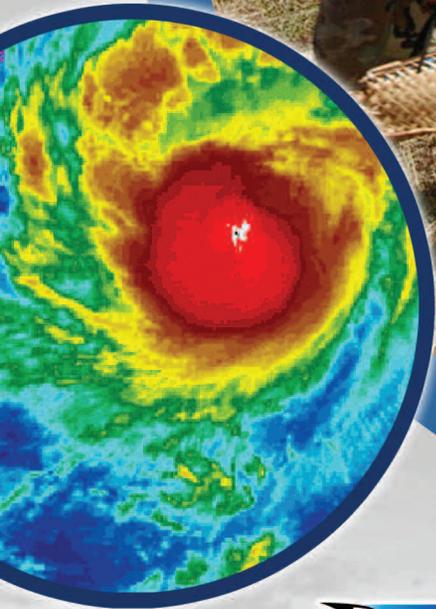


Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue 2-2015
July

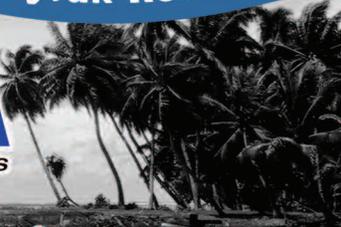
ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Typhoon Maysak Relief

 **PMA**
Bringing Hope, Changing Lives



Issue

2-2015 (July)

On our Cover

Typhoon Maysak Relief
Efforts, photos courtesy of
Brad Holland

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

Personnel Needs:

Missionary pastors
Administrative and ministry assistants
Youth workers for island churches
Boat captain for medical ship M/V Sea Haven
Boat mechanic for medical ship M/V Sea Haven
Missionary pilots/mechanics for Micronesia/Philippines
Computer personnel for radio, media and print ministry
Short term: Canon copier technician needed for
maintenance and repair at Good News Press

Infrastructure Needs:

Renovation/Improvement for PMF Patnanungan Parsonage including outside kitchen and dining area – After several typhoons and wear and tear of the building due to age it is time to reconstruct and renovate. \$13,500 needed.

Hangar for Palau: Please continue to pray for God's provision for the property where the hangar will be built. Pray for the approval of a lease agreement and the provision for hangar materials of \$300,000.

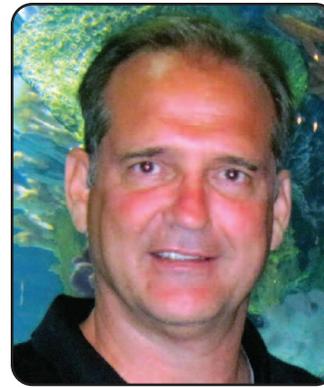
Sea Haven Medical Ship Dry Dock: Pray for \$175,000 for the project. This does not include fuel cost to take the ship to dry dock and back. We pray for an opening in Guam for this project.

*"He will cover you with His pinions,
and under His wings you will find refuge;
His faithfulness is a shield and buckler."*

Psalms 91:4



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



PMA President Nob Kalau

Dear Friends,

Growing up in the island world where the word "Typhoon" raises a lot of fear, concern and emotion... I know what it's like to spend the night on land or sea, with the screaming gusts of wind and torrential rains causing chaos and leaving destruction in its wake. Typhoons... a rare phenomenon? No! In one year the Philippines, the archipelago of more than 7,100 islands is hit by an average of 20 typhoons or tropical storms each year, which kill hundreds and sometimes thousands of people.

Bringing relief items to victims in the outer islands of Micronesia via the MV Sea Haven, I have witnessed the mutilating destruction to atolls and islands. For some islanders, the only means of safety and survival is tying their children to a coconut tree as the waves sweep over their homeland. For others, it's packing as many islanders as you can into the only cement-roof-building on the island, after your hut has blown away.

You may think that the aftermath of the typhoon requires only clean-up and rebuilding. But actually, the reality is that the crops on the island are also destroyed and food and water can become contaminated and scarce. There is no corner grocery or hardware store to run to. Even the next island, can be 300 miles away and attainable only by ship... that is, if the seas are calm and if there is a ship.

