

Pacific Mission Aviation's
Quarterly Magazine

Issue 2-2017
July

ISLAND ECHOES

Serving Jesus Christ in the Islands of Micronesia and the Philippines



Celebrating 35 Years of God's Faithfulness



Issue

2-2017 (July)

On our Cover

PMA ministries in the
Philippines

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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 Assistants for Guam and Pohnpei
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: Technician for Heidelberg GTO 52: for
repair, maintenance and calibration at Good News Press.

Infrastructure Needs:

Hangar for Palau: With the property lease for the hangar
approved, plans are underway to construct the hangar. We
need to raise the following: Phase I: \$300,000; Phase II:
\$300,000.

Outer-island airstrip in the Philippines: With the Pacific
Ocean almost always rough throughout the year, and going
to our island stations taking 5 hours of driving plus 4 to 7
hours of boat ride, there is a great need for aviation
services. It would only take 40 minutes to reach the island
stations by air. An efficient and effective way to reach the
islands for the Lord. Please pray for the Lord to provide
land for an airstrip centrally located for easy access to all
our island stations. We thank God for His provision for a
C-206.

*“And God is able to bless you abundantly,
so that in all things, at all times,
having all that you need,
you will abound in every good work.”*

2 Corinthians 9:18



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*“Not to us, LORD, not to us
but to your name be the glory,
because of your love and faithfulness.”*
Psalm 115:1

Dear Friends,

You will notice that this issue of Island Echoes highlights our ministry in the Philippines. We are celebrating 35 years of God’s amazing goodness and faithfulness through PMA’s work in the islands of the Philippines.

You will read the history of how PMA began, our move from the Southern Philippines to the North as we experienced God’s leading, His steadfastness, His never-ending provision, and what He is continuing to do today.

PMF churches are now established in different islands and villages of the Polillo Island group – and still more doors are opening for us to minister. The challenge for us is for more workers in the field. Will you please pray with us that the Lord of the harvest would raise up men and women who would take the challenge of serving in these remote islands?

Thank you friends for your faithful partnership. We thank God for you!

Nob Kalau

President/CEO

Marty Lumingis, Pastoral Care & Development (far left) and Nob Kalau (far right) with all our pastors and workers during the completion of “Discipleship Training 101”. L-R: Marty, Cesar, Bryan, Jose, Bayani, Jonathan, Hardy, Narciso, Lori & Nob.



35 Years Of God's Faithfulness – Philippine Experience

by Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator

1982 was the year PMA Philippines was incorporated as Flying Medical Samaritans, starting operations in 1983. The Philippine ministry started when PMA's founder, Rev. Edmund Kalau and Pilot Morri Pickard flew PMA's first aircraft, the Evangel, from the U.S. across the Atlantic, Germany, Italy, Greece, Middle East, Tehran, Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Bangkok, Brunei, Singapore, Philippines, Palau to Yap, Federated States of Micronesia. It took 110 flight hours and they landed on Yap July 18, 1974.

Upon arrival in Zamboanga City, Philippines, there had been an uprising, and so they were held on house arrest for their protection at the Lantaka Hotel. While there, Edmund Kalau saw from a distance a community of houses built on stilts. He was able to get someone to take him there where he observed islanders living in dire conditions. His heart was burdened to help them, not only physically, but especially to help them get to know the Lord Jesus Christ who had died for them as well. He prayed that if the Lord opened the door, PMA would begin a ministry in the Philippines. Eight years later, the Lord did provide an entrance with a flying ministry in Zamboanga City. We serviced the out-lying villages of Zamboanga City, built a clinic at the West Coast and purchased land in Jolo for a medical clinic. The work expanded with the launching of a floating medical clinic which serviced the Zamboanga Peninsula, Basilan, Sulu and Tawi-Tawi areas of the Southern Philippines.

With peace in the Southern Philippines deteriorating, PMA transferred its office to Luzon, first in Canlubang Laguna, then to the General Aviation area at the Domestic Airport in Pasay City, Metro Manila. The second medical ship started serving in Palawan and a church was established there. When PMA's efforts intensified in Luzon, the medical ship was transferred to Luzon. However, it was found that places where we were serving were too small for a big ship to go to. We needed a smaller boat. We therefore had to sell the ship.

