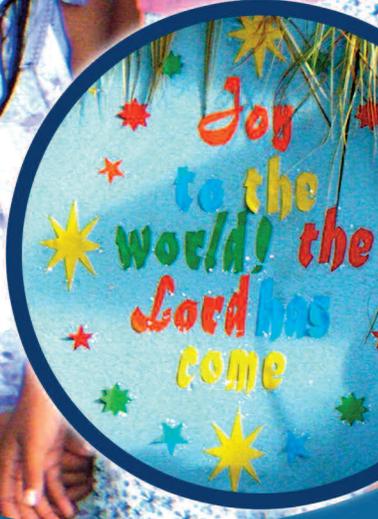


Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

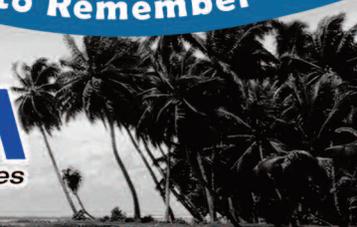
Issue 4-2013
December

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



A Christmas to Remember



Issue

4-2013 (December)

On our CoverA Christmas to Remember;
A Yap Experience.**Editors**Melinda Espinosa
Sylvia Kalau
Sabine Musselwhite**Layout**

Roland Weibel

Pacific Mission Aviation
P.O. Box 3209
Hagatna, Guam 96932
Phone: (671) 646-6464
Fax: (671) 649-6066
guamhq@pmapacific.org
<http://www.pmapacific.org>Pacific Mission 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

Infrastructure Needs:**Construction of Patnanungan Island Learning Center:**

Patnanungan is the island center for education in the Polillo Islands. With elementary and high school available on island, a need for a head start education was realized, hence the learning center ministry commenced as an outreach of our PMF church. We have graduated 288 students since we started in 2003. Here the children learn not only the basics of reading, writing and arithmetic, but also the Word of God. We desire to impact these young lives for eternity. With the growing needs of the learning center, the present building needed to be expanded. The German embassy in the Philippines provided seed money. We praise the Lord for His provision, as we stepped out in faith, we are now 75% complete. Please be in prayer for \$10,000 more to complete this project.

**Engine Overhaul for Queenair N44MA:**

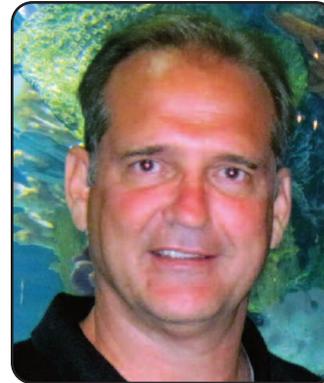
We are so thankful for those who answered the challenge to help in the engine overhaul for the N44MA. While being repaired, we found that more parts are needed to be replaced and cost would therefore go higher. At the moment, the project is 85% complete and \$35,000 more to go.



Like PMA on facebook!
Visit our website:
<http://www.pmapacific.org>
and click on the facebook icon.

Letter from the President

by Nob Kalau

**PMA President, Nob Kalau**

“So the Word became human and made His home among us. He was full of unfailing love and faithfulness. And we have seen His glory, the glory of the Father’s one and only Son.” John 1:14

This is the message of Christmas – Jesus came in the flesh to live amongst us that we may know God and behold His faithfulness and love.

1 John 1:1 says “That which was from the beginning, which we have heard, which we have seen with our eyes, which we have looked at and our hands have touched – this we proclaim...”.

The stories in this issue, proclaim the glory of the Lord as my father and founder of PMA, Edmund Kalau, shares his heart; as we experience with two of our missionary pastors how their wives went through the birth of their children; how a retired couple decided to join PMA and share the vision of an aviation service in Palau and see a dream realized.

We will be joining our PMF church in Yap as the outer-islanders celebrate Christmas, and how “The Cross” radio on the tiny island of Pohnpei has been able to reach beyond what we ever dreamed of; how a young man was called of God to serve with the medical team in the Philippines and how a young girl, helped 12 years ago was given a hope and a future.

Every day in the islands of Micronesia and the Philippines, we proclaim God’s glory and His abiding love for us, loving not only in words, but through our actions. And we are forever thankful for the first Christmas – which gives us the reason for our being in the islands – bringing hope and changing lives!

