

Pacific Missionary Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue 1-2012
January

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Lessons Learned in Micronesia



Issue

1-2012 (January)

On our Cover

Studying, Teaching and
Preaching for Life Change
Pohnpei, Micronesia

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(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

Capital needs:

Learning Center, Patnanungan, Philippines
Turbine Aircraft for Micronesia
Acquisition of Land for Churches

*“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

*“What you have heard from me, keep as a pattern
of sound teaching, with faith and love in Christ
Jesus. Guard the good deposit that was entrusted
to you - guard it with the help of the Holy Spirit
who lives in us.” 2 Timothy 1:13-14*

Paul's exhortation and encouragement to Timothy sets a good pattern for godly leaders. With PMA's mission of: Loving all people, building the body of Christ and discipling the faithful, we have endeavored to coach, train, and equip island pastors and church leaders. This year, PMA invited Dr. Rainer Kunz to teach, mentor and minister to pastors and church leaders with a three-week daily seminar on “How to Study, Teach and Preach for

Life Change”. Dr. Kunz is Sylvia Kalau's brother and has a doctorate in education. He pastors the West Sound Community Church in Silverdale, Washington and travels throughout the U.S. training and coaching pastors, as well as teaching online classes through the University of Phoenix. We thank God for his church who sent and supported him on this important visit to Pohnpei, Micronesia.

In this Island Echoes edition, you will know what Dr. Kunz learned during his first visit to Pohnpei, Micronesia; how three of our missionary pastors in the Philippines received training to better serve their people in the remote islands; how a missionary spent her three years, building relationships and leaving a legacy of love and friendship; a PMA missionary's insight on the training he just underwent. You will also read about how God had reached out to a man, changed his life to the uttermost, gave him a new purpose and passion to reach his own people for the Lord. We can also thank God for bringing a couple alongside us - catching the vision of reaching the island people for Christ. And as we get a glimpse from the past - we will see, PMA's desire to train, teach and equip the island people still resonating from that time to the present.

As we look back on 2011, we are so very thankful to our God and to you our faithful partners and prayer warriors for blessing us and for enabling us and others to *“Preach the Word; be prepared in season and out of season; correct, rebuke, and encourage - with great patience and careful instruction.” (2 Timothy 4:2)*

I pray you had a wonderful Christmas, celebrating our Lord Jesus Christ. May this New Year be one of great joy and hope! That every island may hear!

Nob Kalau

Trusting the Lord

by Mark & Joaline Smith, Pacific Mission Fellowship, Guam

My wife, Joaline, and I have lived on Guam for 24 years. We came to Guam in 1987 when I was assigned to the US Navy's ship: USS Proteus, a submarine tender. We were not afraid to leave family and home behind. Both of us had been raised and disciplined in the missions oriented Christian and Missionary Alliance Church. Our family's life verse kept us focused and helped us through the times of missing family and friends:

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart, and lean not on your own understanding, in all your ways acknowledge Him, and He will direct your paths." Proverbs 3:5-6

Joaline and I brought our two boys, Jedediah and Jordan, and later had a daughter, Morgan Joy, born at the Guam Naval Hospital. After a few years of serving with the Navy, we met Melinda Espinosa and became acquainted with the ministries of Pacific Missionary Aviation. We always thought the work that PMA did in the Pacific Islands was remarkable and a worth-while ministry to support.

When we felt like we really loved Guam and this was the place the Lord had led us to serve, we decided to be discharged from the military. It was scary time for us as a family. I was almost always able to get work with marine contractors, but often it was "feast or famine." We learned to depend on the Lord, and that is a good thing. The Lord always takes care of His children!

One night, my wife woke up in the middle of the night to a brown tree snake attached to her chin. I was so amazed and impressed by her reaction. She declared, "I'm glad the snake came to our room and not to the room of our two-year-old daughter sleeping soundly in her crib!" Many told us they would have been on a plane out of Guam the next day! But Joaline's confident comment was, "I'm not going to let some reptile determine my destiny!"

We have attended PMF church full time for the last four years. We enjoy being a part of this ministry and serving together with a mission's minded church reaching out to Micronesians. The greatest way to encourage one another is by loving the Lord and each other. **THE JOY OF THE LORD IS OUR STRENGTH!**

Editors Note: Mark serves in the pulpit ministry, leads prayer meeting and has the gift of helps. Joaline helps with Kids Klub, and Sunday school. Mark and Joaline are also involved in visitation ministry. We thank the Lord that they are a part of our team.