But island people are survivors. They are resilient. They pick up and start again. They live with a few possessions and are willing to share what they have with others in need. I like that about island people. They've got the Biblical principle of sharing down. As a mission, PMA continues to be there for those in the midst of the storms. We are thankful that God's light can shine through us in the hopelessness and despair in the aftermath of the typhoon, as we assist in relief and love efforts.

This issue is dedicated to what it's like to live in this part of the world where the word "Typhoon" is a word islanders can relate to and have numerous stories for. Thank you for standing with us in all of the relief efforts that were spearheaded out of Guam and Yap for the most recent devastation of Typhoon Maysak. I am proud of Team Yap directed by our very capable chief pilot, Amos Collins, and our headquarters CFO Melinda Espinosa, who networked the logistics between the donations and emergency needs. Special thanks to our partners, Ayuda Foundation and Matson Shipping who immediately responded to the needs in the islands.

And most of all, we thank God – our Refuge and Strength an ever-present help in times of trouble.

Norbert J. Kalau, President/CEO

Safe in the Arms of Jesus

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

*“Because of the Lord’s great love we are not consumed,
for his compassions never fail.*

They are new every morning; great is your faithfulness.”

Lamentations 3:22-23

On May 8, I received an email from our CEO, Nob Kalau. Pohnpei was on storm/typhoon watch. The storm was expected to hit Pohnpei Sunday between 4am - 4pm, with damaging winds of 34 - 73 mph.

In Guam, we prayed that the typhoon would not hit as bad and that the winds would dissipate. Saturday, I was informed that the winds were not getting any stronger. We still continued to pray for the Lord’s mercy and protection over Pohnpei. Sunday early morning, I received a call from Sylvia. Fortunately, they had a rotary phone – so it was working despite power outage. She shared with me what had happened. The unexpected! A few hours after midnight, strong winds damaged a portion of PMA’s studio/church building, and with it – flooding and damaging the inside of the building including equipment! She asked me to pray for sunshine so that they could fix the roof so that they could conduct their worship service the following Sunday.

Meanwhile, Super Typhoon Dolphin was heading towards Guam. Dolphin was a strong category 2 equivalent storm with maximum sustained winds estimated at 110 mph. If Dolphin would hit Guam directly, and would continue to intensify – we needed to be prepared.

I recalled the last typhoon that I had experienced in Guam, Super Typhoon Pongsona on December 8, 2002, which packed 150 mph winds. In its wake, fuel depots caught fire, homes and buildings destroyed, downed power lines and trees, landslides, flooding, power and water out.

Typhoon Dolphin destroyed the awning at PMA headquarters office.

At the PMA HQ, the heavy down pour caused rain to pour through the glass windows, and water rose from underground. Ruth and I did not sleep that night, and through the following morning, wringing towels into buckets filling them with water to be thrown out, and making sure furniture (including pews, as PMA HQ was also where PMF church met at that time), equipment were all safe. After 38 days power was restored in our area. And a few days before that, the “boil water order” was revoked. But still the island continued to work on rebuilding and restoration. I will never forget Pongsona: it taught me a strong reliance on the Lord. Ruth remembers valuable lessons as well – that even in darkness – there is joy and strength: star-gazing at night, enjoying the full moon, and the distraction of daily routine, strengthened by our constant prayer times during the day.

Since I was scheduled to fly to Palau three days before Typhoon Dolphin was to hit Guam, my weekend was spent in preparing and protecting the headquarters office. May 15 – Typhoon Dolphin blasted through Guam and Northern Marianas, packing winds of more than 100 mph, and producing 4 - 8 inches of rain. It left in its wake uprooted and fallen trees, debris, flooding in some areas, power and water outages, and rendered some families homeless. Since I was off-island, I communicated with my sister Laureen through Skype. She house-sat while I was gone. We were very fortunate at the PMA HQ. Our power was restored within 7 hours and water was not cut off. The only damage we sustained was our backyard awning, and my orchids. But my sister was safe – I was so thankful. Once again, we experienced the Lord’s mercy. He sustained us, and we are not consumed. We thank Him for His faithfulness!

