

Pacific Missionary Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

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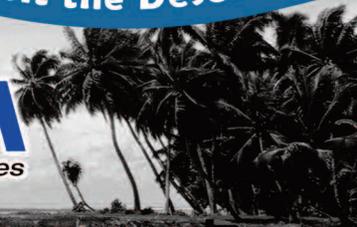
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



The Islands Visit the Desert

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Dear Friends,

A PMA missionary once told me that one of the most valuable lessons she learned after being 'on the field' for only six weeks was: "One must be flexible, adaptable and have a good sense of humor; otherwise, one can be extremely frustrated and unhappy in the mission field."

Our missionaries have specific job descriptions and know what's planned for each day. But many times those schedules are interrupted by the unexpected. Our people must quickly change gears and hats in order to take care of the daily and urgent matters at hand.

A PMA doctor cleans up after a medical clinic is held and takes home a boatload of people over turbulent ocean to their neighboring island; the CEO of PMA may find himself down in the ship's bilge, troubleshooting a problem or welding a broken pipe for the pump system. A pilot fuels up his own airplane readying it for the next day and then goes home to prepare for a youth Bible Study. His weekend time is spent hanging out with the youth he is trying to reach with the Gospel. A nurse may have to learn how to change fuses and trouble shoot when the radio transmitter is down. We can't outsource these responsibilities. We live on remote islands that don't have the services that you would normally find in most parts of the world. It's not who does it, but that the work gets done for the overall furtherance of the ministry. We just tackle the work at hand to the best of our ability, and pray a lot! Our most significant needs for the mission remain: resources and dedicated missionaries. Thank you for continuing to ask the Lord to send dedicated servants and resources to us.

In Luke 6:43-45 Jesus was teaching a large crowd one afternoon. He said: "You must begin with your own life-giving lives. It's who you are, not what you say and do, that counts. Your true being brims over into true words and deeds."

Billy Graham once said "The highest form of worship is the worship of unselfish Christian service. The greatest form of praise is the sound of consecrated feet seeking out the lost and helpless." May we, your representatives at the forefront of the battle, be faithful to the task. And may we find more team members to serve alongside us.

That every island may hear,

Nob Kalau



PMA President Nob Kalau

Summary of Ministry Needs

Personnel Needs:

Missionary Pastors
 Administrative and Ministry Assistants
 Youth Workers
 House Parents for Bahay Kalinga Orphanage
 IT for Media Ministry
 Facility/Equipment Maintenance Personnel
 Boat Captain
 Boat Engineer
 Pilot/Mechanics

Infrastructure Needs:

Repair of Boys and Girls Dormitory
 Patnanungan, Philippines
 Repair of Multi-Purpose Centers
 Patnanungan and Kilogan, Philippines
 Construction of Multi-Purpose Center
 Jomalig, Philippines
 Construction of Learning Center
 Patnanungan, Philippines

"A generous man will prosper;
 he who refreshes others will himself be refreshed."
 Proverbs 11:25



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Issue

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Cover Pictures

President's Weekend
 in Arizona, Summer 2009

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The Islands Visit the Desert

by Megan Darreth, PMA Friend

On a bright, cloudless August day in Mesa, Arizona, desert temperatures hovered around 108° F, searing both plants and people with its arid heat. Inside a local resort, however, the lush Pacific islands had come to visit.

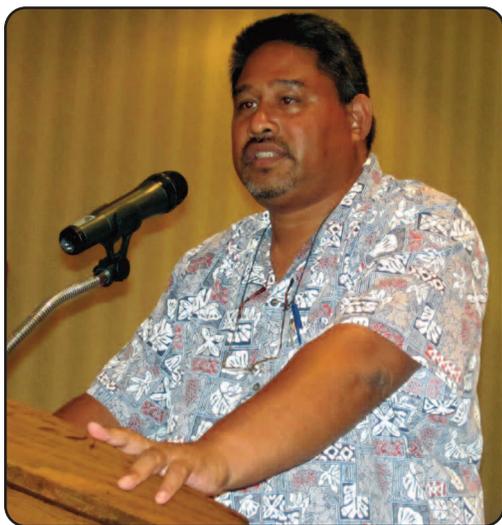
The first PMA Presidents' Weekend in Arizona was a success. Over sixty specially invited guests attended the conference, which was full of stories, photos, island songs and dances, and not a small amount of tropical food. Attendees heard from Pastors Edmund and Norbert Kalau, Pastor John Malimai, CFO Melinda Espinosa, and PMA board members about the mission's projects, goals, and their hearts for the people of the islands.