A Friend who Truly Inspires

by Norma O. Neriquita, PMF Palau

Some people are an inspiration – just thinking about them encourages you when the going is tough. Rea Joy or "Amor" as she is fondly called in our church is such a friend. She has always been a joy to know, a faithful ambassador of Christ.

We meet different kinds of people who influence our lives. Amor is a special person, one who leaves a lasting impression, a person who has positively impacted us in the three years that she has served at PMF Palau.

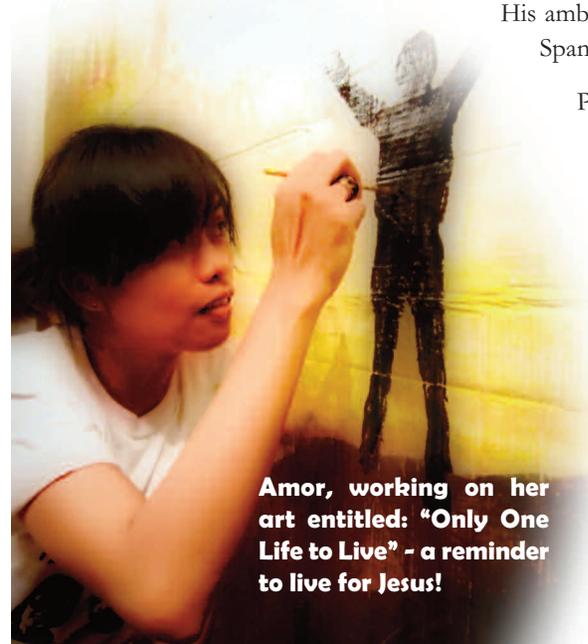
Art and music has always been a big plus in Amor's life. She sings in the Praise and Worship team with zest, she plays the tambourine with joy, she has that passion for art that inspires us. Her aptitude for colors, letters and designs made our pulpit really special on Sundays and special occasions.

I got to know her closer and deeper as she was in our group in the Women's Bible Study, and my daughter was in her Sunday School.

What really impressed me is her kind heart. Many instances, she would just call to say hello or reach out to see how I was doing. Many times I felt alone, lonely and depressed, especially during my darkest days in 2009, when I had to be in and out of Palau for ten months due to a life-threatening illness. She was there to listen, comforting me with her advice, encouraging me with her words, inspiring me to read God's Word even more, and enabling me to see life from a different perspective.

She encouraged me in my daily walk with Christ allowing me to experience His love, know His purpose, hopes and dreams for me. He must have sent Amor to Palau as His ambassador of love, as her name in Spanish means "Love".

People cross our paths, touch our lives with love and move on. Once they leave, we wonder why they had to go and leave such a gaping space in our hearts. Amor is moving on and we must grow and learn from our relationship. As she perfectly summed up in her farewell speech, "life must go on..." and I believe this is God's master plan for all of us.



Amor, working on her art entitled: "Only One Life to Live" - a reminder to live for Jesus!



Training in Righteousness

by Rosemary E. Velasco, PMA Philippines

It was with great joy that our staff and I attended the graduation of Lorie Sulad (PMF Church Patnanungan), Narciso Mandreza (PMF Jomalig) and Jose Tayangona, Jr. (PMF Amaga) from their classes at SEATS (South East Asian Theological Schools, Inc.). Each one received his Certificate of Missional Discipleship. Before this graduation, they had also undergone and received their Certificate of Ecclesiological Studies. Each one was also asked to give his graduation testimony.

Narciso (Jun) Mandreza was the first one to share: “This occasion will always be memorable for me... one I will never forget for my whole life. I owe this through the blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ and I wish to thank our leaders at PMA who have supported me in my studies.” As Jun applies what he has learned, he continues to lead the Philippine National Police Bible studies and disciples men in his church. He and his wife persevere in their home visitation and Bible studies and they are rewarded as they see the spiritual and numeric growth of the church in Jomalig.

Lorie thanks God for His goodness to him and his family. Lorie shares, “It is a great accomplishment to complete my studies because it is a living proof that God enabled me to face the challenges of studying, having the discipline to spend time in God’s Word, when there was much to do in terms of reaching out, preparing for Sunday sermon, Bible studies, and the daily challenges of living in an island. We encountered difficult weather, rough seas, long bus rides as we travelled from Patnanungan, Poblacion, to Manila and back. I thank the PMA leaders and supporters for their kindness.” Lorie together with two church leaders have planted a church in Catmon Village. The believers there are on fire, sharing the Gospel to their family and neighbors, and many are coming to the Lord. Bible study groups are being added as many are thirsty to know and understand God’s Word.