The flight services included flying supplies to a school for the deaf in Laguna, and opening services in the Polillo Islands, transporting medical teams and pastors, doing medical evacuations and providing relief supplies during typhoons. Then church planting started as areas were open to the Gospel.

In 1991, the Bahay Kalinga (BK) Orphanage was completed and operational, providing love and care to babies and children that have been abandoned by their families. Our orphanage staff even started an outreach to the community by teaching livelihood programs like sewing. A day care and learning center was also established.

Two years ago, a clinic and Surgi-Center was added to the BK Complex, where the nearby villages and islands could come for eye care and cataract surgery.

The PMA medical team started a tie-up with Magsaysay District Hospital in Lopez, Quezon, in 2002 to provide eye care services and cataract surgery. In the Polillo Islands, evangelism intensified with churches planted as a result, dormitories were built for boys and girls who needed high school education, a learning center (PMA Academy of Excellence) was established and livelihood programs such as seaweed farming were implemented. Medical outreaches were done on a monthly basis. Healtikas, one in Jomalig and the other in Patnanungan, were created to provide affordable medicines and food supplements locally. For the islanders to purchase needed medication, they had to take a boat ride which took 4 to 5 hours to the main island. Where water was a problem, PMA dug wells and provided water to the community. All these are a testament of God's provision!

35 years later, the Lord continues to be faithful! Many souls were and are being touched, many lives transformed because of the hope we have in the Lord. 35 years is not only the PMA Philippines story, it is your story as you pray and partner – but most especially God's story of goodness and grace through the years!

PMF Patnanungan celebrates 19 years of ministry this year. Our first church plant was in Jomalig 31 years ago.



Fearless

by Mercy Sulad, VBS Director

“...most of the brothers in the Lord have been encouraged to speak the Word of God more courageously and fearlessly.” Philippians 1:14

The Vacation Bible School activity this summer has been a blessing to all of us: staff and volunteer teachers alike. It was a privilege to attend the workshop for this VBS and then train others to teach children. It required a lot of effort, strength, and patience to deal with hundreds of personalities but as we rested on the grace and goodness of Jesus, we were challenged and motivated to share God’s Word fearlessly. Come with me now to read the highlights as we travelled by land and sea from one island to the next, to present VBS through our PMF churches.

KILOGAN – The moment our boat “Evangel” docked in Kilogan, we were met by a Trisikad (a locally built pushcart). We were delighted to find that the once muddy road was now cemented. The church was clean and ready for the activities and we were greeted by our care takers: Romeo and wife Jonalyn with bright smiles! PMF Patnanungan church members Jonathan and wife Lyn-Lyn came with us and served as cooks not only for the VBS but for the whole team. Most of the 34 children who came attended last year’s VBS. Praise God that the seed planted in their hearts have allowed them to be hungry for God’s Word.

VISAYAN VILLAGE – Thank God for breaks in the weather during the day! Heavy rains poured at night. We thank God for Mrs. Malabunga who allowed us to use her compound for the activities, even though she has her own religion. God really is able to work everything for His glory! 22 children completed the VBS. They were so attentive when the “Wordless Book” was shared with them. Praise God for their salvation as they accepted the Lord Jesus Christ into their lives.



We pray that our children will be fearless followers of our Lord Jesus Christ!

POBLACION PATNANUNGAN – We are thankful for our volunteers from PMF Guinayayan. It was a challenge for them as it was the first time in their life to attend a VBS program. It is my prayer that their experiences will encourage them to teach Sunday school in their church. Some of our parents registered their children via Facebook and text messaging. Even social media was used to touch lives. Some have requested for an extension of VBS, and three parents have decided to enroll their children at our PMA Academy. All this happened as we obediently made Christ known to others! We thank God for 120 children who attended this VBS outreach!

GUINAYGAYAN – It was a growing time for all of us especially for our trainees and volunteers. The message we brought to the children on being a fearless child of God and sharing this Good News was very important. We were permitted to use a room in the elementary school and the church, while other learners had their VBS under a tree to protect them from summer heat. I made sure that evenings were for fellowship and prayer. However on the second night, we grew to 25 in number. Children and adults attended as I shared the story of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, fearless worshipers of the true God, and ended with a challenge to receive Jesus. 12 persons made a decision that night to receive the Lord Jesus Christ! We are very thankful to the Dellova family who accommodated the VBS team in their home. Thank God for the joy and strength as we moved from place to place. In Guinayayan, 45 children completed VBS!