As I sat in the resort's air-conditioned dining room, savoring a piece of mango, I enjoyed watching a couple from North Carolina reunite with PMA friends who live a half a world away.

Many of those who attended the conference had traveled long distances. Aside from PMA staff, who journeyed across the Pacific, others came from throughout the U.S., from Washington State to the East Coast. Many also drove to the Phoenix area from different cities around Arizona.

Our first night together was at the home of a local Mesa couple, where we were warmly welcomed with shell leis and friendly greetings. After a time of fellowship and bread-breaking, Pastor Ed shared his testimony and a bit about the beginnings of PMA.

The night ended - as many of our times together would end - with a traditional island dance, gracefully performed by Nadya and Chelsea Kalau, daughters of Nob & Sylvia Kalau, and granddaughters of Pastor Ed & Elizabeth Kalau.



Pastor John Malimai shares his life story on how PMA was instrumental in bringing him to the Lord and changing his life forever.

Over the next two days, we learned more about PMA's history and its various ministries through videos, testimonies, break-out sessions, panel discussions, Q&A sessions, and informal gatherings with PMA staff during meals. The conference culminated with an island-style worship service on Sunday morning, where we tried our best to keep up with Pastor John as he led us in a Woleaian (Yap, Outer-island) song of praise.

Throughout the weekend, several attendees were impacted by those who work with PMA and noted how they were open and available, despite having several scheduled events.

Joshua Joiner attended the conference with his wife Jamie and their two small boys. He said, "I was really impressed with the fact that Nob and Sylvia took time out of their busy weekend to have breakfast with my wife and me and answer some of our questions."

This welcoming attitude permeated the conference, and was evident in many other small, thoughtful elements, such as fresh orchids on the tables and baskets full of gifts from the islands. I couldn't help but be pulled in to this loving atmosphere.

PMA's Chief Development Officer, Harry Cawood, agreed with me. "One of the particularly rewarding aspects of the conference was the warmth and the bonding atmosphere that began on Friday night and continued through Sunday," he remarked. "Animated conversations, hearty laughter and heartfelt sharing with PMA staff and one another became dominant highlights of the weekend."

Ron Anderson, who attended the conference with his wife Marilyn, added, "Both my wife and I were bowled over by the peace that rested on the Kalau family, especially the children. We could easily see that peace in their whole demeanor."

It is this tranquility and love that I'll remember most about the conference. PMA pastors and staff shared not only their ministry with us, but also their lives and passions. Despite the long distances we'd traveled, each of us returned home with a piece of that passion - a feeling that now connects each one of us to those far-flung Pacific islands.



Pastor Ed Kalau with Bob Wickersheim, who with his wife Sandi hosted the first event of the "President's Weekend" at their home in Mesa, Arizona.

Why Teach Children?

by Ethel Laco, PMF Guam Member

David Livingstone, well-known Scottish Missionary & Explorer, once remarked, “Our business is to teach the children about sin and the Savior, without even a hint about a certain age to accept Christ. The Holy Spirit will convict them of sin... (hence) who are we to dare to interfere with His work?... Any child is old enough to accept Christ when he realizes that his sin is against God and that, because of that sin, he is lost without Christ.”

In April, PMA gave me the privilege of training PMF Church teachers in Patnanungan, Philippines. On April 27, I received a message from Mercy, PMA missionary teacher at PMF Patnanungan, that I should accompany her and her husband, Jun, on May 1st to Patnanungan. I purchased and prepared teaching and Vacation Bible School materials, but the weather didn't allow us to leave. A storm had settled along our intended path. We prayed, waited, and God calmed the storm after a few days.