Plants and trees at PMA HQ’s backyard blown away due to strong winds of Typhoon Dolphin.



Super Typhoon Pongsona hit Guam with winds of 150 mph, knocking power lines down like dominoes.



Mother's Day Typhoon

by Sylvia Kalau, Missionary, Pohnpei, Micronesia

*“Then He rose and rebuked the winds and the sea,
and there was a great calm.”*

Matthew 8:27

On Mother's Day we had to cancel our church services. Typhoon Dolphin was tracking north of Pohnpei and would arrive on Sunday. We were able to follow the storm on the internet and prepared on Friday by boarding up windows, securing roofs, preparing flashlights, water and food. Typhoons are scary things... especially at night when the darkness intensifies the sound of 100 mph gusts of wind, when your roof is giving way, windows breaking, when trees are uprooting and when debris is flying and you just wish that it would finally stop. Peace, be still!!

In Matthew 14, Jesus' disciples were on the Sea of Galilee when a storm struck. The wind and the waves began in the evening and continued all night long. While they were battling the winds and freaking out, Jesus was on a mountaintop praying, far away from the impending disaster. Like us on the night of Typhoon Dolphin, I'm sure that the disciples were praying for the storm to stop, for their lives to be saved and their boat to be protected from damage. But Jesus didn't answer those prayers immediately, instead He met them out on the sea, walking to them on the water.



Heavy rains caused water to pour through the ceiling, forcing florescent lights and electric wires to dangle dangerously.

Why does God let us go through storms? Why are we in situations where our hearts are gripped with fear and we feel so helpless facing the fierce elements of nature? God has not promised us a storm-free life. But he has promised His children that he will be with us through those trials. He meets us in the middle of the storm to build our faith and to teach us to worship Him in spirit and in truth.