AMAGA – Before leaving Guinayayan, Sis. Amor prayed with a loud voice for rain so that the water tank of Amaga would be full. And it rained that evening, so we had enough water for VBS, and of course the family of Pastor Jun Tayangona. We remembered last time, we had to fetch water from the mountain as there was a dry spell in Amaga and at that time, our church did not have a water tank. We thank God for the water tank – it means a lot for the survival in the island. It was low tide upon our arrival, and we needed a small boat to help us to the shore. Supplies had to be carried as we had to walk to the church. Small gnats “welcomed” us and were with us the whole time we were in Amaga. But it never hindered us from teaching the children. One child from Patnanungan was not able to attend VBS there, but to our surprise she was in Amaga to attend! God has His perfect timing. Sometimes it seems a delay, but God is never delayed. We had 24 children attending VBS!

CALUTCOT – In this place our faith was tested – to see if we were really fearless by trusting the Lord. The church building did not seem safe for us ladies and girls because the building had no door, the roof was always shifting and we had no lights. We dined outside under the moon and stars. We are thankful for the fruitful Malunggay Tree that provided us with nutritious leaves for our dinner. Again, God ordained the sun to come out during the day and the rain to cool us during the evening. The 34 children were attentive to the lessons presented which were applicable not only to the children but for us also, to trust and not to be fearful when darkness surrounds us.

CATMON – God is good all the time! In our journey to Catmon, telecommunication was off. When we arrived, the parsonage was closed, no sign of the Foster family! The PMF church, however, could be opened easily. So we stayed inside the church and went out to invite the children for VBS. The next day the Foster family arrived from Amaga all sick with flu, cough and fever. We had 27 children! We finished the five lessons for VBS and shared the Wordless Book. We thank God for the good weather and low tide and it took a long time to wait for the high tide for our “Evangel” boat to come and fetch us. But as I had said before, there is no delay with God.

JOMALIG – Dadine shared: “Due to God’s leadership in providing faithful, loving, caring volunteer teachers and a well- organized VBS, the children were motivated to attend every day. I thank God for having a total of 120 children who came to our VBS in PMF Jomalig, not counting some older siblings and friends who accompanied them. We all served with joy and delight together. I have been blessed and am encouraged, as I witnessed the mighty hand of God working through the events, volunteers and children to bring all His work to fruition. It is true, “*God is not unjust; he will not forget your work and the love you have shown Him as you have helped His people and continue to help them.*” Hebrews 6:10.

SUMMARY – 8 island stations. 406 children. 28 days. Travel by land and sea, through rain and sunshine! 12 teachers and volunteers – All so very thankful for the VBS in the Polillo islands!

We learned to be ready in every occasion; be flexible in any situation; be resourceful for whatever was needed. Thank God for the VBS team who never gave up and kept on going to the next station. Each was FEARLESS in trusting the Lord and sharing the Good News to all the children and those who accompanied them. To God be the glory!

“My Word that goes out from my mouth: It will not return to me empty, but will accomplish what I desire and achieve the purpose for which I sent it.” Isaiah 55:11

Praising God for His presence and His Word, as the children become fearless worshippers - learning that God’s commands are above human rules.



Blessed Family Camp

by Pastor Marty Lumigis,
Pastoral Care and Development, PMA Philippines

We praise God for what He is doing in the islands! We spent our Easter week full of joy and fun together with our PMF family from various stations in the Polillo group of islands, Philippines. We started our family camp April 14. Despite the distance our families had to travel, they arrived on time in Patnanungan because everyone was excited about the event. PMF Catmon families arrived first (they came on foot – a two hour walk from their place), followed by PMF Jomalig, Amaga/Kilogan and Guinayagan – traveling by ocean. As people began to trickle in, we were amazed that we were more than a hundred!

