



JANUARY 2017

Dear Faithful Friends and Praying Partners,

*“And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He *said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” Revelations 21:5*

After Christmas, my sister Laureen and I visited Palawan, another beautiful island in the Philippines. During one of our tours, we visited a Butterfly Farm. We saw the lifecycle of a butterfly: egg, caterpillar, pupa and then butterfly. In God’s Word, the changed life of a believer is likened to a butterfly – we are transformed (the word used is “metamorphosis” - a complete change of form, structure, or substance --- i.e. from sinner to saint). But what struck me was the information we received that the life of a butterfly is short – some lasting as short as only 2 – 6 weeks. Within those short weeks, the butterfly finds a mate, lays eggs so that the generation of butterflies don’t die out. I thought – how like the life of a believer, we too have a short life to focus on what God wants us to do - focus on eternity: Live and share His Word and tell others about His transforming power – because *“Only one life, soon it will pass. Only what is done for Christ will last.”*

GUAM. For Pastor Inok and Erpina, the months leading to Christmas were very busy months. The Chuukese family and extended family on Guam experienced sickness and death. And when this happens, a Pastor is always called. Pastor Inok was thankful, that despite these difficult circumstances – these were times that hearts were opened and listened to God’s Word. They must have ministered to more than a thousand people, young and old – and they had such great joy to share the One true Hope in times of sadness and separation. Please pray for all those they have been able to share and minister that they will continue to grow in their spiritual life and find a good Bible believing, Christ-centered church to worship and fellowship with.

PHILIPPINES. We are very thankful for Pastor Marty Lumigis, who began to serving with us November 2016. He will be heading up the Pastoral team in the islands. If his name is familiar, it is. He used to serve with us in PMA Palau as the Youth Pastor. After his term, he left for the Philippines, got married, and was involved in church planting in the southern Philippines. But his heart was always with PMA. In a series of communication with PMA HQ, he now is on board with PMA, tasked to help our island pastors/mission workers in grounding them with the Word, mentoring and teaching them in pastoral ministry, equipping them to be able to grow their church, build the body of believers in PMF and disciple the faithful. Please pray for him and wife Dadine.

BAHAY KALINGA ORPHANAGE, NAUJAN, MINDORO OR. PHILIPPINES. “We praise God for a joyful Christmas party at Benilda Resort!”, shared Jeny Flores-Gutierrez. “We received gifts from donors and partners which made the children so excited! The bike was a big hit! We also thank God for a successful case conference with the local Department of Social Welfare, and Municipal Police for a better solution to Nate’s case. Most of all – good news! We received the advanced copy for Tracy’s Certification for adoption availability. Please pray for smooth progress of her adoption process.

PALAU. Pastor Mike Hammond thanks God for their Christmas service! He wrote: “I also wanted to inform you that 9 people came forward to accept Jesus on Christmas day service. We are going to have another baptism in a couple of weeks. We are praising God for that!”

YAP, MICRONESIA. In the weeks leading to Christmas, our members practiced their skits and singing traditional Christmas carols. Families often have many personal traditions since Christmas in Yap is commonly defined as a time of family gathering, celebrating the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ. Christmas Eve, our small PMF congregation celebrated Christmas with our youth’s presentation of nativity plays, ladies Bible study group worship dance and local Christmas songs, individual family special numbers and Sunday school and home school worship dance and singing Christmas carols. At the end of our Christmas Eve program, Christmas gifts were given out to all the children present. Christmas morning, we had our service. More Christmas songs were sang and the message on making rooms in our homes and hearts for Jesus was shared. At the end of our service, more gifts were given to our church Sunday school children. It was a time for us to celebrate because of the Gift we have received joyfully and gratefully from the Lord. ~ Pastor Petrus Haleyalegy

POHNPEI, MICRONESIA. New Year’s Eve at PMF Pohnpei is the place I like to be. We gather together to sing acapella hymns and share testimonies of God’s faithfulness, testimonies of the last year that God has led us through, testimonies about the future that we need to trust God for. Many families prepare a song to sing together. Public prayers, responsive readings and Scripture readings are given. We share in Communion as we break the bread and drink the juice, we remember what Christ has done for us and commit the year ahead to the Lord. No regrets on New Year’s Eve! By Sylvia Kalau

As we begin 2017, let us remember that God has a purpose for us here on this earth. Many things may divert our eyes from our Lord Jesus Christ. But thanks be to God, we have His Word that enables us to stay focused. Let us find our delight in Christ’s love and share this with others!

Thank you dear partners and prayer warriors! We have lived and experienced the faithfulness of the Lord in 2016, and with your commitment and love – we press on to do His will in 2017. God bless you more!

In Him we live and move and have our being,

**Melinda R. Espinosa
CFO/Administrator**