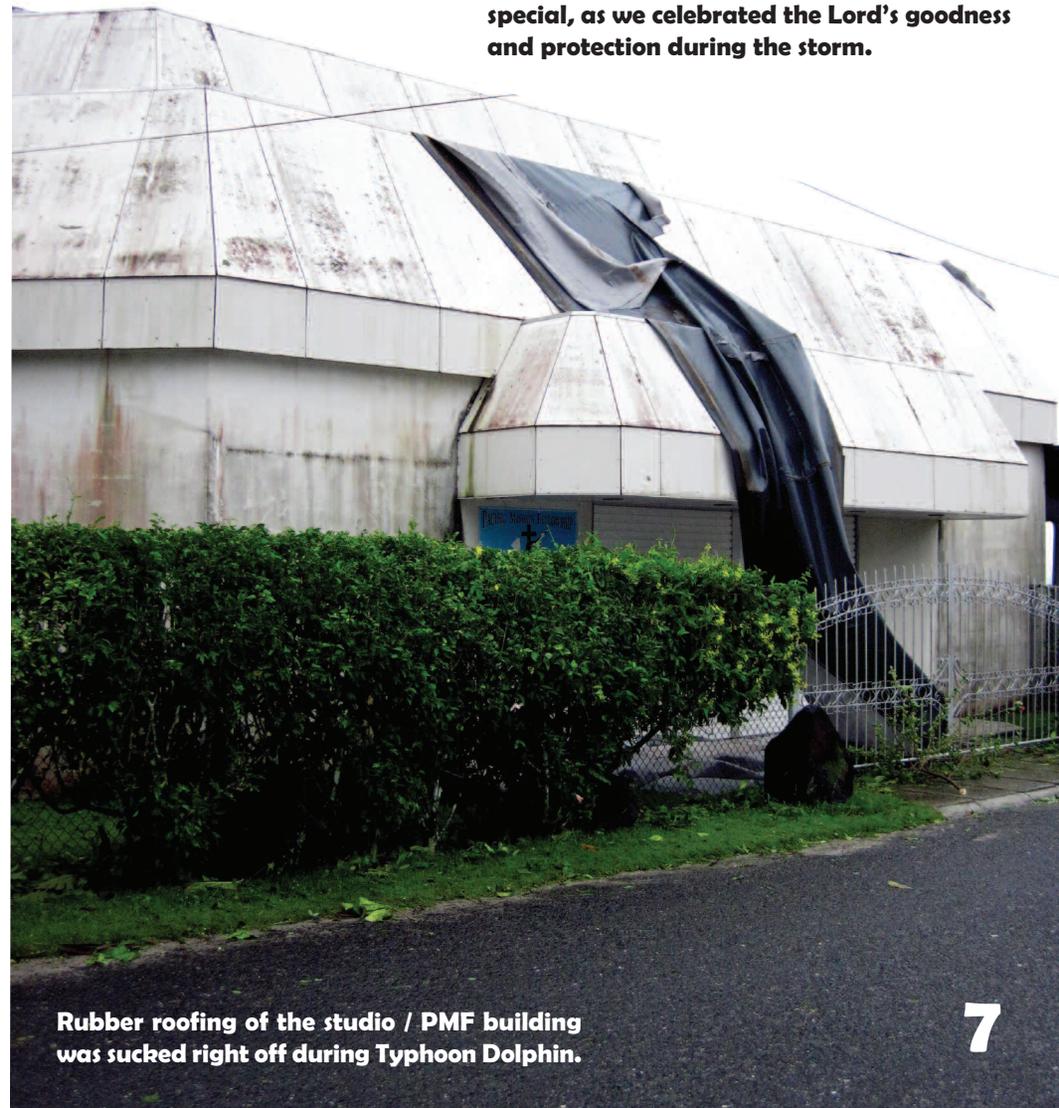
When Monday morning arrived we could see all the damage to our church roof. The ceiling was soaked and coming down, the fluorescent lights hanging by a wire. We spent the week scooping up water, emptying buckets, pulling out the carpet and fixing the roof. The island suffered lots of damages, with trees falling on houses and power lines down. Our clean up/repair goal was to have a Mother's Day service the following Sunday. We asked our families to pray for the rain to stop so that we could have dry

hours to fix the roof. God provided sunny skies just when we needed it.

In the midst of all the clean-up and repair, the children were eager to come to practice on Saturday and sang for their mothers on Sunday. Mother's Day, although one week late was very special because we all had survived the typhoon, we still had a building to worship in and there was so much to be thankful for.



Mother's Day Celebration was all the more special, as we celebrated the Lord's goodness and protection during the storm.



Rubber roofing of the studio / PMF building was sucked right off during Typhoon Dolphin.

Storms & Typhoons – A Philippine Experience

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

*“Truly He is my Rock and my Salvation;
He is my fortress, I will not be shaken.”*

Psalm 62:6



PMA Amaga church roof - ripped from the center.

At PMA Guam Headquarters, I was still coordinating relief efforts for Ulithi, Yap, after Super Typhoon Maysak caused so much damage to the Yap Outer Islands. Now we had to monitor it as it was tracking toward the Polillo Islands, Philippines. We were very concerned and kept watch over its development. This is where all of our PMF churches are located. We watched as Super Typhoon Maysak continued on its path, but as it approached landfall, thanks be to God, was weakening from 165 mph to 99 mph.

Parsonage for PMA Amaga damaged. This had to be rebuilt with much sturdier materials.



Around 24,000 people from the Philippines were being evacuated on Saturday with Typhoon Maysak a day away from potentially striking the country's Northeast coast, officials said. Storm surges, flash floods and landslides remained potential threats even though Maysak, once a super typhoon, had weakened, with maximum sustained winds of 99 miles per hour.

About 20 typhoons and storms hit the Philippines each year, many of them deadly, but such weather disturbances are rare in April, the height of the tropical Asian nation's dry season. So this was unexpected!



