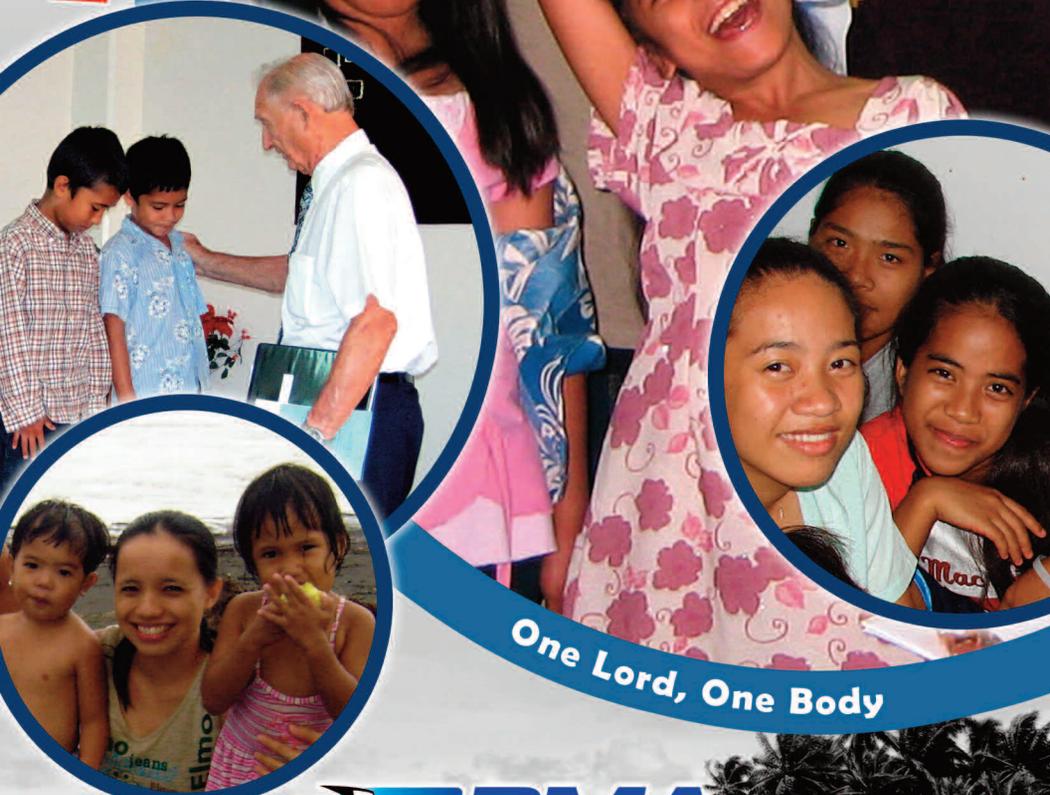


Pacific Missionary Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue 2-2010
April

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



One Lord, One Body

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Dear Faithful Ones,

“I am the Resurrection and the Life. He who believes in Me, though he may die, he shall live.” - John 11:25

You will have a good idea of what God is doing these days through reading this quarter's Island Echoes. Those who are still getting to know PMA, will better understand what PMA missionaries in Micronesia and the Philippines experience:

- Living in isolated islands with hot, humid, damp environment
- Daily preparing ourselves spiritually, physically, emotionally to meet new challenges and having a mind set to be proactive to meet changes
- Serving the Lord knowing that our labor is not in vain and that the applause of men is not why we do what we do

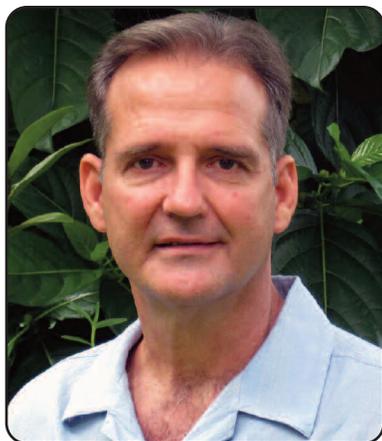
Some answers to these questions will be underscored in the following stories:

- A young man from halfway around the world volunteers to help missionaries
- On a tiny Pacific island the Lord shows Himself faithful, over a period of many years, in some wonderful ways
- A young missionary woman spends her time faithfully teaching little ones the importance of memorizing Bible verses
- A young man lost at sea and those who prayed and trusted the Lord for his safety

Your continuing prayers, your dedicated partnership, your sacrificial gifts and your telling of these stories to others make the difference: in whether or not our beautiful island people - most of whom you will never see here on earth - learn about the hope of the Resurrection story. We are indebted to each one of you for enabling and empowering us to spread the wonderful Easter promise to the islands. A promise that takes us through this life and beyond - to our Eternal Life with our Jesus!