Wishing you a Christ-filled Christmas!

Until every island may hear,

Nob Kalau

A Good Fight

by Rev. Edmund Kalau, Founder of PMA

As a young man, I dedicated my allegiance to Hitler and his Youth Movement. I received a dagger with the words “Blood and Honor” engraved on it. To receive the proper honor, I had to be willing to shed my blood for the cause of Germany. These words of “Blood and Honor” had a powerful impact on my young life.

After WWII, through a series of events, God found me and I dedicated my life to Him. Now, for the last 59 years, I have had the amazing honor to proclaim a different blood: the precious blood of Jesus Christ. I found out that He is the only One who has the power to cleanse us from our sins. What an honor it has been to proclaim the power of His blood to forgive every man, woman and child.

Last month, I received the news that my time to depart for heaven is coming very soon. The cancer that I have has metastasized to the bone and I am not sure if I will be here to celebrate another Christmas. I am so thankful that I am God’s child and that I do not need to fear death. What a blessed assurance to know the Savior and be safe and secure in His hand and live life according to His timing.

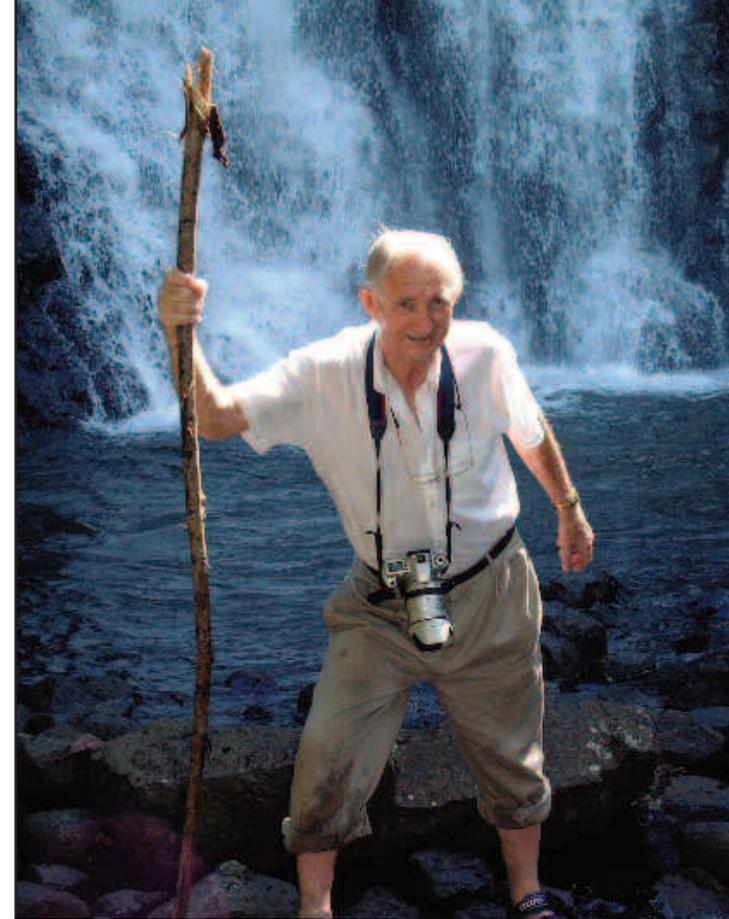
As I reflect on my life and the privilege I have had to share the good news in the Islands, I want to thank you for standing with me and for being a part of God’s plan for PMA. What an honor it has been to share the Gospel, and to realize the power of 2 Corinthians 4:5.

“For what we preach is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, and ourselves as your servants for Jesus’ sake.”

Through the power of the Holy Spirit, I was transformed to a new creature in Christ and discovered the great honor of serving the King of Kings and Lord of Lords. Such a great joy floods my heart as I look forward to being with my Savior and to celebrating His birthday for eternity. May your celebration of Christ’s birth this year cause you to honor Him even more and continue to proclaim the power of His blood until He returns!

“Stand steady, and don’t be afraid of suffering for the Lord. Bring others to Christ. Leave nothing undone that you ought to do. I say this because I won’t be around to help you very much longer. My time has almost run out. Very soon now I will be on my way to heaven. I have fought long and hard for my Lord, and through it all I have kept true to him. And now the time has come for me to stop fighting and rest. In heaven a crown is waiting for me, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, will give me on that great day of his return. And not just to me but to all those whose lives show that they are eagerly looking forward to his coming back again.” 2 Timothy 4:5-8

Pastor Ed Kalau paved the way to what was just a dream, but through His faith in the King of Kings – who made all things possible – PMA became a reality!



