

# ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Blessed Visit

## Issue

2-2011 (June)

## On our Cover

Blessed Visit in the Philippines

## Editors

Melinda Espinosa

Sylvia Kalau

Sabine Musselwhite

## 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. Our

business office is located in

Guam and a field office in

Pohnpei.

# Summary of Ministry Needs

## Personnel Needs:

Missionary Pastors

Administrative and Ministry Assistants

Youth Workers

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 Learning Center

Patnanungan, Philippines

Complete Construction of Multi-Purpose Center

Jomalig, Philippines

“Whoever brings blessing will be enriched,  
and one who waters will himself be watered.”

Proverbs 11:25



**PMA is on Facebook - Please become a friend!**

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

**and click on the Facebook picture.**

# Letter from the President

by Nob Kalau



**PMA President Nob Kalau**

To our Faithful Mission Friends,

“The prayer of a righteous man is powerful and effective.” James 5:16b

*“Prayer reminds us of our constant need for God and reassures us of His presence with us. Prayer is part of God’s plan for our growth and for His program in the world. In prayer we don’t tell God what to do; we find out what He wants us to do.”*  
David Hubbard

Our PMF church in Pohnpei has been going through studies on prayer. This has encouraged and motivated us to spend more time in prayer: alone, with family, with church groups and corporately as a church. We find it to be a refreshing and humbling experience as we come into the very presence of the living God, knowing that He delights in listening to us, His children, and in speaking to us as well.

Evidences of answers to prayer are found in a few stories that we have in this Island Echoes edition: How God blessed the visit of our Mission personnel and how He kept them safe; How in many ways, the Lord answered the prayer of a young mother; How the Lord used our aviation ministry to answer calls for help; How the Lord met the need to serve Him faithfully; How He answered the prayers of one who desired to go to Bible School and serve Him full time; How His Word answered the deep longing to know Him.

Prayer is indeed effectual and makes a difference in the destinies of men and nations. Something happens when we pray and does not happen when we don’t. My humble prayer is, “O, Lord, teach me to pray!”

Thank you and God bless you for praying for us in the islands.

That every island may hear,

Nob Kalau

# Farewell after 6 Years in Pohnpei!

by Pia Kaufmann, PMA Missionary

Saying good-bye after investing 6 years of my life with the people and the PMA/PMF church in Pohnpei stirs up various emotions within me. Different things come to my mind: Foremost of these is the great blessing of friendship and prayer partners that God has faithfully provided for me. Looking back at the times of hardship and moments of discouragement and frustration I can also see how God had used these times to strengthen my faith and bring me closer to Him.

I praise God for the blessing of seeing spiritual growth in the people that I sought to impact and teach. The joy of watching nationals step up into ministry and growing mature in their spiritual lives, makes all the challenges pale in comparison.

All in all, I praise God for His wonderful provision and faithfulness. I pray that many of the Micronesian people, who continue to teach the various Sunday school and discipleship classes, will have the same experience as I have. May they know that their ministry will bear fruit and bring heavenly rewards. Please pray for me as I seek to continue serving the Lord in different areas of ministry after my return to Germany.

I was allowed to experience the beautiful promise from:

*Rev 22:12 "Then I was told: I am coming soon! And when I come, I will reward everyone for what they have done."*

*2 Timothy 2:2 "You have often heard me teach. Now I want you to tell these same things to followers who can be trusted to tell others."*



**Sunday School:** I started my ministry with some sessions of teacher training, and right before I left, I held another intensive study on how to teach Sunday school. Many attended the meetings, including 3 new male teachers. During the following Sundays I was able to see the things that I had taught be put into practice. The teachers were full of excitement and creative ideas.

**Girls Discipleship:** Throughout all my 6 years in Pohnpei I had Bible-studies for young girls. At first I thought this would stop after I left, but then I saw some mature girls among my students and knew that if they formed a team, and were under an accountability leader, together they would be able to continue the classes. Darlene, Madelene and Bruceleen prayed and agreed to continue the lessons. Please pray for them.