That every island may hear,

Nob Kalau



PMA President Nob Kalau

Summary of Ministry Needs

Personnel Needs:

Missionary Pastors
 Missionary for Youth & Discipleship
 Pilot/Mechanics
 Flight Instructor for PMA Philippines Flight School
 Administrative and Ministry Assistants
 IT for Media Ministry
 Facility/Equipment Maintenance Personnel
 Boat Captain
 Boat Engineer

Funding Needed for:

Renovation of Hangar, Philippines
 Patnanungan Island, Philippines:
 Repair of Boys and Girls Dorm
 Construction of Learning Center
 Repair of Multi-Purpose Center
 (Patnanungan & Kilogan)

“Give, and you will receive. You will be given much. Pressed down, shaken together running over, it will spill into your lap. The way you give others is the way God will give to you.” Luke 6:38 (NCV)

PMA is on Facebook - Become a friend!

Visit our website: <http://www.pmapacific.org>

and click on the Facebook picture.

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Pohnpei.

The Fiesta

by Pastor Jorie Bonggoyan, PMF Katakian, Philippines

Traditionally, the people of Katakian annually celebrate the fiesta for their Patron Saint. It is a time for the religious leaders and members to carry their goddess statue on their shoulders and parade throughout the island of Katakian. They believe it to be a source of protection from evil and disease. This year their celebration carried on every night. Picture this scene from our neighborhood: the four houses close to the church are full of drunkards and loud people involved in gambling, cock fighting and other destructive activities. Men, women, and young people are intoxicated with hard liquor. This is how the devil has deceived and blinded people on my island of Katakian.

Praise God for the members of Pacific Mission Fellowship who are living out their faith in a real way. I can see the fruit of the Spirit in their lives, even as traditions and temptations surround them. Before, they too carried statues. But today they spend evenings praying and fasting for their neighbors and for God's mighty protection from sickness and chaos. Together we have experienced God's favor and learn to live victoriously in God's power. Unlike before, the new Christians are no longer participating in demonic activities and have chosen to "walk in the newness of life". (Roman 6:4) I pray that the Lord would encourage our members in their walk, protect them from the enemy, bless them in providing for their families, and strengthen their faith everyday.

Pastor Jorie with wife Adarna and children have faithfully served on the island of Katakian as church planters and have now established a PMF church: a source of light on an island of darkness.



Only by Grace

by Estella Sacyaben,
Social Worker, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage, Philippines

"Only as we experience God's grace as pure grace, not something we earned or worked for, can we offer love with no strings attached to another person in need. There is but one true Giver in the universe; all else are debtors." - Philip Yancey

I have just taken two of our children back to their mother after their one year temporary stay with us in Bahay Kalinga Orphanage. The mother was so happy to have them back, though it was a tearful goodbye for them and for me. Their mother has now found a permanent job and can support them at last and was thankful that we had given her children the best care and love needed during their stay at our orphanage. Life in Bahay Kalinga is indeed full of hellos and goodbyes. Hello to a newly orphaned child coming to live with us. Goodbye to those fortunate children adopted by loving parents and to those with us for temporary shelter being returned to their parents or relatives.

As a social worker, I live at the orphanage 24/7. It is not easy to care of little children who are mostly toddlers, each with a different behaviour and personality. With the help of our loving caregivers, the work becomes lighter. It is rewarding to see the positive changes they display and it is deeply satisfying to see them very happy, settling in as if they were not in an orphanage, carefree, feeling secure and loved.

Playing at the playground, singing and reading together, taking them to the beach, are just some of the fun activities we all enjoy. Sick children are an around-the-clock exhausting challenge, especially when there is more than one. We are thankful for your prayers for us during times like these and for your continued prayers on behalf of the children.

I love my work here and I love the children as my own. I know that the sacrifices are not in vain as I only want to live for God's glory. It is by God's grace that I serve. I only desire to hear the Lord's "well done" when my work here on earth is done.