Guest house of PMA Amaga for visiting medical team - demolished by the typhoon.

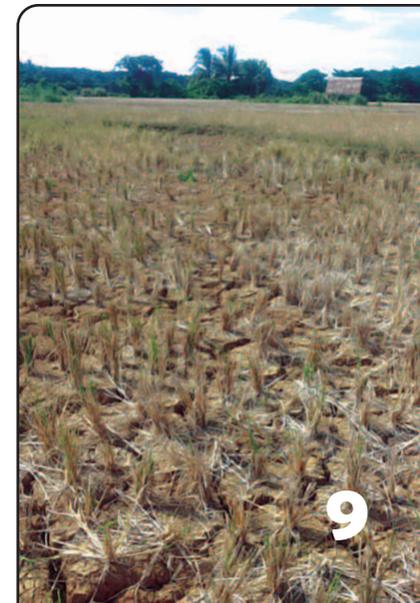
What do we usually do when a Typhoon is approaching? At the PMA Headquarters Office, Philippines – we secure our hangar and the aircraft that is kept there. Our Chief Mechanic, Fred Ranada, sleeps at the hangar and keeps watch. At Bahay Kalinga Orphanage in Naujan – we secure the buildings and make sure we have enough food, medication, flashlights and other supplies for our children. In the Polillo Islands – each station secures their church building, parsonage and other structures as best as they can, because not all of the buildings are made of concrete. For some – they have to go to higher ground in case the ocean swells.

Pastor Jorie shares : “Last March 31, it was announced over the news that a super typhoon would be coming and it would affect Polillo and other areas of Quezon. We were very much apprehensive with this news. Brother Sixto and I, together with a few church members, prayed and fasted for three days to the Almighty God that He may spare the island. We gave praises and thanks to God because He granted the desires of our hearts – the typhoon became an ordinary rainy and windy day. God spared our island! To Him be the glory and honor!”

Yes, we were thankful that the Lord protected our stations! Meanwhile, our church in Amaga – was just recovering from Typhoon Amang which struck in January. The thatched nipa roof of the church was damaged. However, the typhoon was a blessing in disguise as it brought much-needed rain, ending a 9 month drought! The whole church roof is now being repaired and nipa and trusses are being replaced! Typhoon Amang also destroyed the outdoor kitchen in Jomalig. We plan to re-build a stronger structure.

What do typhoons teach us? They teach us to be pliant, flexible, to be prepared, to be always prayerful and to trust in the LORD. For indeed, He is our Rock, our Salvation, our Fortress, and we will not be shaken, though we experience storms and typhoons in this side of glory.

The typhoon was a blessing in disguise as it brought much-needed rain to end the 9 month drought.



Super Typhoon Maysak

by Amos Collins, Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

Yap and its outer-islands usually experience a typhoon or two every year. This year was no exception, and though the main island of Yap was spared the brunt of it, our neighboring island atoll was not.

Super Typhoon Maysak began as a tropical depression over 1000 miles to the east, one week before it crossed right over Ulithi atoll on Tuesday evening March 31st. Sustained winds of 165 mph gusting to 200 mph came at the islands from one direction, and then as the eye passed over, the winds switched and came at them from the exact opposite direction.

The following morning, 100 miles away in Yap, it was still windy and rainy when Pastor Petrus and I climbed on the hangar roof and re-erected our long range HF radio antenna, so that we could communicate with our friends in Ulithi. I had already heard a few rumors that the islands had been flattened, but I wanted to hear it for myself so that I could plan what we would need to bring in terms of relief. As soon as we got the radio up, all the worst rumors were confirmed.

I received a call from Melinda in Guam asking for details of the damage, and of our plans. When I relayed the need for relief to be flown out she was immediately in contact with supporters who donated funds right away and we were able to go shopping for water, food items, and tarps. Early Thursday morning, we made our first flight out with Yap State response teams, and a load of relief supplies. What we saw from the air and the ground were scenes that you usually see on CNN about faraway places. 90% of the roofs of all homes, churches, and schools were gone and 50% of all the trees were down. It looked like a bomb had gone off. How everyone had survived a storm this terrible was a miracle.

