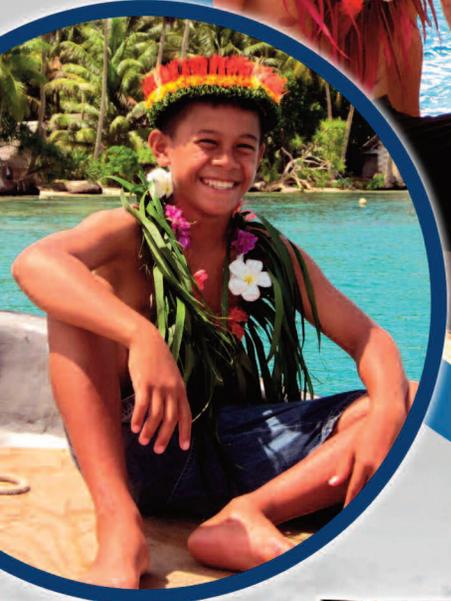


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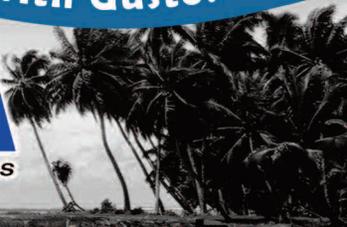
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



"Live a Life with Gusto!"

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Issue

3-2011 (September)

On our Cover

"Live a Life with Gusto!"
Sea Haven Outreach

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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:

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

*"But who am I, and who are my people,
that we should be able to give generously as this?
Everything comes from You, and we have given
only what comes from Your hand.*

*I know, my God, that You test the heart,
and are pleased with integrity.*

*All these things have I given willingly
and with honest intent.*

*And now I have seen with joy how willingly
Your people who are here have given to You."*

David's Prayer from 1 Chronicles 29:14-15, 17



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Letter from the President

by Nob Kalau



PMA President Nob Kalau

Dear Friends,

"Behold, children are a heritage from the LORD.
The fruit of the womb is a reward." Psalm 127:3

After we were married and preparing to go to the mission field, we prayed, "Lord, if You bless us with healthy children, enabling us to stay on the mission field, we will continue to serve You, as You provide wisdom and strength." 24 years have passed and our daughters are in Arizona pursuing their careers and education. Now our youngest son, Alex, having graduated from High School, will be leaving our home and island for University.

When we signed up to serve the Lord, we knew that it would take His grace, strength and faithfulness for us to continue to serve Him, especially when He gave us children. They did not sign up for this calling, however, we are so thankful, that God allowed them to catch the vision of reaching others for Christ while enthusiastically involving themselves in PMF church life and PMA ministries.

In this Island Echoes issue, you will learn how a little girl nurtured at our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage continues to be proud of her heritage as she is cared for and loved by her adoptive parents; how a pastor's kid learned that: being one is a calling; how a missionary kid realizes the blessing of growing up in the islands; how a missionary son counts it a privilege to be part of his parents' mission service. You will also get to know one of our missionaries up close and personal through the eyes of their 13-year-old son; and a glimpse from the past of how an outreach performed in 1989 continues to have an impact today through our radio ministry.

The Lord Jesus said to let the children come to Him for theirs is the kingdom of God. Through the lives of the children in this issue, we can get a snap shot of how God works, impacting and using children for His glory. Indeed, they are a heritage from the Lord.

Because you have faithfully supported our PMA missionaries, you have enabled us to continue to serve and allowed our children the opportunity to grow up in the islands experiencing God's goodness, provision and faithfulness in extraordinary ways.

That every island may hear!

Nob Kalau
President

Queensland, Australia Celebrates International Adoption Day

by Clarissa Stuart, proud mommy of Matia, adopted from Bahay Kalinga Orphanage

Sunday, July 24, saw families from all over Queensland, Australia, coming together to celebrate their children's birth country and adoption. The children all dressed in their national costumes for a "Parade of Nations". A little like the Olympics, children proudly parade behind the flag of their birth country. It is a beautiful scene to see them so proudly representing their countries. Some of the children perform traditional dances and songs from their birth countries.

The children from the Philippines Support Group of Queensland have regular get-togethers to learn traditional dances of the Philippines. One of these children was our daughter Matia Stuart, a Bahay Kalinga girl. We adopted her at the age of 16 months and she is now five. Matia and her older brother, Alexander, performed the Itik-Itik (Duck Dance), the Hat Dance and the Tinikling. Matia has just mastered the slow Tinikling while Alexander and his friend Rosana have become the fast Tinikling champions. They did such a great job and were so proud to be representing their birth country. The staff at Bahay Kalinga would have been so proud of their girl! The kids just love to learn all about the Philippines. To share this love with others brought them great joy.