Children are always happy to have their picture taken - most of all they have the joy of learning about Jesus and knowing Him.

Our van left Manila at 4:00am headed to Real, Quezon where we would catch a boat to the island. Now our boat was underway, battered back and forth by huge waves. Fear and anxiety enveloped me, but I remembered our great and powerful God - the One who'd created the heavens and the earth - was in control of everything. Sailing more than four hours by boat on the Pacific Ocean was a test, but the Lord gave me peace and patience that we would safely reach our destination. Finally, Mercy pointed to the island. It was beautiful and clean, with children everywhere. I was encouraged even more about the upcoming training.

Training the eleven Sunday school teachers for five days was a great joy. Some teachers from Polilio churches weren't able to attend due to bad weather. Rinber, one trainee, got sick, but the Lord soon healed him and he continued with the training. Some teachers were mothers with small children, yet they faithfully attended too.

One afternoon we did a practicum in evangelism with neighborhood children. When we returned, the teachers excitedly told of their experiences, and how children had crowded around them to hear about God's salvation. Even the parents sometimes pushed them aside to listen to our teachers.

The Lord extends His love and promise of salvation to every individual in the world (John 3:16). Children, too, are born with a sinful nature, as mentioned in Psalm 51:5 and Romans 3:23. And Jesus put great value on children (Matthew 18:14), so we shouldn't regard them lightly. Imagine if all children were saved at a young age, they'd have many more years to serve the Lord.

On the final day, trainees presented Bible lessons at the beach. Although nervous at the beginning, the trainees did well. Pretzel, the last teacher to do the demonstration, taught other children who were picnicking at the beach. Seventeen children prayed to receive the Lord!

VBS, with 136 children, was the highlight of my trip. It was wonderful to see the children's eagerness to learn God's Word. I was inspired to see them coming, even before it was time to begin each day, and many prayed to receive Christ. God gave us a fruitful trip. Thank you for praying as teachers follow-up with the children and families. Pray that they'll join our PMF church so their faith will grow. Thank you! And I challenge you to love and teach the children you know about our incredible God and what He offers them. Dr. Livingstone's and God's Word compel each one of us to do just that.

Teacher training at the beach in Patnanungan - sharing the Gospel.



God's Special Child

by Mary Cleope, PMA Missionary, Philippines

Day after day, we rub shoulders with Filipino families encountering difficult situations. Some problems are caused by bad choices; other troubles are caused from sickness or poor economic conditions. No matter the reason, at our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage (BK) we care for the little children that arrive at our door step.

We receive referrals from the Philippine Government's Dept. of Social Welfare to care for several children temporarily. Their families are managing difficult situations or struggling to get back on their feet after set-backs. It's quite a different scenario than preparing a child for adoption. Instead these troubled parents will usually want their child back home at some point.

"Junior" (name changed) was brought to us recently at eight months old, weighing only 9.7 lbs. His mother "Liza" (name changed) had four other children, with a different father, who then abandoned them. Life was extremely difficult having to support five children and then Junior was born. He had a cleft palate and cleft lip that needed medical attention as soon as possible. Liza was unable to hold a job because she needed to care for Junior. Desperate to hold her life together, Liza contacted the local social services. Counseled by government workers, who told her that Junior wouldn't survive his current situation, Liza reluctantly agreed to this temporary separation. Junior was then referred to BK as a malnourished baby.

At BK this happy little guy needs special attention for eating, because of his cleft palate, and it seems he's always hungry. At nine months, he now weighs 11.7 lbs. He's able to drink from a bottle and can hold it, and has started eating thicker foods. His progress has been amazing! Soon we'll contact the Philippine organization who provides free cleft palate surgery.

Culturally, it's unacceptable to give a child away, even if he's in grave danger. A child's parents have so much pressure from others, and sometimes forget about the child's welfare. At BK, our social worker Estelle is working with foster parents to arrange a 3-month temporary stay for Junior, extending to one year if necessary. Liza loves



Junior and plans to bring him home eventually. But for now, we know it was no accident that Junior was brought to us - He's another one of God's special children.

After weeks of staying at Bahay Kalinga, Junior has put on weight, is healthier and can now crawl.

