

DOROTHY MCCLURE

Missionary to MICRONESIA

Working with my husband for over 44 years on the Mission Field

October, 2022

Dear Pastors and Friends:

When we arrived back on Saipan in 2005 we immediately started looking for a building for the church. We were driving along the Southern part of the Island just across the water from the Island of Tinian. We came upon a huge building that looked like a castle. The place was deserted. The grass was tall and the building looked like it had been vandalized and empty for some time.

David pulled up into the driveway to have a closer look. The windows were all broken out, the doors were all gone and the inside was covered in debris. As he walked around the inside I could see the wheels turning in his head. He said this would be a perfect place for the church. David had a talent of seeing things as they could be not as they were at the present. But we did not have the money that would be needed to repair and make this building into a church. We sadly drove away and continued our search.

We passed by there several years later and saw that someone had cleaned up the place. It had a new roof on part of the building and new doors and windows. They had cleaned everything up and it was looking good.

We had rented the second floor of an old building from Ms Jin, a Korean lady, who had a daycare downstairs. She was the manager of the building for the owner who lived in Korea. We had the entire second floor which consisted of 2 large rooms. One for the First Baptist Church and one for the First Chinese Baptist Church. Our rent was \$300 per month. These were large rooms and could seat about 100 people in each church.

We had our churches there for a number of years. One day Ms Jin told us the owner was going to sell the building to a friend of his in Korea.

This building was "old." It was built from wood and termites had moved in many years ago and it needed to be completely rebuilt. This is a constant problem in the tropics.

Not long after that the new owner arrived to see his new building. He paid the previous owner, his friend, \$600,000 for this rundown building, sight unseen. A few days after his arrival and he had looked the place over we heard an awful commotion downstairs. He had a case of beer and was sitting on the steps downstairs yelling and moaning and groaning and talking to himself. We could not understand what he was saying because he spoke in Korean, but we knew he was in great distress.

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A short time later Ms Jin told us our rent was being raised to \$1100 per month for each church. Wonderful!

We informed all the members to start looking for a place for us to move. About a week later David received a phone call from one of our members telling us that she had heard some rumors concerning the old castle building in As Gonno. She didn't know if it was true but she heard they were looking for someone to take over the lease. He told her to find out all the details and get back to him. This was the old castle building that we had looked at 8 years before and David could see our church there. I had cold chills at this news.

Apparently they had started a Pentecostal Church there. They had remolded and repaired enough to have services. But they had disbanded and the pastor had already relocated to Guam. He was indeed looking for someone to assume the lease. I could see the excitement in David's eyes.

An arrangement was made for a meeting to discuss the details. We met with the former pastor and he brought the lease agreement. While He and David talked about what needed to be done, I read the lease. After we had our lunch, and I finished the lease I asked a few questions and told David I thought we could do this. This was a big step but we could see what God was doing for us. Our monthly payments went from \$2200 per month to \$1000. God gave us the building we wanted for the 2 churches and it is still being used for both churches. God is so Wonderful.

Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Dottie McClure