In the days to follow, I was amazed to see how well the relief operation worked. The local community on Yap came together with generous donations of food and water to our hangar. Thanks to donations given to PMA for covering our fuel and operational costs, we were able to send these relief items out almost as fast as they came in. Then as the local donations tapered off, we received a 40 ft. container sent by the Ayuda Foundation, which the public in Guam had been invited to fill with donated items. This container was donated by Matson Shipping, who also shipped it for free to Yap. This kept us very busy flying to Ulithi and Fais (another island affected by the typhoon, though not as seriously) for a couple of weeks, and when we were finished, Ayuda sent another container, again through the auspices of Matson Shipping! At present, our hangar is full once again and we will be able to keep the relief flowing into Ulithi for another few weeks. The island is stabilized now, though long-term needs are for lumber and building supplies to rebuild homes. As of now, the people are still sharing space in the few concrete shelters on the island.

Mario Sukulbech, Utility Company Manager & Maysak Survivor wrote:

"I usually think of PMA as a means of transportation in and out of Ulithi. Of course, every now and then, they would do search and rescue or medevacs. But the level of services PMA provided after Super Typhoon Maysak was unprecedented. Besides going out of their regular flight schedule in delivering typhoon relief food and other much needed supplies, they unselfishly also coordinated, stored, and delivered these typhoon relief items based on urgent need on a timely basis. Their hanger is the base for this relief operation. PMA Chief Pilot Amos Collins and his team not only organized, coordinated and delivered these goods but took a step further and did the shopping for special needs for individuals. Super Typhoon Maysak destroyed homes and changed the landscape of the islands of Ulithi but PMA brought and continues to bring in hope and the means to meet the challenges on the ground that leave no doubt of PMA's commitment to the people of Ulithi."

Although it has been a grueling month, every minute of work has been worth it. We had recently brought on two temporary workers a few weeks before the storm who turned out to be God-sends, keeping us from being completely overwhelmed by the workload. This turned our 4 person crew into 6 and really made our operation run more efficiently. Grace, our secretary, shifted into high gear and took the work load in stride even as it quadrupled. From handling import duty on the goods coming in from off island, weighing everything before it went on the plane, to keeping records of what was going out and who it was from, she took care of everything in a orderly manner at high-speed!

Our entire crew feels a great responsibility and privilege to serve the people of Ulithi in the aftermath of this typhoon. This experience confirms for us Edmund Kalau's vision when he founded PMA so long ago: to bring hope to isolated island people and with God's help, to change lives.

Super Typhoon Maysak unleashed its fury and destruction on the Yap Outer Islands.



Typhoon Times Two!

by Barbara Pace, Former PMA Missionary

Tropical islands experience all kinds of weather. Most dreaded and devastating are the ripping winds and torrential rains of a typhoon. Pohnpei suffered the blows of Typhoon Yuri, which hit us full force the week of Thanksgiving, as its stormy center passed just 15 miles north of us. Six weeks later, early January 1992, we suffered the destructive blows of Typhoon Axel.

With Typhoon Yuri's less than 24-hour warning in November, PMA staff and work crew began the time-consuming tasks of preparing for the storm. We were a team of only three missionaries and their wives. We were faced with the overwhelming challenge of securing the airport hangar, which housed two of PMA's twin engine aircraft, the airport office and equipment, PMA's 80 foot Sea Haven medical boat, our two story auditorium/church still under construction, two story Good News Press offices with equipment, the large two story Youth Center and the homes of the missionaries. All our Micronesian staff with the exception of one had left for outlying villages to secure their own homes. How do we begin to prepare for an anticipated 95 - 115 mph winds with accompanying heavy rains?