Airport Care Ministry: A Personal Touch

by Onz Pate, PMF Palau Member

Editor's note: Onz works at the Palau Community College as an Institutional Research Analyst and Consultant.

Imagine having never traveled out of your country. One day you're offered employment with another island country. One that's a two-hour flight from your home. With a totally different culture and language. That was me a few years ago.

I'm a single guy in my late 20s. In 2007 when I was ready to leave for this island country, the Republic of Palau, I was anxious. Working in the Philippines I'd never been far from family and friends. My family's prayer request before I left was that I would find Christian friends in Palau.

When I arrived God had brought the Lacambra family, members of Pacific Mission Fellowship, to help me. It was a blessing to be treated, not only as a new friend and part of their family, but as a brother in the Lord, too. Then, through them, God introduced me to a larger family: the PMA/PMF congregation.

This family of God has many interesting ministries. One, the Airport Care Ministry, provides personal care to church members, relatives and friends arriving and departing from the Palau International Airport. This ministry isn't elaborate - but because of it, people feel loved, cared for and significant. It's brought many newcomers to visit our church, many times they find the Lord, and then become members of His family. It's also motivated our PMF family members who've left Palau to keep in touch. It seems they just can't forget their experiences with God's family in Palau. I thank God that I'm involved with this ministry. And I remember with gratefulness how much the ministry meant to me when I first arrived here two years ago.



Onz's favorite time is when he welcomes people who come to Palau for the first time. Here he is being met by our PMF members together with Pastor Bambit (in blue shirt behind Onz who is holding a baggage cart).

M/V Sea Haven Medical Ship visits Kosrae

by Melinda R. Espinosa, PMA CFO/Administrator

“Please come to Kosrae Island!” was Dr. Likiaksa’s plea to our CEO, Nob Kalau, three years ago. He told Nob that literally hundreds of patients were ready for cataract surgery. Through PMA and Christoffel Blindenmission of Germany, Dr. Likiaksa had been trained in India for six months in eye care. A long-time resident of Pohnpei’s general hospital, he was re-assigned to his home island of Kosrae three years ago to serve in Kosrae’s government hospital. The first thing he did was screen all eye patients for cataract surgery. He knew PMA had an excellent Ophthalmologist in the Philippines, Dr. John Escote, and that if he came, Dr. Likiaksa would be able to help his people.

Everything was working out with Ship Captain Nob Kalau’s schedule. The Sea Haven had completed its dry dock in Guam last year, and Dr. John Escote’s schedule was free. The Sea Haven was ready for a medical tour to Kosrae! The 189-ton ship, outfitted with an operating room, dental clinic and eye examination room, would be the “floating hospital” for this outreach.

The crew on board the Sea Haven: Nob Kalau, Ship Captain and 15-year-old son Alex, Edwin Romolow and 11-year-old son Norton, Tobias Stork, volunteer from Germany, and Theodore and Etinimei, both PMA staff from Chuuk Outer Islands. Dr. Escote flew from Manila to Pohnpei, and nurse Deena Pothen from Guam joined the crew in Kosrae. The goal of the visit to Kosrae was to perform cataract surgeries. As soon as nurse Pothen’s flight arrived at Kosrae, screening of patients began, since it had been some time since Dr. Likiaksa originally screened the patients.



Nurse Deena refracting a patient for reading glasses.

For the two-week medical outreach, 167 patients were screened. Unfortunately, not all were qualified to undergo cataract surgery, as most of them had severe diabetes. But 44 surgeries were performed: 14 cataracts, 25 Pyterigium (a growth of clear, thin tissue that lays over the white part of the eye), 2 IOL (Intra-ocular lens) re-positioning, and 3 minor surgeries.

We’re very thankful that the Sea Haven was able to visit Kosrae. The Kosraens responded with love and generosity, bringing more than enough local food for the crew everyday. We thank Continental Airlines for discounted fares for our doctor and nurse, and thank Ayuda Foundation of Guam for facilitating their travel.