Jose claims that his faith has become stronger especially now that he has completed his training. He shares, “the decision to complete the course did not come without challenges. We attended classes in Manila every month for a few days. We praise God for his protection as we traveled. This has inspired me more to be a living example of our Lord; for my members to live like Christ and for them to understand the Word of God and to have a close relationship with Him, for God’s glory.” Jose’s prayer and desire is to spread the Gospel in his village, until all will come to know the Lord, until their faith in Him becomes strong, and until they themselves would be able to reach others and serve the Lord faithfully. He also thanks God that He spared the Polillio Islands through several months of typhoons.

We thank God for enabling our mission workers to complete these studies. As they study the Word of God in depth, they are equipped for every good work, correctly handling the Word in teaching, rebuking, correcting and training in righteousness (2 Timothy 2:15, 3:16).

Graduating Pastors: Jun Sulad (Patnanungan), Jun Mandreza (Jomalig), Rosemary Velasco (Admin and Finance Officer) and Jose Tayangona (Amaga).



Editor’s Note: We thank God for our partnership with SEATS (South East Asia Theological Seminary). They are involved in the on-going training of our island pastors and workers. The first training began in 2006 and has continued till the present time. Through this training our PMF island pastors and leaders are empowered and equipped to reach others for Christ. All of them now conduct leadership and discipleship training amongst their own people thereby enabling them to assist and work with them in kingdom building. Pray for these island pastors as they work in the Polillo Islands. The work is not without its challenges. Each island is separated by the vast Pacific Ocean, which is often turbulent. The islands are also constantly visited by heavy rains and typhoons. Electricity and good clean water are not always available. Communication is difficult, and in other islands, non-existent. However, the passion to reach the island for Christ has not dimmed in the hearts of our pastors and workers - they trek long hours to reach a village, cross the ocean to visit another island of ministry, “make do” with the resources available to them. Others would say that they are making great sacrifices, but when you visit them - you will experience the joy of the Lord is their strength and you would not help but be blessed and be overwhelmed by their love for the Lord, each other and those who need Him. To God be the glory!

**“Let them give glory unto the LORD,
and declare his praise in the islands.”**

Isaiah 42:12



Lessons Learned in Micronesia

by Dr. Rainer Kunz

On October 4, 2011, I was privileged to visit Micronesia for one month. It was the fulfillment of a 26 year long dream that started when my sister, Sylvia, married Nob Kalau and became a missionary on the Island of Pohnpei with PMA. For the last two years, Sylvia, Nob and I had been talking and praying about how I could provide training for Micronesian church leaders. Thanks to the generous donations of many in the U.S. and Canada, I was able to make the long flight from my home near Seattle, Washington, to Pohnpei. Here are some profound lessons God taught me:

Lesson # 1 – God’s power and wisdom displayed in nature are awesome!

Wherever I turned in Micronesia, I saw God’s incredible handiwork in nature – incredible varieties of fish, lush vegetation, reefs that provide protection and food for islanders. All are evidence of God’s existence and creative power. God’s Word says:

“For since the creation of the world invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse. (Romans 1:20)

What a wonderful Creator we serve!

Lesson # 2 – “Only one life, ’twill soon be past, only what’s done for Christ will last.”

I was reminded of this line from a poem by C.T. Studd as I learned about the history of Micronesia. Various cultures and nations have come and gone in the islands as evidenced by the ruins of Nan Madol, Spanish colonization, German settlement, Japanese domination, United States control and now self rule. I also learned how various islander groups were relocated to Pohnpei after their islands suffered typhoons. All of this reinforced truths found in verses like Job 12:23 - “He makes nations great, and destroys them; he enlarges nations, and disperses them.”

Exploring the ruins of Nan Madol and WWII Japanese gun emplacements reminded me of how futile and short lived man’s attempts are at gaining power and dominion. The only thing that we can do that will last for eternity is love and serve God and love and serve people. There is no greater purpose, nor higher endeavor.

Lesson # 3 – The godly example of others are powerful tools in God’s hands.

During my four weeks of preaching and teaching, I was often challenged by the faith and sacrifice of believers. I heard incredible stories about the miracles God did in the lives of Ed and Elizabeth Kalau as they established PMA. I saw the non-stop hard work of Nob and Sylvia Kalau. I experienced the love and kindness of Edwin and

Inoki as they serve the people of Pohnpei. I was amazed by the dedication of many church leaders who came to our training for 15 nights straight. I have never seen this level of commitment anywhere in the world. The Christians of Micronesia reminded me of this verse:

“And I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’” (Acts 20:35, NLT)

Pastor Petrus of Yap was especially inspiring to me as he works hard for his family and church. His vision for planting churches on the Outer-Islands of Yap was a great reminder to me of what all churches should be doing throughout the world.