Estella loves to take the children to the ocean. It's their favorite place to play.



One Lord, One Body

by Selina Landauer, PMA Volunteer, Guam

I've often heard the cliché: "Time flies when you are having a good time!" Well, I've found out during the eight months of serving on some of the most beautiful islands of the world that time really does fly. The tropical warmth of this island paradise - Guam and Palau Islands - was a welcome treat after the snow and ice of my homeland in Switzerland.

Learning the Word of God, fellowship, worship time with the youth in Palau was a special part of Selina's visit to Micronesia.



During my last year of school, I was thinking of spending some time as a missionary volunteer. Our family receives the PMA magazine "Island Echoes" and I wanted to see these islands for myself. Were they as beautiful as the pictures? I made an inquiry with PMA Switzerland, who put me in touch with PMA Headquarters. Melinda Espinosa immediately responded, took care of all the necessary paperwork, and before I knew it, I was on a plane to Guam just two days after my graduation!

My Guam time was dedicated to preparing for the weekend Kids' Klub, Sunday school and worship services. It was encouraging to be a part of the worship team and the core group who got together and prayed for PMF churches and the mission needs. God blessed us with many answers to prayers and it made me more aware of His greatness, love and care for His people.

I also had the chance to visit Palau. The highlight of my Palau experience was my involvement with one of the youth concerts (JAM3 – Jesus and Me). It was exciting to see how the youth bonded together and shared their talents in music so that their families and friends might know Jesus. It was unusual for me to be the only caucasian in a church service, yet I never felt alone. Everyone went out of their way to be friendly and to make me feel at home.

During my time in Guam and Palau God taught me some important things. I learned to be patient in every situation. I used to give up too easily. He reminded me that everything is possible with Him and that all things happen for a purpose and in His time. I learned to be thankful and to always rejoice that I'm His child.

Christmas in Guam will always stay in my memory. My parents and sister came from Europe to spend their Christmas break with me in Guam. It was special to enjoy the wonder of our Savior's birth together. On Christmas day we spent half of the day at the beach, enjoying God's beautiful creation, the pleasant weather and the invigorating ocean. In the evening we went to Edmund and Elizabeth Kalau's home and enjoyed a tasty dinner and exchanged gifts. It was a great way to end a beautiful day. I experienced a peace in my heart that I have never had before. So far from home, an unusual Christmas day for me, but the nicest Christmas I have ever had. It made my heart sing!

After we shared our gifts, my family and I, along with Simon Weibel, another Swiss volunteer, shared a song in Swiss German; Melinda, her visiting sister and Mel Pelayo sang a Christmas song in Tagalog (Philippines), and we enjoyed Christmas carols in English. I realized we were from three different countries, but we all have the same Lord and Savior. And so it is in missions. Meeting islanders in Palau and Guam, being part of the PMF church, has given me the opportunity to learn so much about island culture and to see how diverse and unique the body of Christ really is.

Selina Landauer from Switzerland had the opportunity to be part of JAM with a special number on her flute.



Lost and Found!

A Story of God's Protection in Dangerous Seas

by Amos & Heidi Collins, PMA Missionaries, Yap, Micronesia

Fishing is an integral part of life for the islanders living in Yap. Ways to catch fish vary from trolling, bottom fishing, net fishing, fish traps, spear fishing, as well as hunting sea turtles. Sea turtles can grow up to 4 feet long and, although a protected species during parts of the year, are delicacies for the islanders providing a lot of meat for their families. To find turtles, you must swim in the more dangerous parts of the ocean - outside the reef or in the deep channels, where the currents are the strongest. To hunt a turtle, you must spear it with something connected to a float. Then after the turtle is tired of fighting, the swimmer ties its flippers up and hoists it into their boat.

One morning an Outer-Island youth who attends our Yap PMF church, went turtle hunting with some friends. Arlen and his buddies set off in their boat to the northern tip of Yap, a good spot for hunting turtles. Around 10 o'clock, Arlen spotted a turtle, dove in after it, and quickly shot it through the neck with his spear gun. After securing the turtle, he noticed the strong current had pulled him out of sight of the boat. He was swiftly drifting away from land. Knowledge of the currents told Arlen that it would be futile to fight against the intense current, so he allowed the current to pull him out to the deep waters far beyond the reef.