We look forward to the Sea Haven’s next scheduled voyage in August when she will visit 18 outer-islands of Chuuk to deliver 400 solar water stills (these convert salt water to potable drinking water). This is through the auspices of the Rotary Clubs of Guam and Japan, and we are so grateful. The ship will also be delivering books, school supplies and other relief goods, thanks to the Ayuda Foundation, Pacific Island Movers and Matson Shipping.

We are extremely thankful for these opportunities the Lord has given to PMA: to serve the island people of Micronesia, and for our partners, who believe in what we do and love, not only in word, but in deed, as well.

Editor’s Note: The Sea Haven has served Micronesia since 1989 and PMA has served the islands for 35 years now.

Dr. John Escote performing cataract surgery while Dr. Likiaksa observes and learns.



The Jesus Expedition

by Heidi Collins, PMA Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

Over 100 children attended our week-long Vacation Bible School, “The Jesus Expedition,” this year in Yap. Held in three parts of the island - Maap, Rumuu, and Colonia - leaders and children gathered to learn action songs, hear about the miracles of Jesus, memorize Bible verses, do crafts, and play games.

The Impact Team from Germany played a vital role, leading the songs, teaching the actions to the children, and performing skits. They organized relay races and games each day, and the children’s excitement was almost palpable. Other adults and youth from the Yapese, Palauan and PMF churches came faithfully every day to teach Bible stories, coach children as they learned their verses, serve snacks, and translate into the different languages wherever needed. Many of the adults and youth helping at VBS were amazed at how quickly and accurately these young ones “soaked up” the new songs and Bible verses.

In Colonia the PMF church saw a large group of Outer Island children attending VBS, too. In their classroom, Pastor John Malimai and several Sunday school leaders, Nikita, Mary, and Jayleen, engaged their young audiences right away - in their Outer Island language - with stories of Jesus’ miracles. Each day Molly Davis organized the flannel graph set for the stories, as well as the craft activities which provided great visuals for the children. Many PMF parents and youth also came to help out because of the large number of children! (What a wonderful “dilemma!”).

VBS was loud, busy, and a lot of fun, for both the children who attended, and for the adults! It powerfully demonstrated how people from different churches, ethnicities, and languages can unite as the Family of God to tell the next generation the awesome things He has done through Jesus Christ.



"Look at what I did!", exclaims Britney. She was so happy she could attend Vacation Bible School this summer.

Hope for the Hopeless

by Rev. Edmund Kalau, PMA Founder & President Emeritus

The first years Elisabeth and I spent on the Island of Yap, we immediately sensed the hopelessness in the lives of many of the people. Yet we knew we had Someone who could bring hope to these people and so we started to build relationships among them. We found that most of the women were very receptive to the Word of God. One of these was Fatag. Everyone in the island knew her husband, Foram - he was a drunk, and because of that, his family suffered. He had a very responsible position with the government. He was the only one on the island trained to use heavy equipment. But often he was caught drinking on the job - so he was fired, and then hired, fired and rehired again as the situation and need arose for his expertise. Fatag had become a believer, and through all of this, she and I prayed for him. And she never lost hope.

One day, I was driving down to Colonia when who should stop me on the road - but a very drunk Foram. I stopped and he told me that he wanted to talk. I responded, “I won’t talk to you now because you’re drunk.” If he sincerely wanted to talk, I told him to return the next day, sober. The following day, at the appointed time, Foram arrived at my office and he was sober. We talked for several hours. He left my office having met Jesus Christ - the only One who could set him free from the bondage of alcohol!

For the several months following, people at his work, in the village, and especially his family - saw a great change in him. He was no longer drinking, and he and his family had become dedicated members of the local church that I pastored. Because his salary was no longer used for alcohol, his family was well taken care of. He was even able to purchase a pick-up truck. He used this truck faithfully to pick up church members who lived in the outlying village, and of course, his family no longer had to walk several miles to the church every Sunday.