**Bible All Stars:** I was also able to finish a two year curriculum, based on Bible doctrine, for the children ages 9-11. The curriculum includes: lessons, homework papers, games, crafts and tools for daily Bible reading. God has blessed us with two young girls who are fantastic helpers, Tamara and Rayona. They know what needs to be done! Two teachers agreed to continue with the class, Lilly and Morehna. Lilly is young in her faith but when I heard her teach her first lessons, I do believe that God will use her in great ways. Please pray for them as they endeavor to continue the Bible All Stars class.

God is indeed good! I am thankful for the opportunity to serve Him in Pohnpei - to put into practice what I have learned in Bible school and in a small way contribute to bringing hope and changing lives of the people I served.

**Pia Kaufmann has left a mark among her Bible All Stars learners. Pray for their continued spiritual growth.**



# Finally Home

by Eileen Uyehara, PMF Palau Member



**Marlina and husband Leo. She will always be remembered by friends and family members as one who had faith in the Lord no matter what circumstance she would undergo. Her life was a living testimony of God's faithfulness and goodness.**

battle with colon cancer. When first diagnosed with cancer, she was given only 3 months to live. Those 3 months turned into 3 years. God gave her extra time especially to be with her 3 children, Daniel, Deopaulo and David, who was only 1 ½ years old when she was diagnosed.

Marlina was always strong. She persevered spiritually and physically through the challenges that she faced. As devastating as cancer was, Marlina previously faced a major challenge in 2006 with the premature birth of David. Marlina was in Palau when her pregnancy encountered a problem. So she had to endure what must have been an anxiety filled flight to Manila where she gave birth shortly thereafter.

“Since Jesus died and broke loose from the grave, God will most certainly bring back to life those who die in Jesus.” 1 Thessalonians 4:14

The Word of God assures all believers that death is not the end. There is hope that we will be resurrected one day and join Christ in heaven with a promise that there will be no more tears, no more pain. Believers can rejoice that no matter how painful or sorrowful we feel for the loss of loved ones, we can experience the comfort of God's presence and peace.

PMF-Palau recently lost a very dear friend and sister in Christ. Marlina Agustin Lacambra passed away after a courageous

At birth, David weighed a mere 650 grams. For 4 months, during David's stay at the Medical Center, Marlina and her husband, Leo, did whatever was needed to ensure David's growth and good health. Marlina's employment required her to return to Palau before David was discharged from the hospital, leaving Leo to handle the day to day needs of Baby David. For any mother, leaving a newborn, especially one in a precarious predicament, calls for immense sacrifice. But with God's strength and grace, Marlina endured, and her testimony during that time only brought glory to God.

The family eventually reunited in Palau. David's good health and continued growth were things to rejoice over. All seemed well until Marlina's own health became a concern. She was referred to Manila once again where she was diagnosed with cancer. Marlina had only to remember how God got them through their ordeal with David to once again trust God for strength to endure her new challenge. Undoubtedly she lived each day in the will of God.

With her boys joining her in the Philippines, Marlina underwent different regiments in her battle. This time, Leo's employment prevented him from being with her. Marlina's strength in battling the cancer within her and caring for the boys was an inspiration. I once visited her at the hospital right after she completed one of her chemotherapy sessions. She was in such good spirits and looked physically strong; strong enough to immediately make the long trek from Manila back to Cabanatuan (105 km or 65 miles), with her boys in tow. That was her routine. If there was no one to watch the boys at home, she brought them along so that she wouldn't miss her treatment.

After 3 years of battle, she finally succumbed to the disease. Up to the end, Marlina knew God was in control and surrendered to His will. Through it all, Marlina's faith and trust in God to take care of her and the family never wavered.

We are saddened because she leaves behind her husband, Leopoldo Jr. and young children, but we can rejoice because she is now in eternal peace; no more pain, no more tears. We praise God for the way He touched our lives through Marlina's; for giving us a living testimony of perseverance and faith in God. Marlina is finally home... “forever worshipping God.”