The beautiful ocean and reef surrounding Yap can at one moment be a great place to swim and the next a dangerous place to be. One must be constantly aware of changing weather and tide.



What a great rejoicing it was for Isaac and his family when they heard that Arlen was found! Isaac and Arlen thank God for his miraculous rescue.

His companions didn't realize Arlen was in trouble, and had gone to pick up another swimmer. By the time they returned, he was nowhere to be found. Meanwhile, Arlen was far out to sea, so far out he couldn't see the waves breaking on the reef. He was still holding onto the turtle he'd caught. Suddenly he noticed a large shark circling underneath him and his turtle.

"This is when I began to get scared!" Arlen later told us. This was his cue to drop the turtle and start his long swim back to the reef. The current still fought him, but it was not as strong as before and Arlen was able to make progress. After at least an hour, he finally reached the reef, still a mile from land. If he hadn't been a strong swimmer, he wouldn't have made it. Now it was low tide, so he was able to climb onto a large rock sticking out of the water. Exhausted, he fell asleep.

Earlier Arlen's parents, who are also PMF church members, were notified that their son was missing and that the police were taking a boat out to look for him. Isaac and Vicenta quickly called many friends and family to start praying for Arlen's safety. Within 30 minutes of praying, Isaac received a call from his brother that Arlen had been found! The police boat had finally spotted him about 4 PM on the rock where he'd been resting, far away from the initial spot where he'd caught the turtle.

Back at Arlen's home, relatives and friends gathered together, thankful for God's protection and understandably impatient for Arlen to be brought home so they could see him again. What a wonderful gift from God - the safe return of a loved one from a potentially hopeless situation! Arlen's father Isaac later said, "We don't always realize that God is everywhere, and that He is just waiting for us to call on Him for help."

A Man We Look Up To

by Simon Weibel, Missionary Volunteer
and Rea Joy Lumawan, PMA Missionary, Palau

Once there was a young man from the other side of the globe who came to Palau Island and everyone looked up to him, literally.” This was how Pastor Bambit introduced Simon to our young people gathered for fellowship at the PMF church in Palau. You see, Simon is rather tall, at 6’ 2” inches and he towered over us. We all found out soon enough that it was not only his height that made us admire him. When asked to share what he had learned from his stay in Micronesia, here is what he said:

“My 7-week stay in Palau was a very good experience for me. Before Palau, I had served in Guam and Yap. This was another eye-opener, as I realized each island is different, and each PMA mission station unique - yet all serving the same Master. Traveling all the way from Switzerland to Guam was my first solo travel experience.

For my short stay in Guam, I was involved in the upkeep and cleaning of the yard, as well as assisting in preparing the PMA Haus for a much-needed paint job. Being part of the worship team was great as I shared my talent in trumpet, especially during offertory.

In Yap, where PMA’s aviation operations are, I spent most of my time at the hangar: painting, sanding, preparing the aircraft for the next flight and cleaning and vacuuming the planes when they returned from a flight. Yapese people are friendly and I felt comfortable with them right away. My memorable experiences were flying to the Ulithi and Fais Islands. At Fais, we picked up a sick patient. It was touching to see everyone gathered at the airport to send this patient off. Another experience was a fishing trip with missionaries, Amos and Simon. Altogether we caught 25 tuna! Later, I met this guy at a store where I was buying soda. He asked me where I came from and what I was doing in Yap. Soon, I found myself with a dinner invitation to his home!



Simon’s highlight in Yap was flying in PMA’s aircraft to the outer-islands of Ulithi and Fais.

In Palau, my main responsibility was to clean and sort out supplies and tools in the storage containers. Doing this everyday was a great challenge and not always easy. I needed patience and endurance. With Pastor Bambit’s constant supervision, I eventually learned how to both work competently and with initiative. On the last church clean-up I was able to finish organizing one of the containers with the help of the youth group. It was good to feel a sense of accomplishment. (Now, when anyone needs a tool he can easily find it!) I also painted all the benches and tables outside to protect them from the high humidity.

On all three islands I attended prayer meetings, devotionals, Bible studies. These activities fed me spiritually. I also attended youth group fellowship in Yap and Palau and made friends easily. God’s Word comforted and built me up, especially as I was away from my loved ones.

The farewell in Palau was touching and made me aware that I would be leaving new found friends behind who all called me, “brother”. Gathering at the shore in front of the Kalau Gym for food and fellowship, each one gave me a special word of encouragement. How cool!