Lesson # 4 – God does His best work in situations we can’t control.

The apostle Paul said *“Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God”.* (Phil. 4:6)

I saw this verse lived out again and again during my visit. Impossible challenges confronted missionaries constantly. Therefore they prayed constantly. Broken bus, dead radio station, difficult church member, lack of funds, lack of transportation - no problem! They demonstrated through prayer that our God is more than able!

I thank God for the opportunity He gave me to serve in Micronesia for a short time. However, I thank Him even more for teaching me so many lifelong lessons. May the Lord continue to richly bless the work of Pacific Missionary Aviation!

United in bringing the Gospel - “that every island may hear” Rainer Kunz, Nob Kalau (Pohnpei), Bambit Balayo (Palau), Simon Hämmerling and Petrus Haleyalgiy (Yap) enjoy a rare moment of togetherness eating tropical football fruit.



Life Changing Conference

by Simon Hämmerling, PMA Missionary

“To know Christ and to make him known” is one of our goals as a mission. Living a life in obedience to Jesus, also involves sharing and teaching. That’s why Pastor Petrus of Woleai and I were very glad that we were able to attend the Conference held in Pohnpei in October that was focused exactly on that: “Studying, Teaching and Preaching for Life Change”.

Everybody participating at this seminar could feel that Dr. Rainer Kunz had prepared himself very well for this conference. Not only was the teaching solid and good but we could tell that he was sensitive to the culture as well, without compromising the integrity of the Gospel. Rainer’s humor and freshness made it easy for everybody to follow and focus throughout the 3 weeks of sessions, even after a long day of work. He created an atmosphere in which we felt very comfortable and free to ask questions.



Simon (center - with Pastors Bambit and Petrus), PMA Mechanic assigned in Yap assists and serves with Petrus at PMF Yap in Bible study and with the worship team. He also teaches at the local prison and disciples the inmates.

The material was taught so that it would not only help the leadership of the church, but give everybody participating a better understanding of how Jesus meant for the church to be. There are so many things that we can do to make people feel at home in the church and give them a sense of belonging. It’s a great encouragement to know that we have the freedom to use our creativity to think of ways to make church more exciting and beautiful to the eye, the ear and to the soul. Norbert Kalau likes to say, “Let’s make Sunday the best day of everyone’s week!”

It was quite an intense time of learning and Dr. Kunz would never let us go home without a homework assignment. This allowed us to exercise the different Bible study methods we learned during his sessions immediately and ask him in person the next day, if we still had any questions.

Pastor Petrus and my challenge will now be to apply what we learned in our PMF church on Yap. We are eager to pass on and multiply the passion for studying, teaching and preaching to the islanders of our church.

Pastors’ Conference 1983

by Edmund Kalau, PMA Founder and President Emeritus

A delegation of 70 pastors, lay ministers and church leaders met in Kolonia, Pohnpei, from July 1-7, 1983, for the 5th annual Micronesian Pastors’ Conference. The delegates from several Micronesian Islands met morning, afternoon and evening to be instructed by Richard Baer and Dave Hunt on Mormonism and other counterfeit religions invading the Islands of Micronesia.

Mr. Baer shared: “We are not here to attack the beliefs of others but to provide you as Christians with information that will help you to be aware of the fundamental beliefs of those who claim to come to the islands in the name of Christ.”



Pastor Ed Kalau second from Left with some of the pastors and leaders of the conference.

The week-long conference was sponsored by PMA not only to help the island Christian church leaders to understand Mormonism (which started to send their “missionaries” to the islands) and how to deal with it, but how to evangelize mormons - share with them who the real Jesus is - the Jesus of the Bible.

After the conference, the participants expressed gratitude for the valuable training they received to help combat the counterfeit teachings of the mormon missionaries and other cults invading the islands. Portions of literatures brought to the Conference for each delegate have already been translated into Chuukese and other island languages.

Editor’s Note: As the world continues to advance technologically - the islands are more and more inundated with false doctrines, beliefs and cults. Pacific Mission Fellowship - the heart of all PMA does in the Islands of Micronesia continues to bring the light of God’s truth, not only through the preaching and teaching of their pastors and leaders and bringing in speakers to teach and mentor, but also through the radio ministry of The Cross Radio - able to beam the truth of God’s Word in Pohnpei through its FM facility and to the outer-islands through the short wave radio. We thank God for the opportunity to be light and salt in this part of the world.