**Leo with children: Daniel, 16 (who just graduated from High School), Deo, 7 and David 4 ½. His wife's and their mom's legacy of love live on in their lives.**

# Life Drops

by Peter and Esther Reichert, PMA Missionaries

Yap State: 100,000 square miles [Approximately the size of Colorado]

Total land area for Yap proper: 38.7 square miles

Total Number of outer Islands: 134

Total land area of outer Islands: 7.3 square miles

Total number of inhabited outer Islands: 19

A careful look at the statistics and size comparison of Yap State reveals the immensity of ocean surrounding these remote islands which are home to almost 4,000 people. Only three of these islands have air strips. Government vessels call on these islands every few months bringing in supplies in order to support the meager livelihood of the people living there. The sick are evacuated back to Yap, or brought to an airport island where we pick up these patients with our airplanes and fly them to Yap for medical care.



**Peter preparing for the air drop.**

Whenever ships are delayed for repairs, or voyages are cancelled for other reasons, essential medical supplies can run low or get depleted altogether. We are then called upon to deliver supplies by air. Public health brings the needed supplies to the hangar and we box, bind, tie and tape everything up carefully. Great care must be taken to protect liquids in glass containers. We use a lot of bubble wrap to cushion the occasional harsh arrival. In some cases, dry items cannot get wet and must be packaged accordingly. During our last drop at Woleai and Euripik, we included Gideon pocket testaments and tracts in the boxes, a wonderful opportunity and unique way to deliver God's Word. Bed sheets make very good parachutes and will open "almost" every time. Four parachute lines approximately 20feet long are tied to each corner of the sheet. Then the lines are gathered equally at the bottom end and tied onto the box. Lines and chute are then carefully folded to ensure proper deployment in order to reduce the risk of failure. Strips of masking tape hold everything in place until the box is pushed out of the rear baggage hatch from which the door has been removed.

Flights to these islands are usually 4 to 6 hours long, most of which is spent at very high and cool altitudes of around 10,000 feet, so we have fabricated a cover for the hatch which can be removed from inside of the airplane for the drop. This eliminates a noisy, drafty and cold flight.

When PMA comes to make an air drop it is always a memorable event for the islanders. Everyone comes alive, so to speak. Students and teachers rush out of their classrooms. The radio operator gets very talkative giving us instructions on the drop zone. Young people take off running to the beach to see the plane and to wave at us with dried up palm fronds found on the beach. It's an exciting break from the routine island life. Our approaches are flown at the reduced speed of 120mph and at 300 feet altitude. As the aircraft nears the drop point, the dispatcher waits for a signal from the pilot to push the box out of the hatch. With a loud rush the entire homemade contraption takes to the air, the chute inflates very quickly, and depending on the weight of the contents reaches the ground a few seconds later. By the time we have turned 180 degrees, someone has already retrieved the goods.

Our drop techniques and accuracy have improved with experience, and we are thankful for being able to claim a high success rate. The list of medical supplies we have delivered is long and includes blood, IV fluid, antibiotics and pain medications. Other drops have been for assistance in rescue efforts and to help those in peril at sea for whom we dropped drinking water, food and life rafts. Food, government paychecks, ballot boxes, an instrument for a Texas A& M research vessel, and communication radios have all gone out of the hatches of our airplanes. PMA continues to be actively involved with the community, rendering help whenever and wherever it is needed.