After the performances and parade, our families enjoyed lunch together. We had stalls selling foods from a variety of nations. Some local Filipina women ran a stall selling Filipino food and treats. The children really enjoyed a lovely lunch of chicken adobo, rice and lumpia. Delicious!

Once lunch was over, the children ran around together enjoying various activities like rock wall climbing, giant slides, face painting, children's stage shows and other games. It was a sight to behold: children from all over the world enjoying one another's friendship. It is a real United Nations day with children from the Philippines, Ethiopia, Malaysia, South Korea, Taiwan, China, Sri Lanka, India and many more – a picture of the song: "Jesus loves the little children of the world. Red, brown, yellow, black and white, they are precious in His sight." We thank God for allowing our family to experience a foretaste of heaven.

Matia has blossomed, growing in a family that loves and cares for her and who is proud of who she is as well as her ancestry.



Matia and brother Alexander perform the slow Tinikling to the delight of all who watched them.

Call of Duty

by Romeena Balayo, 15-year-old daughter of Pastor Bambit & Joy Balayo, PMA Palau

That was the theme for this year's PK (Pastor's Kid) general assembly which I was fortunate enough to attend in Baguio, Philippines with my grandmother, Annie Del Rosario (who served with PMA in Palau with my late grandfather Romy). Being a pastor's kid can be very challenging. It's like being in a war: I sometimes feel like everyone "watches me" because of who my parents are and everyone expects me to be "good" because my father is a pastor.

Growing up as a pastor's kid wasn't easy. I wanted to act normal and not have to watch my every move. I did not want to be "good" just to please others, I just wanted to be myself, yet I ended up trying to please people anyway. Both of my parents are actively involved with the mission and church and it seemed to me that they didn't have enough time for me. I didn't understand why they could have fun with other people and not with me. I thought that they'd rather spend time with those who weren't their daughter. At times I was angry at others, for stealing my parents away from me.

As time passed, I thought of a way to get my parents' attention. I realized that the only time I would get their undivided interest was when I got in trouble. So I would tell them about something I had done wrong in class. However, it did not turn out as I expected. Instead of being scolded, my parents wanted to know more about what happened during the day. And instead of the expected argument, we ended in laughter.

Romeena (center) with siblings Berneace and Jaeden with parents Pastor Bambit and Joy - is joyfully assisting in Sunday school and in various activities in the PMF church, as she accepted God's calling for her life.



So I thought, "why not?" I got the attention I was seeking. The "So... what happened at school today?" conversations during dinner became part of our time together. But I must tell you that many dinner times, my siblings and I would eat by ourselves – because people would just drop in – in need of counseling, prayer, or help from both of our parents.

I realize that these people were in need of care. That not all of them received the kind of love and care my parents were giving me. I feel blessed to be able to see my parents everyday. Due to the nature of their work, some kids haven't seen their mom or dad in days, months, or even years! I am happy to know that my parents love and care for me. I am indeed blessed!

When I arrived at the conference, I met other PKs. I saw how "normal" they looked and acted. I thought they probably didn't know how I felt. Then, when we met and got to know one another, I realized that we were not that different. We all feel the pressure to live up to the standard of being good examples. We all have our ups and our downs. Many of us, at times, secretly wish our parents weren't pastors. It's not easy being a PK!

At the conference, we sang, we worshipped, we fellowshiped, we laughed, we cried, and we bonded. We learned that we can't always please people, but should focus on pleasing God. We didn't choose to be a PK... it's a calling. And it's our responsibility to answer the call of duty. By God's grace, I am answering.

The beautiful Rock Islands of Palau is a wonderful testimony of God's work hewn over time by the weather and the ocean.

Like these islands, Romeena, born and raised in Palau, has learned to allow God to mold and shape her to be a willing vessel for His use.



The Best of Both Worlds

by Nicole Reichert, 21-year-old daughter of Peter & Esther Reichert, Director of Aviation Ministry, PMA Yap

“You can take the girl out of the islands, but you can’t take the island out of the girl!” Not many people can say they grew up on a tiny island in the middle of the Pacific Ocean. When the time came for me to leave the islands and go to college, it only took a few weeks at Simpson University, California, for my newly made friends to realize that when introducing ourselves to others, my turn came last because it required the longest amount of time and most detailed explanation. I have gotten all kinds of responses when I say that I am a missionary kid from Yap, Micronesia! “Micronesia? Sounds like some disease,” or, “Yap? Is that in the Bahamas?” have been a few. I don’t mind it though.