Through Edmund’s journey in his life, his wife Elisabeth has stood beside him, a real partner in the ministry, supporting, encouraging and praying for and with him.



A Tale of Three Births

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

Jomalig, Polillo, Philippines. Pastor Jun Mandreza and wife Arlene had everything planned and set up for the delivery of their fifth child. They would go to Katakian and have the baby where most of Arlene and Jun's family lived. Jun's father was the midwife and would deliver the baby. They expected the baby on the third week of May and they wanted to be in Katakian before then. On May 11, they all embarked on their journey to Katakian, boarding a banca. This would be approximately an hour's journey if the ocean was not too rough. Half way through the journey, Arlene felt birth pangs and delivered a baby girl right there in the banca boat! Praise God, Jun's father was with them, as he had come to visit Arlene to check on her and the baby. The delivery was not complicated, both mother and daughter were doing well when they arrived in Katakian. Pastor Jun shared his praises, "Praise God for this blessing! Praise God for answered prayers! For the Lord God says, *'For the needy will not always be forgotten, nor the hope of the afflicted perish forever.'*"

Amaga, Polillo, Philippines. "It is truly amazing what God can do when one puts his trust in Him!" shares Pastor Jun Tayangona. "When my wife Gemma was 7 months pregnant, I brought her to the midwife for a check-up. The midwife informed me that Gemma needed to deliver the baby in a hospital, because her pregnancy was breach. This meant that we would have to go to the 'mainland', which for us is,

Quezon Province. This also meant that we had to cross the rough seas, as July started the monsoon and typhoon weather. She informed me that Gemma would be due the third week of July, and so we were preparing to leave the island the second week. As we were getting ready to embark the small banca, Gemma started to feel birth pains.

Jun and Arlene happily pose on the banca where their baby Aziel was born. With them are children JunJun and Chloe. Praise God for His faithfulness!



I had to find a midwife quick. But there was no one available. What I did find was a quack doctor. I had no recourse but to ask her for help. She instructed me to prepare for her ceremony before she would deliver the baby, but I told her that she did not need to do that. My God is a powerful and mighty God and I said I would be praying. She agreed. While still praying, the lady was able to turn the baby around and Gemma gave birth to a healthy baby girl! After she cleaned both Gemma and my daughter, and while they were resting, I shared with her the Word of God. She listened, she believed, and now has opened her home to a Bible Study! My plan was for Gemma to give birth to our baby in a hospital, but God's plan was different. God wanted me to share His Word to a quack doctor so that she would be rescued from darkness and brought to the kingdom of light! Praise God and thank you Lord! I know that: *'God is my refuge and strength, an ever present help in times of trouble. Therefore, I will not fear.'* Psalm 46:1-2."

Bethlehem, Judea. Two ordinary, travel-worn, weary people, looking for a place to stay in the busiest place during that time. They had come to Bethlehem to comply with a census dictated by the Roman government. There was no place for them to stay. It was important that they find shelter, the wife was pregnant, heavy with child and would soon have her baby. This child though was no ordinary baby. He was sent by His Father, to be born of a virgin, to fulfill His purpose of saving a lost and dying world, to redeem mankind by paying the penalty of sin Himself. He who knew no sin, became sin for us. Another birth, another time, and yet this Birth would mark a time in History, foretold in ages past, planned by a loving God. His name? Jesus, which means, *He will save His people from their sins (Matthew 1:21)*. As we celebrate Christmas, let us remember that He is the reason for the season!



Pastor Jun and wife Gemma continue to praise God for His divine intervention and deliverance, and so thankful to Him for this wonderful gift of life!