**A Village in Euripik Island from 300 ft.**



# Blessed Visit

by Melinda Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

“The seas have lifted up, O LORD, the seas have lifted up their voices; the seas have lifted up their pounding waves. Mightier than the thunder of the great waters, mightier than the breakers of the sea - the LORD on high is mighty.” Psalm 93: 3, 4

Back on Guam, two days after our trip to the Philippines, where we visited our island churches in Polillo, I could still feel the movement of the waves lapping against the 28 ft. bangka (two-outrigger canoe) as we crossed the ocean. For three days of our four-day trip, we experienced pouring rain and rough seas. Traveling with me from Manila to Real, Quezon Province were Nob Kalau, our CEO, and Dr. John Escote, and his teammate, Geneziel Tandoc. Our first visit was to Jomalig. We battled 3 - 6 ft waves on our way to Jomalig; I could hear Dr. Escote reassuring me that we would land safely. And we did - 7 hours after leaving Real.

Pastor Jun Mandreza and some PMF church members were waiting for us at the shore. As we walked to the church - Pastor Jun was quite animated - so happy to see us and praising God that we had landed safely. We approached the now concrete church building - there was a festive air as people waited for us to arrive. Children followed us everywhere we went - giggling whenever we talked to them. As I passed the outdoor kitchen, men and women were busy preparing food, their faces brightened with joy of serving. I noticed some Philippine National Police in full uniform among those waiting for us and I inquired from Pastor Jun why they were there. Well, they were undergoing Values Training, lessons from the Word of God with Pastor Jun as their teacher. What a great opportunity to impact the local community! After dinner, everyone gathered at the church for a worship service.

**Pastor Jun, Nob, Geneziel and Dr. John are so happy to have landed in Katakian safely.**



The children and young people each presented special numbers. Nob was asked to speak - he encouraged everyone to strengthen their walk with the Lord in spending time with God in His Word and prayer. It was quite late when we all called it a night. We each had to be ready with our flashlights as the power would be turned off by midnight.

The following day, bright and early, we had our breakfast and prepared to leave for Kilogan. We met the man who was selling his horse to us - friends from Germany and the U.S. had sent funds to purchase a horse for Pastor Ed's transportation. In Kilogan, the horse was dedicated to the Lord and was named "Paula" after Missionary Paul.

On our way to Kilogan, we had engine trouble; a rock broke the engine shaft when we were in shallow water. We thank God we were near Katakian - and were able to stop there and have the shaft repaired. Since we were there, we continued walking to the PMF church - finding the women busy at the kitchen - preparing for our arrival scheduled later that night. An hour later, we were on our way to Kilogan. Since we were delayed - low tide was upon us. We had to leave our boat in deeper waters. The men had to wade through the shallow waters. I was fortunate to be in a smaller bangka (good for only one passenger - the pilot looked at Nob and said "Hindi pwede - malaki!" (He is too big!), so I went ahead to inform Pastor Ed and Beth of our arrival. While waiting for the men - I looked around. The church is in great need of repairs, and the Pastor's family needs a new parsonage - the place where they lived before was destroyed by typhoon. They have since used a part of the church to live in. When the men arrived - we all had lunch of rice, crabs and jackfruit in coconut milk, bananas and pomelo for dessert and coconut water for our drink. We had a short fellowship after that, and Nob and I were asked to share words of encouragement. We had a discussion on how we would be able to repair the church and build a parsonage for the pastor. At this writing, the carpenter has been there, assessed what needs to be done and has sent the drawings and costings to Guam. Please pray that we may have the funds to do all these necessary things.

From Kilogan, we traveled again by boat to Amaga. The rain was really pouring this time. We were still far from the shore, but we could see in a distance someone waving at us. It was Bro. Jose Tayangona - PMF church worker. He brought us to the self-constructed simple church building - constituting of 6 poles and nipa roof, with only the back of the building covered with nipa. He shared with us that at first the people did not want to have anything to do with the church. But he had told his wife - the Lord brought us here and we need to persevere. He went around villages - at first just smiling and greeting everyone. One time a couple came to the church informing him that the father advised them to come to Bro. Jose as they had marital problems. Through the Word of God and counseling, their relationship became better and stronger. The father noticed the change in their lives and decided to come to church and experience for himself what had changed the couple. Another time, one man came and was shouting at Bro. Jose and cursing him because he lost his friend to the church. Now his friend does not drink alcohol with him and would rather spend the time reading the Bible and going to church. The church prayed for him and soon he too came to church and was changed. One thing Bro. Jose praises God for is that He healed their young daughter.