Since this article was published, cults in Micronesia include: Jehovah Witness, Church of Latter-day Saints, Baha’i, Buddhism and Iglesia Ni Kristo.

Only by the Grace of God

by Petrus Haleyalgiy, Pacific Mission Fellowship, Yap

In December 1980, I boarded a midnight bus out of La Grande, Oregon, and landed in Kansas City, Missouri. Fortunately, I found some relatives in the area and stayed with them. They helped me to find a job so I could support myself, but instead I spent my money on alcohol and drugs. I did a good job keeping my alcohol and drug problem a secret. I tried getting back into school but, I never finished. My drug abuse got worse and I started getting arrested for fighting (even with police officers) and public intoxication.

I thought if I changed places, things might get better. I left Kansas City and ended up in Greenville, Texas. I ended up in jail again for possession of drugs and public intoxication. Then I got myself admitted into a rehab hospital. About a month after my treatment had ended, I had a severe relapse.

After a few years in Texas, I had to run again and tried another place. This time it was Greenville, North Carolina. I came to a point where there was no more sense of right and wrong. Because of my violations of the law, a governor's warrant was issued for my arrest. I was on the run again, this time the US Marshall was on my trail. At times they came to where I was, but I always managed to escape. At every bus stop, I would always look for a way to escape, in case someone would recognize me from the TV. I made it to Oregon and finally flew to Yap.

I tried to settle down in Yap and got married to my beautiful wife from Lamotrek. Yet even in Yap my alcohol problem continued. Not long after our marriage, we had a beautiful baby girl who needed to go to Hawaii for cleft palate surgery. I was advised not to go, knowing that I was wanted in the US, yet I insisted on going with my daughter.

Upon arrival in Guam, we were welcomed by the police. I realized that I was going to be separated from my family. I was placed behind bars, and my family was sent back to Yap. I felt like I had just got run over by a dump truck. I felt the pain of being taken away from my loved ones. In my cell, I started bargaining with God, making promises that I knew I would not keep.

After a month in Guam, I was transferred to North Carolina. Welcomed by the news reporters and their cameras, I was on the news again. At my fist appearance in court, I was informed that I would be facing 40 years to life, if convicted.

In my cell, I started to believe that seeing my family again was almost impossible. I was not sure if I could make 40 years in prison. All of my dreams and plans for my family were fading away. Uncontrollable tears ran down my face as I sat on my bed overwhelmed with the sense of abandonment and a strong feeling of not being loved. One morning while in jail, I heard someone preaching. A man sweeping the floor

told me that he was the one sharing the good news to the other inmates. He asked me if I wanted to be saved and accept Jesus as my Lord and Savior. I told him, "Yes, but I don't know how." He reached into a small opening through the bars. He held my hands and we prayed. With tears flooding my eyes, I admitted that I was a sinner and believed that Jesus died for my sins and was raised for my justification. I received and confessed Jesus Christ as my personal savior. At that moment I knew that I would be fine. A sense of comfort and peace came upon me.

Amazing things started happening in my life. A few weeks later, my lawyer came and informed me that the FSM Ambassador had visited and made a deal with the judge on my behalf. The judge agreed to reduce the 40 years in prison to 5 years. I quickly signed the paper and gave thanks and praise to God. What had happened was a miracle! I totally surrendered my life to Jesus and started to study God's Word and even take Bible courses offered in prison. I also started sharing the Gospel to other inmates. I knew that I could serve the Lord anywhere and anytime. There were many inmates who also needed this great salvation. I simply did what the Lord asked of me in His Word: I shared the Good News.

About three years later, another miracle occurred. I was transferred from the U.S. prison to Yap, Micronesia. I stayed in the Yap prison for a few months and then surprisingly was released. When I returned home, a Bible study began in my home and became so popular that it turned into a regular Sunday service. We needed more room, so we moved the church to the PMA airport terminal. When we outgrew this, we moved the church to a bigger building. I was asked to be the fulltime pastor for this growing PMF church of outer islanders. God is so good and I praise His name for all that He has done in my life because of His Amazing Grace.

Editor's Note: We thank God for His answer to our prayers for a pastor for our PMF church in Yap - a grace-filled, humbled man. A living testimony of how God brought Petrus out of darkness into His marvelous light.



Petrus and wife Queen have caught the vision to reach their own people for Christ. They count it a privilege to share the Word and are humbled that God has called them full time to grow the young PMF church in Yap. Esther Reichert meets with Queen and other ladies every week - as Esther teaches, Queen translates, thereby learning more of God's word.



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