Dream Realized

by Shan and Karen Esson

Expanding PMA's Aviation ministry to the nation of Palau was a long held dream of Reverend Edmund Kalau, the founder of PMA. Back in the 1950's, Reverend Kalau lived and served in Palau and was involved with Emmaus High School, a Christian boarding high school located in Koror, Palau. Many past and current government leaders in Palau attended Emmaus and to this day, fondly remember Pastor Kalau and his work. They are therefore kindly disposed toward the various ministries of PMA. When one of the elected officials proposed asking PMA to consider moving an airplane to Palau in order to provide transportation and medical evacuation services to Peleliu and Angaur Islands, the idea was rapidly embraced by the public. These two World War II battlefield sites still have operable wartime air fields but, lacking any viable air transportation – were normally reachable only by boat.

Shan Esson and his wife, Karen came from Manila, Philippines, where they had been teaching at Faith Academy, a school for missionary children. Faith is the alma mater of Shan Esson, Nob Kalau, president of PMA, and Amos and Heidi Collins, PMA's missionaries to Yap. Shan was a retired US airline pilot who grew up in the Philippines as the son of medical missionaries in Bukidnon, Mindanao. After retiring from the airlines, Shan and Karen had been serving at Faith Academy as assistant principals, boarding home parents and class room teachers.

Shan had always dreamed of being able to use his aviation skills in a ministry capacity and accepted PMA's invitation to help start the Palau aviation ministry in 2012. The story of how God positioned people and events, opening and closing doors at just the right time, in order to make all the details come together, is a story in itself.

Flight operations in Palau began in March 2013 using a 9 passenger Britten Norman Islander which had previously been used in PMA's Philippines ministry. PMA's Palau operations are headquartered at Palau International Airport in Airai. Currently, PMA is providing flight services to both Peleliu and Angaur along with charter services as needed. Along with his flying duties, Shan was asked by Palau's aviation authorities to serve as an expert witness in an accident investigation, teach a ground school to the aviation administration personnel and be involved in the drafting of an emergency action plan for the International Airport. A retired CPA, Karen did the accounting for the operation and served as gate agent, dispatcher and assisted in passenger and cargo loading. They were both involved with Pacific Mission Fellowship, PMA's local church in Koror, serving as Sunday School teachers, Bible Study leaders and Shan as an elder.

Shan and Karen returned to the US in September 2013, grateful to have had the opportunity to serve in Palau. God has provided Slick and Donna Douglass, both former U.S. military pilots and friends of the Essons, to continue the flight ministry in Palau.



Capt. Shan Esson and wife Karen caught PMA's dream of an aviation ministry in Palau and were very instrumental in seeing that dream become a reality.

Palau is an island country located in the western Pacific Ocean. It is geographically part of the larger island group of Micronesia. The country's population of around 21,000 is spread across 250 islands forming the western chain of the Caroline Islands. The most populous island is Koror. PMA operates its flight services at the International Airport, Airai – near Koror.

A Christmas to Remember

by Heidi Collins

Have you ever wondered what celebrating the Christmas season is like in Micronesia? Let me describe our church's Christmas celebration last year to give you just a small idea. The outer island people living on the main island of Yap love Christmas, even though this holiday is a fairly recent introduction. And although they have somewhat limited resources due to their isolated location in the Pacific, they still know how to make Christmas special here in the islands!



Happy faces and new dresses for the girls from a stateside church – what a way to begin Christmas morning!

we drive to the local hospital or visit them in their homes. Often these people are lonely and bored by protracted illness, so it is a pleasant surprise to suddenly have several smiling truckloads of people squeeze through their door with songs and encouraging words for them!

Singing songs as a means of bringing hope and cheer to one and all is what PMF church is all about, not only during Christmas, but the whole year round.



The Pacific Mission Fellowship Church in Yap seeks to reach the outer island population with the gospel of Christ. As a body, we enjoy the fellowship and camaraderie that comes from doing ministry together. One of the things we do every year is visit the sick and elderly shut-ins, and sing to them. Everyone piles into flatbed trucks (no seatbelt rules here) and

We sing Christmas songs in both English and the Outer island language, and pass out small gifts of soap, toilet paper, hand towels, bread and coconuts to the dear people we visit. It is always at least as much of a blessing for us, the congregation, to be involved in these caroling visits as for the person visited.