Growing up in the islands, I always saw my life as pretty normal. I understood that many of my childhood experiences were unique, but I did not realize just how much, until I came to college in the USA. My friends know me as, “the girl who gets excited about the strangest things.” Such as: stores with endless shelves of shampoo, pop rock candy, and driving for longer than 30 minutes without having to turn around!

Some people have asked me if I think growing up on a small island in the middle of the Pacific was limiting in some ways. The truth is, although I love my home and am proud of where I am from, I was not so sure how to answer that until my first few months away from home. Through my interactions with friends, discussions with professors, and everyday life, I began to realize that growing up on a little island was indeed the best place for me to GROW.

Although I was not fully exposed to the so-called “normal” western lifestyle, I was able to grow in matters more important to life, such as: spiritual values, interpersonal relationships, and cultural awareness.

I am truly thankful for these life experiences that have shaped my way of thinking and made me who I am. And as I leave, after another summer spent in Micronesia and head into my last two years of college, I am happy to say that I indeed have the best of both worlds!

Nikki with her Yapese friends. Nikki is a natural in loving children and spending play times with them. The reward? They love her too!



Born and raised in Micronesia, Nikki is blessed to enjoy and be comfortable in both the island and mainland lifestyle.



“Live a Life with Gusto!”

by Alex Kalau, 17-year-old son of
Pastor Nob & Sylvia Kalau, PMA Pohnpei

Being the son of missionaries is a working adventure. There's always something to be done; things to accomplish. This summer I joined the crew of the Sea Haven on a 3,000 mile trip across the Pacific visiting 22 islands. I can still hear my dad, the captain, calling: “Alex, I need those waypoints”... “You and Stan need to make those fittings for the boat today”... “Ok, we're first going to offload the water stills and get the people ashore and then offload all the books”. My dad is always getting something done, and doing it with GUSTO! He has the amazing ability to notice every detail and makes sure we fulfill our duties to the unending responsibilities of a ship in motion. That's life when the Sea Haven is in action and that's what I've seen watching my parents serve as missionaries. We work hard, but we play hard too!

Though life aboard a medical ship may seem challenging at times, the Sea Haven is a place of incredible excitement. I sometimes wonder, “How many of my friends might be bored right now and I just can't run out of things to do!” “Things” that will “bring hope and change lives” for others, all for God's glory: Students on small outer islands are getting desks and new textbooks to further their education. Health workers will receive thousands of dollars worth of donated medicine for their ill-equipped dispensaries, short wave radios will be given to hungry Christians eager to hear PMA's “The Cross” radio station. And I am privileged to have a small part in making all that happen.



We also get to do the fun part: making new friends and meeting old friends in the islands we visit, diving and spear-fishing with friends and crew members, and just being in these little islands and atolls that are incredibly beautiful – a wonder of God's creation. And what about the amazing sunrises and the glorious sunsets! Only God can paint pictures like these.

Lessons learned on the ship don't solely apply to the ship; they work in the church, at home and in the workplace. Show up on time for meetings. Work as a team. Care for one another. Serve with all your heart and use your talents to honor God.

In the midst of the excitement, I get thrust into situations that help me grow as a person. The Sea Haven stopped in the lagoon of Elato for a short time to pick up a few things to transport to Lamotrek on our return trip to Pohnpei. When the chief of the island asked to see the captain, Dad sent me in his place since he was unable to leave the ship with engines running, drifting in the lagoon. So there I was, (a bit nervous) amongst the men of the island as they expressed their thanks to the Sea Haven with leis and gifts of shells. As I thanked them and received the gifts, I couldn't help being proud that my father does what he does because he loves God and loves people.

Because my parents have always included my sisters and me in the work of the PMF church and mission, we have felt needed, appreciated and encouraged to develop our talents and gifts. What I have learned and seen from my parents is to serve the Lord and others with all your heart and yes, live a life filled with GUSTO!

What a great joy it is for a father to watch his son grow and live the mission and vision of his calling. On the Sea Haven outreach, Nob and Alex worked together and had a wonderful time of bonding and sharing experiences that will be etched in their memories forever.



Uncle Charlie says: “God uses Children too”

by Barbara Fountain and Johannes Woyke,
former PMA Missionaries, Pohnpei

“Did you know that God uses little children, just like Samuel in the Bible, and just like you boys and girls?” Uncle Charlie said. His audience was a lively group of over 1,000 children and adults who’d gathered on mats and benches in the village of Lelu on the island of Kosrae, Micronesia. Kosrae is home to approximately 7,000 people. His comment no doubt had special meaning to four of PMA’s trumpet players trained by Johannes Woyke. They traveled onboard a PMA flight from Pohnpei to the island of Kosrae to help with Uncle Charlie’s ministry.

