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Dear Friends,

Christmas is a day of spectacular joy. On that first Christmas night, while the shepherds kept watch over their flocks, the angel brought this good news: *"Do not be afraid, for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy which will be to all people"* (Luke 2:10). It was a night of joy, a night of awe, a night of miracles, a night of surprise, a night of great promise fulfilled, a night when God reached down to man and presented his indescribable gift.

On this incredible holy night, heaven momentarily came to earth. Heaven and earth are always co-existing, but sometimes they can seem worlds apart and at other times separated by only a thin veil. When tragedy hits, when illness prevails, when the unexpected takes us by surprise, heaven can sometimes seem distant and earth offers little comfort for the loss of those we love.

But when we join the angels in worship giving praise to our King, and see God in all of His splendor and greatness, heaven can again seem so very, very close. Believers are truly only a heartbeat away from heaven right now. As David wrote, *"There is but a step between me and death."* (1 Samuel 20:3).

Christmas in heaven is so much better than Christmas on earth. It is pure, unrestrained joy. Not strings of blinking lights on houses but the effervescent radiant light of heaven itself. Not crafted angels decorated on trees, but real, holy angels of God, all around. You see, in heaven there is no pain and there is no suffering. On earth there are no empty hospitals! In heaven there is a continuous eternal peace. On earth there is perpetual, heartbreaking war! In heaven there is perfect unity and harmony. On earth there is often strife and anger among family and friends! In heaven there is no death, no crying, no guilt, no shame. On earth we often weep for those who no longer are with us. In heaven we can enjoy feasting and celebration together with all the saints. On earth there is high cholesterol and expanding waistlines, dissatisfaction and complaining!

We don't need to sorrow for our loved ones who are celebrating Christmas in heaven, but we do sorrow for ourselves over their absence. This month let's spread some joy and remember to let those on earth know how much we love them, not just in word but in acts of kindness too. If we fail to say it or do it today, we don't know if we will ever have the chance to tell them again next Christmas.

At PMA we want to take the opportunity today to thank you for standing with us, praying for us, and giving through us. You have brought us great joy throughout the year!

Norbert J. Kalau
President

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GUAM/PHILIPPINES. We thank God for answering our prayers concerning Tropical Storm Kammuri – it left Guam in time for us to have good weather to celebrate Thanksgiving! However, our joy was short lived. This storm was tracking fast to the Philippines and became extreme tropical storm “Tisoy”. On its path were the Polillo island group where PMA’s mission stations were situated, as well as Mindoro – where our Bahay Kalinga Orphanage is located. From Guam, I kept in contact with our staff. We thank God Bahay Kalinga only suffered water damages as water went through the windows in the second story. The children and our care givers stayed downstairs and were dry and safe. With the cell sites down in Polillo – we could not get immediate feedback. Finally, I heard from our intern John Mark from PMF Guinaygayan, who sent me pictures of the damaged church building – the walls and roofing were blown away. Bro. Bryan from Patnanungan shared that all was well in their area, while intern Davidson of PMF Apad sent me pictures of the damaged parsonage. This parsonage has been used as a church as well – but has been outgrown by the congregation. Fortunately, the Lord provided for us to purchase the adjoining lots so we can build a church. Please pray for the provision for all the repairs and construction of buildings with sturdier materials. Pray for the encouragement of our congregations.

PALAU. After serving in Palau for the last 5 years, we said good-bye to Markus and Prisca Klassen and their children: Tahi, Airo and Sky, As you know, Markus, a pilot and mechanic served as our Aviation Manager for Palau. Both of them also ministered to the young adults of our PMF church. We thank God for them and pray for His blessings upon them as they go on to God’s new assignment. Prisca shared: “We know God has used our time here to strengthen our faith, our marriage, our family, our hope and our love. And we leave as changed, richer individuals. Thank you PMA/PMF and thank you Palau!”

YAP, MICRONESIA. We completed the assembly of the Cessna 206 aircraft that we purchased for PMA Philippines. Until we get a pilot for that operation we have chosen to station the plane in Palau. Last week, after multiple test flights to break in the new engine, I flew the plane 250 NM over water to Palau. 2 days later, I returned with our twin engine Islander to bring it back to Yap for maintenance. Praise God for the safety of flights, that I was able to say farewell to the Klassen’s, and also welcome our new members Brock and Rachael Welge. **By: Amos Collins**

POHNPEI, MICRONESIA. Nob conducted a wedding for a couple who have been married for 10 years. It was their wish to be married in church, receive counseling, to say their vows to one another and to commit their family to the Lord. They wanted to be a testimony to their unbelieving family members that now, unlike before, God is first in their marriage. As Nob counsels couples like this one, he always explains that the Bible doesn’t give us an exact directive on a wedding ceremony but we are commanded to follow the law of the land. So it’s really the couple’s choice. Yet it is always such a joy to help couples celebrate their love in Christ with a church wedding. What a celebration to witness families dedicating themselves to the Lord. **From: Sylvia Kalau**

We want to thank you dear partners for your faithfulness throughout this year to partner, pray and support us. We look forward to 2020 expecting great things from our Mighty God as we attempt great things for Him! A blessed Christmas celebration! God bless your more!

In Him we live and move and have our being,

Melinda R. Espinosa, CFO/Administrator