Full drums of aviation fuel, weighing 350 pounds each, were tied carefully with ropes to the nose, tail, and wings of the planes, to firmly weigh them down. The Sea Haven was securely anchored, and tied up to drums filled with cement which had been buried in the ground on shore. Large boards were nailed over windows in our offices and homes. Roofs on homes in less protected areas were firmly tied down with heavy ropes and cables. Antenna towers for our communication radios had to be taken down from rooftops, and laid on the ground. Computers and other valuable equipment, along with files were placed in cement-enclosed storage rooms, heavy plastic tarps covering the equipment, and old towels were stuffed along window sills and doorways to block out the approaching winds and rain. Refrigerators and freezers were turned to colder settings, in the likely occurrence of a prolonged power outage, supplies of fresh drinking water obtained, matches, flashlights, and kerosene and propane for small cooking stoves verified.

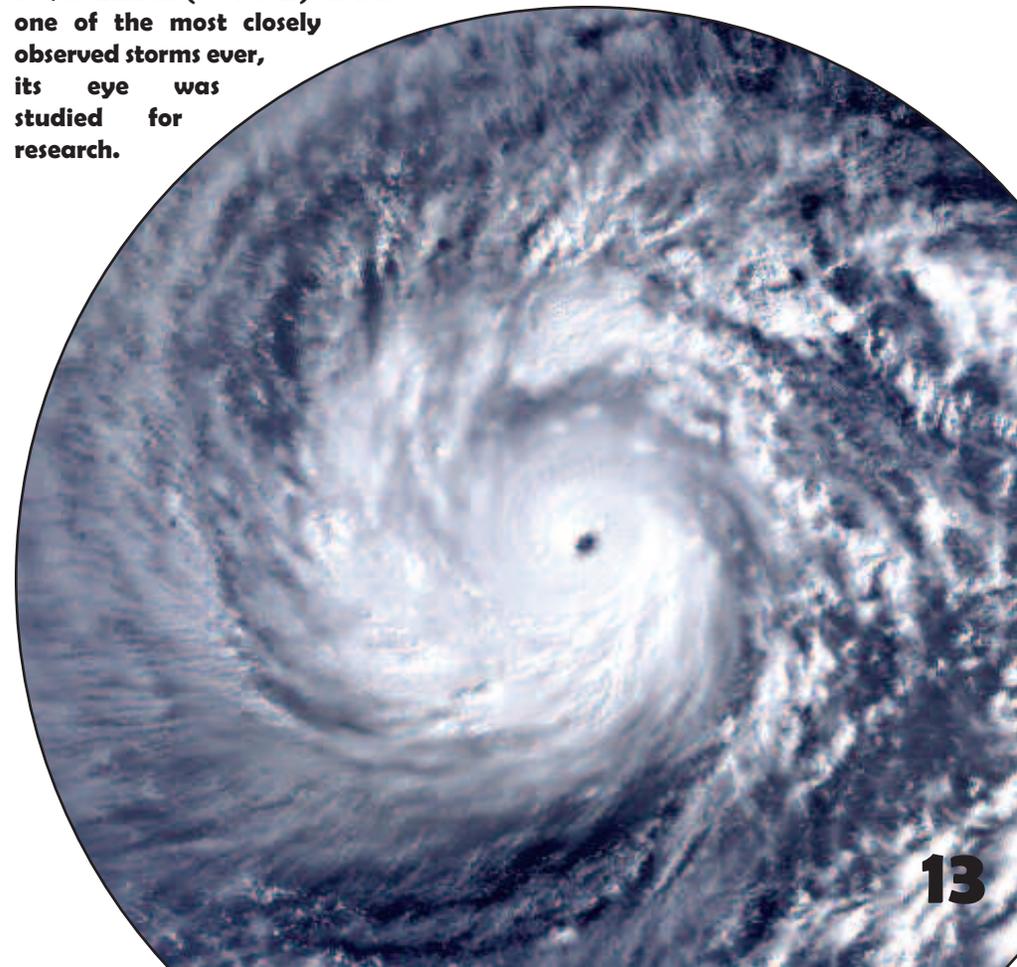
The brunt of Typhoon Yuri's fierce winds, which reached its forecasted strength, came late in the evening and persisted on into the middle of the night. Of particular concern was the Sea Haven, Nob Kalau stayed aboard the vessel almost entirely throughout the storm, attempting to trouble shoot whatever problems would develop. He left only for few quick trips to check on his family, home and studio.