**Continuation of "Blessed Visit":**

All of a sudden she collapsed, could not walk, and with very high fever. With no doctor, no medicine and so far away from the next village - God was their Deliverer and He did not disappoint them. So whenever Bro. Jose and wife Gemma are overwhelmed with the needs of the Village - their daughter reminds them of God's faithfulness and so, they continue to press on. We ended our fellowship in prayer.

It was very dark when we arrived in Katakian. We were now truly soaking wet and chilled to the bone as the rain did not let up from the time we left Kilogan, and visited Amaga. It felt good to be out of our wet clothes and gather around a table laden with food prepared by loving hands. After a good meal, we all went to the church which was packed with people. It seemed that there were more people outside the church - and inside was fully packed. Despite the lateness of the hour - everyone was excited and ready to worship the Lord. Again they asked Nob to share and they listened attentively as Nob once again exhorted them to stay in the Word and be diligent in prayer. Island power would be out by 1 AM so we went to bed before then.

The following morning, the skies were dark and torrents of rain fell - we still pushed through with the trip. When the boat reached Pulang Bato - the wide-open sea - the waves were now 6 - 10 feet. Beside me Adarna was singing "Still" - behind me, Pastor Jorie was audibly praying. As I saw the huge waves - I remembered how the disciples were so scared - I totally empathized with them. I closed my eyes and asked God to bring us safely to shore and had a peace about it. We did arrive safely in Patnanungan - but we all looked like cats dragged out of the water. Mercy and Jun Sulad and PMF members had prepared chicken soup for us. It felt good to be dry and warm again. After a few hours we all (including PMF Pastors/Workers and their wives) met at the church building. Nob and I once again shared PMA's Mission, Vision and Core Values. True to the theme for our visit, Nob challenged each one to continue in their fervency in reading and living the Word of God and to be passionate in prayer because the prayer of a righteous person avails much. Each one shared their praises of what God had done in the past fiscal year and shared their plans for the coming years. We all learned a lot as we reviewed and discussed our strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats. Discussions ensued and all were aware of where we needed to grow and what we needed to do. Most importantly, we were allowed to see that only a full dependence on God would enable us to fulfill all that we pray and plan for. What a joy it was to have those precious days with them! We were all encouraged by the presence of each one, and I was truly blessed by the dedication, perseverance, sacrifices of our missionaries.

The morning we left the island, I was awakened at 5 AM with singing - all our PMA staff were at the living room - serenading me a day before my Birthday! I wept tears of joy - when I saw all of them through the candle light. What a privilege to be loved by those who I greatly honor. What a great end to our visit. What a Blessing!

# Field Experience

by the late Lloyd Kwast, D. Miss.

It was a great joy for me to accompany missionary pilot Peter Reichert on a special flight from the island of Pohnpei to Kosrae on March 13 (1982) to distribute New Testament Bibles to the people living along coastal villages. The main purpose of our flight was to pick up the Deputy High Commissioner to the Micronesian Trust Territory, who has been holding high level meetings for the construction of a runway on the island of Kosrae.

During the hours Peter and I were waiting for the Commissioner, we drove slowly through villages along the coast stopping to distribute the Bibles. It was a thrill to see the enthusiastic reaction of the people when they received them. Often, the children, who were learning to read and write English in their school classrooms, would give a shout of joy as they took the Bible in hand, then running and jumping while holding their Bible high for others to see. The older young people stopped and expressed warmly: "Thank you very much". In many places Peter and I were quickly surrounded by a large group of people, all extending their hands outward to us. Often the girls were shy and would stand back a bit looking longingly on. But when they saw us coming toward them with a Bible, their faces would begin beaming with a joyful smile.