Our last Christmas program at the PMF church was unforgettable. The men, women, youth, Sunday school, and even nursery-age kids practiced their skits, songs, and worship dances for months beforehand, wanting to make the Christmas program extraordinary for all who would attend. The women wove brand new matching lava-lavas (a colorful striped cloth that is the traditional outer island attire for ladies here) for all their female family members to wear for Christmas. And having limited Christmas decorations and funds didn't stop them from supplementing

the existing decorations with local materials – which in this tropical setting, looked beautifully appropriate. Woven palm branches, banana trees, fresh tropical flowers and vines adorned the entrance and inside of the church building, giving quite a “tropical island Christmas” effect! As you probably know, the temperature remains constant year round here – hot and humid. But during this last Christmas, God showered, or literally “flooded” us with such torrential rain that we actually felt quite cold and were amused to be huddling in our cozy church for warmth!

Our Pastor Petrus Haleyalgiy and his family concluded the special evening program by leading the whole church in a worship song put to actions. The words of the song expressed our trust in our Lord and Savior, whose birth we were celebrating. It was so moving to see each and every person in the room: small children, teenagers, men, women, and guests all join in with the song. It truly was a memorable Christmas service; centered on our Savior and knitting us closely together as a congregation.

Some might wonder why we went to all this trouble just for our little church Christmas celebration – all the homemade decorations, the rehearsals, the hours spent picking up and dropping off people in pouring rain. Was it hard work? Certainly. But was it worth it? Most definitely. To see our small church body worshipping their Savior together, the wide-eyed excitement of the young children receive their very own presents, the enjoyment of people invited from our community as they watched the program, AND to be a part of it oneself, filled our hearts with joy and thankfulness for this special season.



A simple Nativity scene prepared by the youth.

To Micronesia and Beyond!

by Sylvia Kalau

Each month, PMA's radio station on Pohnpei receives letters from shortwave radio enthusiasts. Because we are the only shortwave station broadcasting from the Federated States of Micronesia, the radio operators are eager to get a postcard from us confirming their reports that indeed, they really did hear the station broadcast from the small island of Micronesia. We have received letters from Russia, Israel, Australia, Japan, Finland, Greenland, China, North and South America and many other countries because they are able to pick up the signal from our station. Every hour we have Biblical teaching from pastors like Swindoll, Jeremiah, Laurie, MacArthur, Focus on the Family to name a few. The radio operators tell us what they hear from our station and the times they were listening. We are excited to find out that even though our target is the outer islands of Micronesia, we are sending radio waves all over the world.

Recently, I received a letter from Bali. A young man had heard us and wanted to know more about the Jesus that we were talking about. I explained to him in a letter that Jesus is God who loves us so much that He became a man in order to make a way for us to come back to God. I included a seeker's Bible and mailed the package off to Bali. A month later, Alex wrote again, this time asking me how he could know that he too could go to heaven. With great joy I wrote to him the plan of salvation and explained how he could invite Jesus to come into his life and then be assured that when he died he would live for eternity with God in the place that He was preparing for him... heaven. Soon he wrote back, saying that he had received Christ and that he wanted to learn more. I continue to send him letters encouraging him to find a Bible teaching church where he could grow in his new faith. Every 1-2 months he stumbles on a verse that he doesn't understand and then writes to me to find out the meaning.

Each day when I walk into PMA's radio station inside a remodeled shipping container, I pray a short prayer asking God to keep our transmitters running and give us the ability to solve the technical problems that we may have. Despite the daily power outages on our island, the radio continues to broadcast, FM to the island of Pohnpei and shortwave to the outer islands and beyond sending the Gospel over radio waves all over the world. God is producing such luscious fruit and we are thankful to be a part of the harvest.



Sylvia finds great joy in knowing that "The Cross" radio would reach a thirsty soul who would find satisfaction in Christ alone.

Thank You, Sea Haven! Thank you, PMA!

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

While performing the annual internal audit and review of operations in Yap, Grace Adgil, our station secretary informed me that the family of a girl who was helped by Sea Haven 12 years ago was staying with our Pastor Petrus waiting for a ship to bring them to their home island. I thought what a great opportunity to hear, first-hand, her experience!

It was just a simple tooth extraction performed by one of the local dentists, but something went terribly wrong. The following day, Jerleen's jaw started to swell. The parents became alarmed when, a few days later, the whole side of her left face became swollen. Even worse, she was running a fever, and it was getting higher by the hour. What could be wrong?