Even though the Sea Haven was secured with heavy mooring lines, the combination of heavy winds and extremely high tides caused the Sea Haven to be driven aground. The heavy tin roof over the Kalau/Reichert home and office was ripped by Typhoon Yuri, flipping it through the air like a kite. The home also sustained heavy water damage.

Complete replacement of the roof was almost completed in January when another tropical storm was on its way. After three days feverishly preparing, Typhoon Axel bore down, bringing another onslaught of torrential rains and overpowering winds in the middle of the night. Winds above 100 mph and almost 10 inches of rain was recorded in less than 24-hour period. The new roof, which was reinforced and built to withstand stronger winds – had been totally torn from the building again.

In the aftermath of the storms, we sit quietly and thank God for all that didn't happen. We ask for His strength for the many additional tasks now to be accomplished. We seek His discernment in re-scheduling ministry priorities. And confident in His gracious provision for all our needs as we continue the work.

Super Typhoon Yuri was a powerful category 5 tropical cyclone that formed in November 1991. It was the strongest storm in 1991. The nineteenth typhoon and final super typhoon of the 1991 Pacific typhoon season. Although Yuri never directly made landfall, it still had managed to cause \$3 million (1991 USD) in damage to Pohnpei, including the loss of a radio tower. In Guam, the storm caused extensive beach erosion and destroyed between 60 and 350 buildings, with damage totaling to \$33 million (1991 USD). It was one of the most closely observed storms ever, its eye was studied for research.



Typhoons – Up Close and Personal!

by Amos Collins, Missionary, Yap, Micronesia

It's typhoon season in Micronesia! When I was a missionary kid growing up in the Philippines, this used to mean no school and playing in a field with a bed sheet tied to your ankles and wrists to see how much "air" you could get. Now as an adult, there's a bit more responsibility connected and you are trying NOT to get blown away.

We just got over the hump of supplying Ulithi Atoll with relief supplies after Typhoon Maysak completely destroyed it. What I mean by over the hump is that they are well supplied with food and water, and they are now working to rebuild (they're still a long ways away from normal). Only 5 weeks after Maysak came through, it was now Yap proper to get hit. Typhoon Noul started about 200 miles east of us. Moving at about 2 mph (walking speed) across the ocean, it took its time getting us wet and shaking our homes all night and into the next day. The forecast told us we would experience 70 - 75 mph sustained winds. Which is actually not a strong typhoon – still I didn't get any sleep. In Ulithi they experienced 160 mph sustained winds. I can't imagine.

I'm happy to report that all our planes and hangar sustained no damage. We also had boarded up all the windows on the guest house which was where a large portion of our church members packed into as their typhoon shelter. They ended up spending the night mopping the floor, as the rain was blowing in through all the cracks and under the door.

Our house and the other homes along the lagoon seemed to experience the most damage to roofs that I have seen around the island. Pastor Asael's house had the porch roof ripped off, which took along a large portion of his house roof with it. The power lines were hit and the power was shut off. Our porch roof, which some of you have eaten under before, was completely ripped off. In the morning when I tried to dismantle it, the wind shifted and blew it down into the water. So then I spent the afternoon swimming to find all the parts.

But life and work go on – we had a flight to Ulithi and brought back all the linemen from the power company who had been working on the island of Ulithi since Typhoon Maysak, so that they could come to Yap and help restore power to homes that had trees knock down their power lines.

But it is not over, we are all waiting to see what a little circulation south of Pohnpei will turn into. They are forecasting it to hit Pohnpei with 75 knot winds and then head off to Guam. I guess we all get to feel the winds this season. Life in the islands!

Amos Collins salvaging what was left of his back porch and dining area, after Typhoon Noul's devastating winds went through Yap Island.





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