Who is Uncle Charlie? His ministry is based in Grand Rapids, Michigan - the Children’s Bible hour, a Christian radio broadcast heard throughout the United States. Besides being a radio personality, he is also a gifted communicator, evangelist and ventriloquist, specializing in children’s ministry.

His message to children is clear: “Use the talents and abilities God gives you to the best of your ability! Be obedient and faithful, and be a good soldier of Jesus Christ! He can use you!

His method for reaching the children was a little unusual for Micronesia: Two companions, one a furry monkey puppet Uncle Charlie used to demonstrate the Biblical truth that we can do nothing apart from Jesus; the other puppet he used with his ventriloquism.

During the visit, a total of 500 New Testaments were distributed and many of the young people indicated by signing up that they would like to receive a series of simple Bible lessons through the mail.

Seeds of the Gospel were planted through special church meetings, at elementary schools, high schools, and also a Sunday afternoon at the local ball field.

These four young trumpet players had the opportunity and experienced Uncle Charlie’s message first hand. God did use them and their musical talents because they were available and willing. Did you know that God uses even children?

Editor’s Note: Uncle Charlie continues to minister to the children of Micronesia via his radio program, “Keys for Kids” heard through PMA’s “The Cross” Radio. We thank God for this means to reach the children for Christ.

Peter Reichert, some members of brass band, Johannes Woyke (band leader / trainer) and Uncle Charlie, with former PMA staff Merihpa (also a member of the band). They were a good support team for Uncle Charlie.



Serving Christ

by Norton Romolow, 13-year-old son of
Edwin & Inokina Romolow, PMA Pohnpei

I am Norton Reef Romolow, the eldest son of Edwin and Inokina Romolow. Eli and Colin are my younger brothers. I was born and raised on the Island of Pohnpei. My family has been living on Pohnpei for more than 16 years, where my parents serve with PMA.

Growing up, my dad always shared about Jesus with us. But it was only when I was 8-years-old that I truly understood what the Lord Jesus had done for me. He loved me so much and gave Himself to pay for my sins. He forgave me, gave me a new life and one day will take me to Heaven.

I love basketball and spear-fishing. I learned to spear-fish from my dad when I went with him on a Sea Haven trip to the Chuuk outer-islands when I was 9-years-old. I enjoyed that trip because I was able to visit my dad's home island, Puluwat, and meet all my relatives for the first time. But most of all, because I was able to spend so much time with my dad.

When my dad became a Christian, the Lord gave him the desire to reach the islands. His teacher at Pacific Island Bible College in Chuuk, Stephen Whatley, shared about PMA with him and its Sea Haven ministry. This excited my dad so he wrote a letter to Nob Kalau, the Sea Haven boat captain. He introduced himself and said that he wanted to serve with PMA. Uncle Nob counseled him to finish his Bible school first and that is what he did. After graduating, he started to work on the Sea Haven.

After four years with PMA, my dad knew that he needed a wife. He had been writing to a beautiful girl from Tol, Chuuk: Inokina, a pastor's daughter. They prayed and asked God for His will in their lives.

Then my mom received an "Island Echoes" magazine in the mail. Inside was an article Dad wrote that touched my mom's heart. That was when she knew that my dad was God's choice for her. So she wrote to my dad.

When both of them had made a decision, my dad made two trips to Tol to talk to my grandpa. The Lord answered their prayers: First, my grandpa agreed to the marriage; Second, he agreed not to follow custom, but allow them to get married in Pohnpei, where my dad's PMA family arranged for everything. Even now, my mom tells me that she is very thankful for her PMA family here; especially the Kalaus, Pastor Ed and Elizabeth, Nob and Sylvia are like father, mother, brother and sister to her.

My dad continues to serve with the Sea Haven. And I have been able to join him on two tours. This summer my younger brother Eli got to go with my dad. He cannot stop talking about it – especially going to Yap – meeting Uncle Peter Reichert, riding with him on the motorcycle, flying his remote control plane and catching lots of fish.

My mom has a servant heart. She helps with the PMF Sunday school classes and cleans the Sunday school classrooms as well as the PMA ground area. She is a big help to my Auntie Sylvia at the office and in all areas that her help is needed.

I thank God for allowing me to grow up in a family who believes and serves the Lord. I have learned from the lives of my dad and mom that a good and happy life is the result of obeying, trusting and serving the Lord Jesus Christ.

With Sokehs Rock as their background, symbolizing THE ROCK whom they serve, the Romolow Family: Eli, Norton, PMA Mission Staff: Edwin & Inokina and Colin continue to serve the Lord as a family with joy.





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