We started our activity with an orientation for the camp and with fellowship ice-breaker games. We divided the large group into four small teams (named Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John). We purposely did not make each team by PMF church location so that we could achieve our goal of strengthening friendship and love among the brethren and deepen the fellowship with one another. Indeed, as all played the different games each one felt true fellowship within the family of believers.

On Friday night, Pastor Jun Tayangona spoke on our theme “Anchored in Christ” and PMF Jomalig led us in praising God through songs of praise and worship. The next day, we woke up early for our devotion led by our PMF pastors. After that, the ladies did Zumba and the men played basketball. After breakfast, we resumed our games by team and each one presented their skit and team chant. In the afternoon of Saturday, we had our awards ceremony. Team Luke was the over-all champion, followed by teams Matthew, Mark, and John. But I believe at that moment, we all came out victorious because everyone felt they belonged to the PMA/PMF family and more important, God’s family! Prayer for one another closed our ceremony. Early Sunday morning we celebrated our joint Resurrection Day service. PMF Patnanungan led us in worship and I spoke on “The Blessings from the Empty” from Luke 24:1-12, emphasizing the blessings from the Empty Cross, Empty Tomb, and Empty Burial Cloth. We completed our sunrise service with a communion remembering Christ’s life, death and resurrection.

After breakfast, most of our brothers and sisters in Christ went home to their respective islands. However, the volunteer teachers for Vacation Bible School stayed back for their training.

Indeed God is to be praised for the things that He has done for us! Good weather, good fellowship, good family time with a Good and Great God! What else could we ask for? All of us went home rejoicing for indeed we had a Blessed Family Camp!

Psalm 133:1 says: “How good and pleasant it is when God’s people live together in unity!”
The Family Camp was a testimony of this.



Twenty-Seven Years Journey In Medical Service

by Dr. John Escote, Director of Medical Services, PMA Philippines

This October 2017 is my 27th anniversary in PMA. When I think of all I have gone through it seems like a blur yet the foremost thing I remember is the great faithfulness and amazing sovereignty of God! For a little over two years (1990-1992), I served in PMA's clinic in Bgy. Sinunoc in Zamboanga City. At the same time, I was the itinerant boat doctor of M/L Medical Samaritans. Then, the training in Joseph Eye Hospital, Trichy City, Tamilnadu, India, ensued in 1993. The knowledge and skills I gained in Ophthalmology added value to my general medical service.

Between 1994 to 1998, I had the privilege to serve the following places: Sulu (Jolo); Palawan (Cuyo group of islands, Cagayancillo group of islands, Diit island); Occidental Mindoro (Iling island, Lubang island, San Jose, Magsaysay, Sabalayan), Oriental Mindoro (Roxas, Mansalay, Bulalacao); Romblon (Sibuyan island, Tablas island, Romblon island, Carabao island); Quezon (Jomalig, Patnanungan, Gumaca, Lopez, San Narciso, San Andres). It was in Gumaca that I first met Geneziel, my ophthalmic assistant, when his church invited and hosted a medical mission program. He was still in high school then.

1999 to 2001, I had my residency training in East Avenue Medical Center (Diliman, Quezon City) in Ophthalmology. I chose Lopez, Quezon, in 2002 to do my return service to the government tying up with Magsaysay Memorial District Hospital. Once again I got to serve the people in the islands where PMA's ministries are situated. Since then, the Lopez work has continued up to today now on a one-week-a-month basis. Patients for eye surgeries from the islands of Jomalig and Patnanungan go to Lopez to avail of the services. But almost the whole of Quezon and the neighboring provinces of Camarines Norte and Camarines Sur noticed the blessed work so that patients from these places also came.



Pastor Marty in between our tireless Medical Team: Geneziel and Dr. John. Traveling to each station every month, meeting the medical needs of our PMA staff, our children at Bahay Kalinga Orphanage, and the island communities we serve.



Through the years, the medical ministry has been one aspect of PMA's way to show love in action as we pursue our mission of "Loving ALL People".

Then, the PMA Bahay Kalinga Surgi-Center opened at the latter part of 2012. Now the news about the blessed work is spreading like a fire to the whole island of Mindoro so that we always find our hands loaded with work. Tiring? Yes – as always. But what a blessing to always be of service to our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ! May His name be glorified always in the medical ministry of PMA!