Then the big test came. Every New Year’s Eve, Public Works, the government agency that he worked for, hosted their annual holiday party. Loads of alcohol and other beverages had been shipped in from Guam for this occasion. The party promised abundant food and drink. I had no idea that Foram was planning to go. The following day I ran into the head of Public Works. He asked me, “What did you do with Foram?” I responded, “Why?” He told me that, the evening before, alcohol had been free flowing, and yet Foram had never touched a drink. Instead, he enjoyed soft drinks throughout the celebration! His co-workers even took his beverage bottle more than once to check whether or not he had replaced the contents with alcohol - but it proved that he hadn’t.

Through Foram’s life, we experienced yet again that God is able. That He is able - to bring hope to the hopeless, and to give power and meaning to a life that was once wasting away - now Foram was living for Him!

Let His Praise Be Proclaimed!

by Irina Rakowski, PMA Missionary, Pohnpei, Micronesia

For one and a half years now, my husband Waldemar, our boys, Simon (5) and Lukas (4), and I have made our home on the Island of Pohnpei where we serve with PMA. Waldemar has been called to be PMF's Youth Pastor, while I help with our Sunday school ministry and reach out to some of the island women and mothers.

It seems as though, at my young age of 29, my life has had many twists and turns. I was only eleven when my family relocated from Russia to Germany in 1991. Life was very difficult for my parents in this new country. My mom had accepted the Lord when we still lived in Russia. But my dad said that he was "too young to believe in God". But just six months after our settling in Germany, I was in a tragic car accident. Our doctors said it was a miracle that I survived! That terrible accident led my mom to recommit her life to Christ, she was baptized and church going became a tradition in our family.

Ages fourteen to seventeen were the years I like to call my "rebellious" years. I wanted to enjoy life and try everything! Many Sundays at church I would hear about the Lord's saving grace, but often my mind wandered. I wanted the freedom to do my own thing. One day my best friend became a Christian. We had agreed that "some day" we would accept the Lord together. But now she had realized how important it was for the Lord to take control, and she gave Him her life. I decided I didn't want to be her friend anymore! I wasn't ready to take that step - the world was still too important to me.

A year later my friend was baptized, and while the preacher held his hands over her, praying a blessing, I was reminded of the many things we'd done together. Now she was "saved" - and I was still lost. I thought, "I'll go to hell for eternity!" Even when I kept Jesus in the background of my life, He kept knocking at my heart's door. He clearly showed me that I couldn't continue as I had. I needed to make that clear decision. And every time I attended church, my former friend received me with joy. I started to compare my sad, dark eyes with hers, so full of peace and joy.

Finally I asked my Grandfather how to become a Christian. My grandmother hadn't been listening to our conversation, but she reminded me of my Christian friend and that I hadn't taken that crucial step. When she said that, I started to cry. My heart was broken. The three of us knelt down, and I repented and asked God for His forgiveness and His grace. I gave my whole life to Christ that day, and He gave me a new life! I was my grandparents' first grandchild to become a believer! One of the first things I did after that was hurry home to my parents and ask them for their forgiveness.

My husband, Waldemar, and his family moved to Germany from Russia when he was nine. His mother was a believer and Waldemar accepted Jesus when he was ten. His father also received the Lord before he died in 1990.

After I married Waldemar, we developed a strong hunger for the Word of God, and a desire to know God better. And that's when God led us to attend Breckerfeld Bible College near Hagen, Germany. I'm so thankful that God trained us for His work. We told Him we were willing to go wherever He wanted us to.

At first we were shocked when our principal told us he thought we should go to Micronesia. We were thinking, "but our boys are both under two". Our friends and relatives didn't want us to leave. But we wanted to follow God's calling. We prayed and waited for God to open the door to PMA in Pohnpei. But God did more than that - He opened a huge gate. So many things fell into place. We passed our tropical health tests. Our parents gave their consent. And we received all our needed financial support! That's how we ended up boarding an airplane on May 2, 2008, and flew halfway around the world to this island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean!

Our first year was getting to know the people, their culture and learning to lean on the Lord for all things. One and a half years later we continue to learn more about them and about God. We're thankful that God allows us to serve Him here. We as a family want to be useful tools in His hands so we may: "...give glory to the Lord and proclaim His praise in the islands." (Isaiah 42:12).

The Rakowski Family:

Simon, Irina, Lukas and Waldemar desire to serve the Lord with gladness.





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