around me were as well. I had no extra money and had only six weeks off before school started. Would this excursion only be an escape for me? Or was God allowing this in my life to draw me closer to Him?

I asked my father to find out if there might be an opportunity for me to serve in Micronesia. I had known about PMA through my father who is a board member for PMA Switzerland. Yet my heart was full of doubts. I wasn't prepared at all. What could I do? How could I help? I had nothing to share! And none of my friends even knew where Guam was. And yet, in spite all of these uncertainties, God opened the door.

When I arrived on Guam, I knew no one, but PMA friends hugged me and warmly welcomed me into their family. I had never been to a place quite like Guam. The island, a Territory of the U.S., was much bigger than I had expected. It is a lush tropical place where the peoples of Micronesia, Asia and America meet. It is an expensive place to live, with many cars, and a fast-food place on every corner!

My time proved to be a challenge every day: To be under authority and to do what was asked of me to do. Not being able to decide for myself about my schedule, meeting and dealing with different kinds of people, from different backgrounds. But I began to be thankful for this opportunity to learn.

I helped in the Pacific Mission Fellowship church, especially with Kids Club on Saturday mornings, and the children's Sunday school. Two afternoons a week I volunteered at the Guam Memorial Hospital nearby. It, too, was a great learning experience to work in their emergency room since I had already completed three years of medical school back in Switzerland.

Among the many things I discovered while spending my vacation half way around the world: 1) Obedience is faith in action. 2) Faith is when I let go of all that I love the most, and allow God to handle my life. 3) I realized if I focused on God, I would have peace wherever I was. I know that these renewed beliefs will help me as I continue my life's journey.

I thank God for this special opportunity, and thank Melinda who arranged this visit and allowed me to stay with her at the PMA Haus. Thanks also to my parents and friends for their loving support.

I will never understand why God chose me to be His child, but He has. He called out to me when I was at the lowest point of my life. He used me when I didn't deserve to be used. He loved me even after I'd given up on myself. He helped me up and carried me whenever I fell. He always waited for me. His patience and compassion are amazing.

My time in Guam was a rich blessing. I'm happy that I could help others. I met new people and made good friends. I learned more about our amazing God and how He works in people's lives, how He worked and continues to work in my life! No one will ever understand what my six-week trip to Guam has meant to me. But God knew what I needed before I ever left home. God, indeed, had His angels watching over me as He taught me new lessons.

22 year old Rahel, from Switzerland, served with PMA on the island of Guam for 6 weeks. She discovered that serving was one of her gifts as she applied it to children's ministry.



The Last Amen

by Edmund J. Kalau, PMA Founder and President Emeritus

In 1963 while on our first furlough, after 8 years on Palau and Yap, my wife Elizabeth and I, with our three young children, traveled to a church in New Jersey, U.S. The speaker that Sunday morning was a missionary in his late 70's who had spent many years in China.

It was fascinating to listen to this servant of God who had labored for nearly 30 years in China's remote interior. He recounted his good and also often dangerous experiences while bringing God's Word to thousands of very poor and uneducated Chinese.

Elizabeth and I could well relate to some of the dangers he experienced while traveling through strange and unaccustomed territory. Our travels, contrary to his, were mostly over water to nearby or distant islands, and were taken in small self-built boats or local outrigger canoes. The canoes, when steered by experienced navigators, were much safer than a small outboard motor boat.

Now there stood this missionary, fully erect in the pulpit, despite his advanced age. He challenged us listeners to not forget the lost people at home and abroad. His penetrating glance met our eyes and, with a serious voice, he concluded his appeal to us with a loud "Amen".

I felt a strong desire to applaud this man, not only for the well-presented challenge, but much more so for his 30 years of dedicated missionary service.

Still standing in the pulpit, he suddenly collapsed and fell backwards to the floor. I, along with others, rushed forward to help, but no help was needed. His "Amen" was the last word he spoke here on Earth. Now he was at home with the Lord.

