

The Joshua McClure Family

THIRD GENERATION BAPTIST MISSIONARIES TO THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS



Dear Fellow Servants of Christ,

BIG NEED. Do you see the Lord leading you into full time ministry? If so, are you looking for a place that has no true Gospel witness? Are you looking for an island that is cut off from any Baptist church presence? A place that is heavily Catholic with some Muslim, Jehovah's Witness and a few other cults? Have you been searching for a place that has a population of about 1,893 people who need to see a real Christian and hear the Word of God? Then pray about an island called Rota in the CNMI.

Rota, also called Luta by locals, is the southernmost island in the Northern Mariana Islands chain, just 40 nautical miles north-northeast of the island of Guam. It is only 10.5 miles long and 3 miles wide (or 32.8 sq. miles).



Nicknamed "The World's Friendliest Island," Rota is known for its friendly nature, sweet potatoes, and its coconut crabs. Its history is both mesmerizing and mysterious. Luta has many relics from World War II along with monuments and structures from the German and Spanish times. In addition, this island is home to the

largest known Latte stones that are believed to be used as foundations for the traditional houses the ancient Chamorro people lived in. However, these stones when quarried and standing are more than 24 feet high and weigh more than 44 tons a piece. The mysteries of super human feats, ancestor worship, and witchcraft are common in these islands.



This year my wife and I were able to celebrate our 5th wedding anniversary by taking a 2-day trip to visit Rota. It was both for recreation and as a survey to see if there is any Baptist church teaching the whole English Bible. Sadly, after 2 nights & 3 days, a drive around the island and its neighborhoods, and many conversations with locals we realized the fact that there is no true gospel witness on the island. Furthermore, from those we talked with it seemed like there hasn't been one for a long time. Most people didn't even know what a Baptist church was. We saw many Catholic shrines and the meeting places for several other cults along with an Assembly of God compound but none of these religions teach salvation or eternal security through the true God and Creator, Jesus Christ alone and therefore have no hope. This island is shrouded in darkness and has a façade of Christianity because of Catholicism which is no more than idolatry and paganism under a different name. A large part of the island is a preserve specifically dedicated for the witchdoctors or "Suruhana," to gather their herbs.

Our visit to Rota helped my wife and I see even more so that we need the Gospel preached out here. We are serving the Lord on Saipan now, but as the Lord gives maybe one day the Church here may grow to send a missionary there or God will burden someone's heart that we might together be able to reach them. Please continue to pray for the work out here in the CNMI as God sees fit to use us. Thank you for your faithful prayers and support. God is making a difference in lives and you have a part in that.

In His Service,

Joshua, Amanda, Melody & Moriah McClure +1



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