Praise the Lord for His protection and guidance all through my Micronesian stay! An experience in missions can change your life, attitude and perspective. I’m glad I took the challenge.”

We are blessed that God sent Simon to us. We praise the Lord for him. Though his stay was brief, he was a great help. He may be young and inexperienced in mission work, but his desire and willingness to serve God made him a true winner - someone we can look up to!



Simon and Selina in the container used as a storage room. Simon’s hard work in arranging all the tools, construction materials and supplies is a legacy he leaves behind.



Simon enjoyed making friends at the PMF youth groups in Palau and Yap.

Bible All Stars

by Pia Kaufmann, PMA Missionary, Pohnpei

Many island children attend PMF Sunday School and Vacation Bible School on a regular basis. In the process of being exposed to the Lord and His Word, children give their lives to Christ. We are so excited for this first step of faith and realize that this is only the beginning.

All believers, whether child or adult, need to get nurtured and rooted in the Word of God. This is the aim of our weekly Bible All Stars class. About 15-20 children, ages 9-11 are coming to our kid-friendly, doctrinally sound Bible club. They are getting to know the attributes of God, the covenants of life and faith, the foreshadowing of Christ in the tabernacle and much more. Sound boring? No way! These lessons are fun and practical, spiked with cool review games, quizzes, visual aids, object lessons, and even great prizes and rewards. The kids not only enjoy coming, but never fail to bring along some of their curious friends.

One major step in the growth of a Christian's life is spending time in reading the Word of God. Before class starts, we pass out Bible bookmarks with verses printed on them, so that the children (even the slower ones) can prepare their Bibles for the day's lesson. This way the kids are prepared to open their Bibles faster and are able to read along, while we study some important Scripture passages.

But not just Bible reading in class is important, as Christians we need to spend time alone with God in Scripture and in prayer daily. Most adults struggle to prioritize Bible reading and to make it a habit in their daily routines. That's why we want the children to learn this habit while they are still young. Every week they receive Bible bookmarks with daily devotions to encourage their quiet time. In addition to the bookmarks they have a small binder to keep handout questions about their quiet time. When they return their completed quiet time handouts, they get a small reward. It is so encouraging to see that young children are eager and able to read their Bibles every day!

God's Word is so amazing! It's fun to discover truth with children who are enjoying the awe and wonder of getting to know God. My desire is that what island kids learn, would bear eternal fruit. Would you help us pray for that?

Bible All Star children proudly display their tabernacle craft and are learning sound Bible doctrine each time they come to All Star meetings.



God Gives us the Desires of our Hearts

by Elizabeth Kalau, Co-Founder of PMA

Looking back, I can honestly say that the Pacific islands have been a very good place for our children to grow up. Life was simple, island friends were in abundance and adventure waited right outside the door. Most of the time, our children were outdoors, playing, exploring the jungle surrounding us, fishing, swimming in the ocean or canoeing with friends.

Our two boys, Norbert and Dieter, had a great time growing up. With daily adventures and things to discover in the jungle and at sea, school was not too important. They wore loincloths, like their friends, so mother had very little washing to do.



Dieter and Nob with their Yapese friends. Growing up in Yap was simple and full of fun.

One day, they came home to tell me that they had to be very quiet in school because their Yapese teacher was sleeping. He had too much to drink the night before and had to sleep off his hang over. Needless to say, I augmented what they learned in school with homeschooling. One day while I was teaching, their friends were outside the house, noisily waiting for them. Norbert looked at me and with all his heart asked the question, "Can I please join them? Why do I have to study if I want to become a fisherman anyway?"

After this conversation, my husband and I knew that Norbert needed to be in a place where he could be challenged and encouraged to grow beyond what he knew of the island life. We then decided to send him to a Christian school in the Philippines - Faith Academy (1500 miles away from Yap). This was where many missionary kids in the Pacific area went. It was hard to be separated from him - he was only 11 years old. However, we entrusted him to God's loving care. We knew God had a plan for him and that He would answer our prayers for him.

And God did! Norbert together with his wife Sylvia serve as missionaries in Pohnpei. God gave Norbert the desire of his heart - he is a fisherman indeed - a fisher of men. Praise the Lord!

