

Prayer Letter
July - Aug. 2023



The Joshua McClure Family

THIRD GENERATION BAPTIST MISSIONARIES TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Dear Praying Friends,
Thank you for your prayer support and financial support. You are making a difference out here. Let me share with you one such example of growth within our ministry.

Qualifications & standards. Leaders and bosses. Churches and businesses. What or who gives the authority to be a leader? One week, I was having a home Bible study with a man that I am mentoring who is also a local business owner and boss. We got talking about some of his goals for his business and he started sharing with me his vision. Patrick told me he does not want a bunch of employees for the sake of work, but rather he wants to train his people to be leaders. He doesn't want a bunch of "yes men" that only know "what" to think but rather he wants to train people "how" to think so they can be profitable to the business and even lead in the community. Eventually, he wants to work himself out of a job while still reaping rewards of his hard work. However, he said that his cousin, who is working to be a partner in the business, is not ready for leadership of the business even less to take it over. He explained that leadership is not something that you take; but rather, when you have put in the work and built character, others give the leadership to you. A good leader doesn't demand the position but earns it. Patrick said his cousin has the potential but needs to do the work, gain experience, and build character before that is possible. Otherwise, he runs the risk of quitting or running the business into the ground. The next thing he said to me helped me realize a spiritual truth that I am not sure he understood the full depth of or far-reaching applications. He told me that what he is doing in his trash business is not much different from me and what I am doing in the church.

He is so right. I am a missionary and I did not send myself nor did I take the role on by myself. I had to work hard to get here and build character to which my leaders & pastor saw I was ready and scripturally qualified to fill the position. As a church planter I am striving to work myself out of a job which starts with the Gospel-helping others come to the knowledge of salvation, discipling them, then training them to be leaders. Experience helps me to see in others potential that requires some cultivating. This will take a lot of work, and Lord willing one day that person will qualify and follow the standards in Scripture and then be given the responsibility of leading or pastoring a church. We are nowhere near this stage in our ministry but that is our goal.

We have 11 faithful growing members and one of the stages of growth is learning our Baptist History and how the Bible makes us different from all other religions & denominations. With Catholicism being so big out here it is necessary to show that **"Things that are Different are NOT the Same"**. God's word has clear standards for His children, church leaders, and qualifications for pastors that are found in both 1 Timothy and Titus. All of God's standards and qualifications for leaders are important & required; therefore, we do not have the right to pick and choose which ones actually mean what they say and which ones are not important. Studying God's standards for His children and church has helped the people see how that even the other two "Baptist" Churches on island are different and not following God's word. Sadly, we cannot fellowship with them because of sin and one of them being so blatant as to have a homosexual as their pastor. How is it that Patrick, a lowly trash collector, can see this truth of leadership and yet many "churches" and "men of God" cannot. Why are seemingly so many men taking the leadership roles without meeting the qualifications? It is vital for leaders to live the example and pass it on by training others to do the same thing. All pastors, missionaries, leaders, and Christians should be focusing on the ultimate example, Jesus, and striving to follow God's standards. **Please pray for us & your leaders, pray for our steadfastness to the Truth, pray for souls saved, and more trained to follow God.**

Faithfully Serving Our Lord,
Joshua McClure & Family

"Let no man despise thy youth; but be thou an example of the believers, in word, in conversation, in charity, in spirit, in faith, in purity."
1 Timothy 4:12



Ladies Praying



Men Praying

Mailing Address: P.O. Box 13459 Arlington, Texas 76094 **Field:** P.O. Box 506106 Saipan, MP 96950

E-mail: mccluresmicronesia@yahoo.com **Phone#** 254-206-1639 **Website:** McCluresMicronesia.com