Later in the afternoon, on the way to the airport, I saw many people sitting in their open huts or under the shade of a tree reading. It is a comfort to know that God's Word is powerful to transform lives. Only in eternity will we fully know what great things God will do through our small efforts.

*Editor's Note: The late Dr. Kwast stayed with the Reicherts in 1982, and conducted a Bible Seminar for the Pohnpeian ministers and another one for the Kosraean ministers. He was a professor of Inter-cultural studies at Biola University, chaired the Missions Committee at Talbot University, and was a missionary in Cameroon, West Africa. He was a recognized expert in the field of Cultural Anthropology with many published books and articles.*



**For 35 years, Peter Reichert has faithfully served the Lord with PMA. His most rewarding experience is that he has helped to make a difference in the lives of the island people who he loves and serves.**

# Up Close And Personal: Mercy Burata - Sulad

**Ministry: Christian Education,  
Youth and Children Outreach, Patnanungan, Philippines**

On October 29, 1986, I came to know the Lord through an evangelistic meeting at my home church in Quezon City, Philippines. Since that time, my desire was to continue to grow in the wisdom and knowledge of the Lord. In 1991, I went to Palau on a work visa to earn a living to support my family. There, I became an active member of Pacific Mission Fellowship and was privileged to be involved in Sunday school teaching, leading in worship, music ministry and evangelism. I received a calling from the Lord to go into full-time ministry. By faith, I left Palau in 1995 and enrolled in a Bible school in Zamboanga City, Philippines, and trusted the Lord to provide for all my needs, as my family could not support me. And He did - He is faithful!

During my third year in Bible school, I was accepted to intern for a year at Pacific Mission Fellowship on Guam. I served in the Christian education department - Sunday school for children, Kids Klub, assisted in the worship ministry through music and visitation ministry as part of the core group. It was a privilege to be sent by PMA to be trained by Child Evangelism Fellowship to teach children effectively. The most valuable lesson I learned was to be on my own, dependent on the Lord and gaining confidence in Him. It was indeed a fruitful time. After my one-year internship on Guam, I returned to the Bible College, to graduate in March 2003. Two months after, I was accepted by Pacific Missionary Aviation, Philippines, to serve on the island of Patnanungan heading up the Learning Center ministry.

In 2007, I married Jun Sulad, a man I met in Patnanungan and who is my partner in serving the Lord at the PMF church. With a desire to grow and learn, PMA sent him to SEATS (South East Asia Theological Seminary) to ground him in the Word of God. Jun teaches Sunday school, preaches/teaches the Word of God, and with Martinez, leads the outreach ministry among the Dumagats, a tribe in Catmon Village. Together we lead the Couples' Ministry. I thank the Lord for providing me a partner whose heart's desire is to serve the Lord. We are blessed with one daughter, Faith - she is our joy and a symbol of God's faithfulness in our lives.

Praise God for the opportunity He has given me to serve Him, and for enabling me to equip others so that they may be able to teach others as well. Teaching children is a great inspiration to me - they are my little stars - giving brilliance and joy to my life.

*Editor's Note: Mercy manages, administers and teaches at our Learning Center - serving pre-school children, teaching them reading, writing and Bible - preparing them for elementary education. The island does not provide any Head Start program; hence this is a great service to the islanders. Many of her learners have been coming to church, growing in their faith in the Lord, and more important, have impacted the lives of other family members, especially parents - thus allowing the PMF church to minister, evangelize, and nurture them in the Lord. Christian education is a vital part of church growth and development. Mercy has been instrumental in discipling and mentoring members of the church so that they can teach others also - fulfilling PMA's vision of building the body of Christ and discipling the faithful.*

**Mercy, with husband Jun and daughter Faith - have made their home in Patnanungan - where the Lord has called them to serve.**





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

**[info@pmapacific.org](mailto:info@pmapacific.org)**  
**[www.pmapacific.org](http://www.pmapacific.org)**



PMA is a Member of the  
Evangelical Council for  
Financial Accountability

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