In All Your Ways Acknowledge Him

by Rea Joy Lumawan, PMA Missionary, Palau

While in Bible College, I had a dream that I was sitting at a port of an island I had never visited before. The scene was spectacular as I watched myself enjoying the sunset while having a special moment with God. Little did I know that God was showing me where I would be after my time in Bible School. During my junior year, I was invited by PMA to serve as an intern on the island of Guam.

Before flying to Guam, PMA gave me the privilege of visiting its ministries in the Polilio Islands and the Orphanage in Mindoro. I clearly remember one of my quiet times by the beach in Patnanungan, sitting in the local port, watching the sunset, and déjà vu - I told myself - I already experienced this! And then I remembered the dream I had.

God's ways are truly amazing! In Guam, I experienced one of the greatest challenges in my life. God changed the entire "me" - my perspective in life, work attitude, relationships and a lot more. I am so grateful for the training I had with PMA. I went back to my homeland with a new purpose in life, which is "to know Christ and to make Him known". I thought that was that - I may not be involved with PMA again.

After I finished my last year of Bible school, a local church in the Philippines invited me to serve with them and I signed a three-year-contract. During those three years, I felt like there was a void within me. I sought for new challenges, new heights, and new adventures, in other words, I needed to grow, stretch and challenge myself. I thought maybe I should go and pursue higher studies. But I discerned that God had other plans for me.

Rea has experienced God's ever-present grace, strength and faithfulness as she serves the Lord in Palau. We thank God for her!



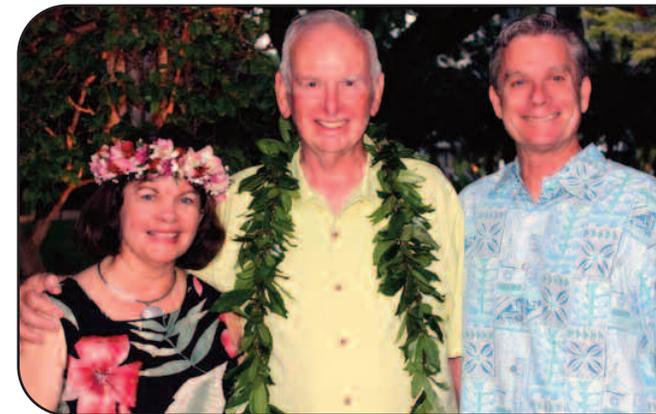
"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, lean not on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will make your paths straight." Proverbs 3:5-6. Though I had my own plans, I trusted the Lord and followed His leading. As my three years of service were coming to an end, out of the blue, Melinda Espinosa from PMA got in touch with me and informed me that Palau needed a missionary worker.

I have been serving with PMA Palau now for more than a year. Without a doubt, God acknowledged my desire and has given me new experiences while stretching and challenging my faith in Him. Life was not easy during my first year. I struggled with many things, but God reminded me that I should not be driving my own life. I kept praying that God would give me His passion for His work. Eventually, He changed my heart. I praise God for the PMA leaders who are so gracious. Gracious enough to forget my mistakes and encourage me to learn, move on and forget my past mistakes. As I was given grace, I learned to give grace to others as well.

Through all of these things, I have learned to lay everything in God's hands by allowing Him to be my guide and acknowledging Him in all my ways. As I choose to do this, I experience peace, joy and victory each day. Truly a dream come true!

Barbara Pace Fountain

by Melinda R. Espinosa,
PMA Headquarters



Barbara with husband Bill Fountain and Pastor on their wedding day. Congratulations Barb and Bill!

Many of you have known Barbara Pace and her involvement with PMA. As mission secretary, she and her late husband Harvey, a pilot, served with us for 9 years in the Islands of Pohnpei and Yap in Micronesia. After leaving the mission field, Barbara has continued to be involved with PMA by helping us with the writing and editing of our newsletter magazine, "Island Echoes".

We are happy to announce that God, once again, has begun a new chapter in Barbara's life: The Lord has provided a partner for her - Bill Fountain, a long time friend of the Paces, became Barbara's husband in January 2010. With this new life, comes new commitments, hence, this will be Barbara's last edition of the "Island Echoes". Thank you, Barbara, for all the faithful years you have served PMA and our missionaries. Your gentleness, graciousness and generosity have blessed us all. We thank God for your friendship! We will miss you, and pray that the Lord continue to use you and Bill for His Kingdom as you begin your new life together.



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