Homeland Visit

by Jeny Flores, Bahay Kalinga Orphanage Center Head

In December 2001, we were called by the local hospital to meet a mother who had just delivered twin boys. The 19-year-old young woman informed us that she was going to give up her children for adoption as she knew that they would have a better life with us and eventual adoptive parents. Because of her young age and living apart from her family, she did not know how her babies would survive with her. We learned that the referring party had counselled with her, but she still desired to surrender her children for adoption. The twins, Mark Jhon and Mark Jhay flourished and grew in Bahay Kalinga's loving care. Mark Jhon was a happy baby. He always had huge smiles



for everyone and loved to eat! As for Mark Jhay, other children in the home found him cute and affectionate. As God orchestrated it, they were matched with a loving couple from Maine, U.S.A.

Mark Jhon and Mark Jhay, at 2 years of age.





Matthew and Andrew had so much fun playing with the children. It gave them great joy to visit the place and people who cared for them.

Tom and Christine visited Bahay Kalinga on March 5, 2003 and fell in love with both of them. Mark Jhon and Mark Jhay were renamed Matthew and Andrew. It was quite a challenge for Tom and Christine to raise the twins but they were very happy to have them. They spent quality time with the two of them and their

bonds became strong. The parents and boys are blessed to have a supportive family network. Tom and Christine are extremely proud and happy with their sons.

Matthew and Andrew are now 15-year-old smart teenagers, both in grade 9. Both have shown high academic performance in school.

Tom and Christine shared that the boys had lots of questions about their past so the parents suggested to travel to the Philippines and visit Bahay Kalinga. Matthew and Andrew were so happy and excited. When they all arrived at Bahay Kalinga, they were surrounded by our children – each one received hugs and gifts from them. There was so much joy as we watched Matthew and Andrew play with the children – we could feel the warmth and love radiating from both of them. We thank God for the parents, the wonderful life that our twins have been given and continue to enjoy. What a happy and blessed homeland visit this was for all of us!

A message from Tom and Chris, adoptive parents: We were touched and grateful to see the continued loving care being given to the beautiful children at Bahay Kalinga. Please extend our gratitude to Jeny and all the caregivers for visiting with us and showing us around the new facilities (and old one). We also wish to extend our thanks to Dr. John Escote who took time from his very busy work to greet us and kindly provided medicine that healed Chris' eyelid! It is inspirational to see how dedicated everyone is at sharing their special gifts with others. Truly the hands of Christ healing and embracing those who need Him. Our boys found it reassuring to see how loved and cared for the children are. It was heart-warming to meet up with both familiar faces and new ones. Adding Bahay Kalinga to Matthew's and Andrew's homeland visit will be a lasting and meaningful memory for them. We are truly blessed with the dedicated work PMA is doing!

1990 Philippines – Typhoon “Unsing”

I was performing an inspection of our Cessna 182. It would be our second day of providing emergency airlift of food and medicines to Jomalig in the Polillo Island group just east of Manila. 150 mile per hour winds had devastated the island and left its people in dire need. Just as I was about to take off, the mechanic alerted me to a radio message from Jomalig requesting an emergency airlift for a patient. I was on my way. The winds were still gusting from the aftermath of the storm. It was a roller coaster ride.

Shortly after landing, two airforce helicopters arrived to airlift the patients. The chopper's pilot and I agreed, I would take the more critical case since our plane would reach Manila faster. The patient was a young mother and her new born triplets. The mother was still bleeding and the triplets in critical condition. Before we even took off, one of the babies died.

On the way back to Manila, we were bounced around by the winds. But, there was so much to praise the Lord for. Our flight may have been turbulent, but God's hand guided us safely to Manila. I grieve for the young life that was quenched, but we thank God for the others who have survived and are now under good medical care!

By Capt. Ephraim Lacanilao – Ephraim served with PMA Philippines for 14 years. He was trained and earned his wings under PMA. We thank God for his service.

Prayer: At present, aviation services are suspended in the Philippines as we upgrade our aircraft to be fit to land on unimproved runways in the islands. PMA has purchased a C206 for use in the Philippines. It is being prepared in Yap, Micronesia. Please pray for the completion of the project. Please pray for the Lord to raise a missionary pilot to serve in the Philippines.





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