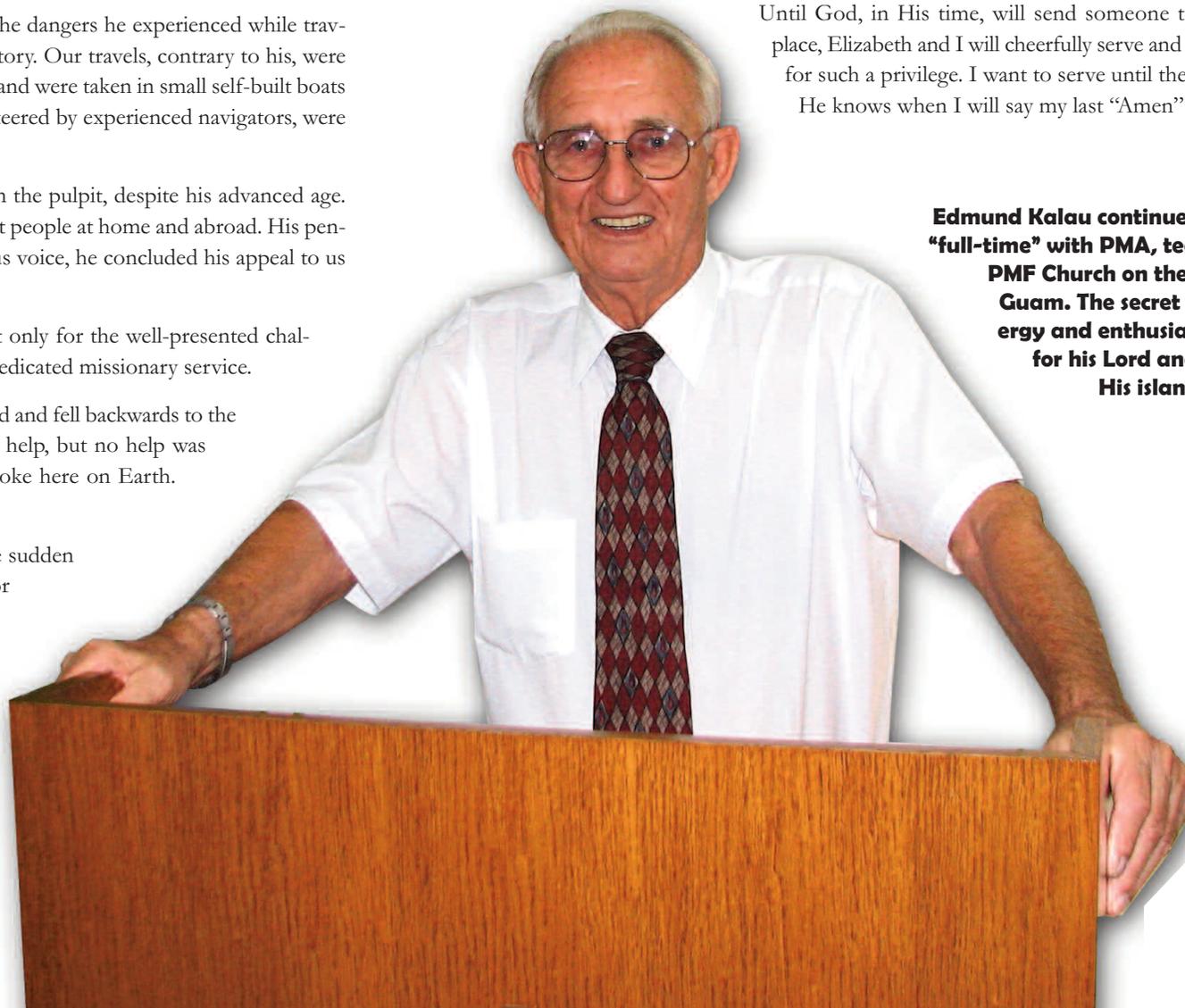
All of us were shocked and bewildered by the sudden death of one who had so faithfully served for so long. And I could imagine God speaking to him: "Well done, my good and faithful servant, come and inherit what has been prepared for you."

Then turning to Elizabeth I said quietly: "That's how I would like to go, serving to the end." I wondered how much more time God would allow me to serve him in Micronesia.

After 50 years of service in the islands of Micronesia, we have retired on the large island of Guam. Here on Guam, God has granted us a new field of activity. For a number of years now we have been able to minister among the more than 11,000 Micronesians who have moved here from their home islands for better educations and better jobs. It is wonderful to see God's body growing, people being saved, lives renewed, families restored, and children introduced to the Great Shepherd.

Many can't believe it, but next year I will be 80 years old. Some think it must be a great burden at my age to still minister and help where help is needed. A burden? No! I am so grateful for this opportunity to serve. What would I do without my present occupation of missionary/pastor? This is the work for which I was called "out of darkness into His marvelous light" (1 Peter 2:9) to serve my risen and living Lord! I don't want to miss the blessings that come with this service. No, it is not a burden but a great blessing, that God still chooses to use me!

Until God, in His time, will send someone to take our place, Elizabeth and I will cheerfully serve and thank Him for such a privilege. I want to serve until the end. Only He knows when I will say my last "Amen"!



Edmund Kalau continues to serve "full-time" with PMA, teaching at PMF Church on the island of Guam. The secret to his energy and enthusiasm? Love for his Lord and love for His island people.





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

info@pmapacific.org
www.pmapacific.org



PMA is Member of the
Evangelical Council for
Financial Accountability

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
Barrigada, Guam
Permit No. 3