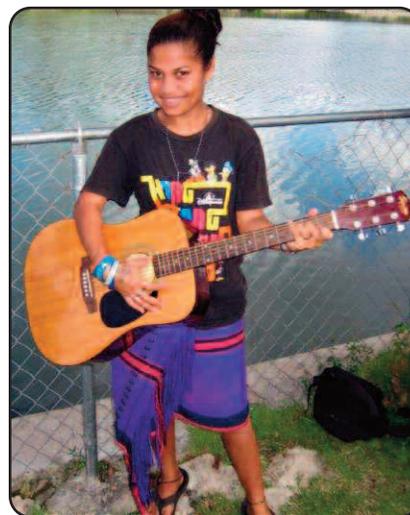
It was at this point that Stan, her father, met Nob Kalau, who had just arrived with the medical ship, Sea Haven. Elato is a coral atoll approximately 580 miles from mainland Yap. Stan knew that this was the ship that brought help to the islands and asked Nob to look at Jerleen. Nob told Stan to take her to the ship where he would be better equipped to examine her. At the Sea Haven dental clinic, Nob inspected Jerleen's tooth. After giving her some pain killers, he went to work. He found fragments of the tooth still imbedded in the gums, and broken roots that were left in the jaw bones, causing the infection. He painstakingly took them out one by one. After that, he gave antibiotics for the infection.

Jerleen is 22 years old now – beautiful, healthy and with an ambition to complete her college education. What is more, she has been an active member of our PMF Worship

Team for more than two years now, playing the guitar. What would have happened if the Sea Haven did not visit their small atoll because it had only approximately 89 people living on it? What if we said it was not worth it?

Praise God, PMA has the calling to go and meet the needs of those who some may think are the least. By helping Jerleen, we have helped her family come to know the Savior who saves, seeks and serves those who need Him the most.

Jerleen praises God through music and thanks Him for His mercy to her when she needed Him most!



“PMA is FAMILY”

by Geneziel G. Tandoc

As has been said, *“I do not know what the future brings, but I know who holds the future.”* I firmly believe that God is the author of my life and He knows everything concerning me.

It was in 1995, I was still in high school, when the PMA medical team led by Dr. John Escote came to my hometown, Gumaca, Quezon, for a medical mission sponsored by our local church. I met the members of the team and saw their joy and passion in serving God. Deep inside me, I was stirred to pray fervently that God would use me according to His will, and that I would be able to serve Him in a ministry like PMA.

The PMA medical team continued to visit and serve in Gumaca and they were such a blessing to the community and especially to our church. I remember one time during a family conversation my mother shared that she had a vision seeing me working together with the PMA medical team. I was totally amused, thinking that it would not happen.

In 2002, Dr. John began to serve in Magsaysay Memorial District Hospital, Lopez, Quezon, as part of their networking partnership with PMA to serve the islands. It was also my last year in college taking up secondary education. Dr. John needed somebody to assist him in the operating room. When we met he asked me, if I was available. I had only two remaining subjects left and the schedule he provided did not conflict with mine, so, after much thought and prayer, I accepted. I was trained in the disciplines of the operating room and the outpatient clinic. After more than a year of volunteer work, by the year 2004, I officially became a PMA mission staff and assigned to be the full time ophthalmic assistant to Dr. John. My mother’s vision had become true, and the Lord had answered my prayer.

My best experience in serving God through PMA was more in my spiritual walk and maturity in Christ. The constant companionship and sharing with Dr. John, and my frequent fellowship with our co-workers and believers in the different stations we visited, contributed much to my growth as a believer and in becoming an effective witness to our church. It also made me connect well with young people in our Pacific Mission Fellowship churches. Oftentimes, many of our youth sought my friendship and counsel. In a way, I became a bridge to help them cross-over a deep gorge of youthful confusion and aimlessness.

God is not finished with me yet! But I am sure about Him as the greatest Potter who will continually mold me into the best that I can be. I always thank the Lord that my wife and my family are very supportive of my work in the mission. They know that aside from them, PMA is my other family. Actually, PMA is family!

Part of being a member of the medical team is to travel via banca to all our mission stations. Here Geneziel shows that he is well-adjusted to traveling through calm or rough seas, by God’s grace.





ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

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

Pacific Mission Aviation
P.O. Box 3209
Hagatna, Guam 96932

info@pmapacific.org
www.pmapacific.org



PMA is a Member of the
Evangelical Council for
Financial Accountability