

The Joshua McClure Family

THIRD GENERATION BAPTIST MISSIONARIES TO THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Prayer Letter
Sept. - Oct.
2023

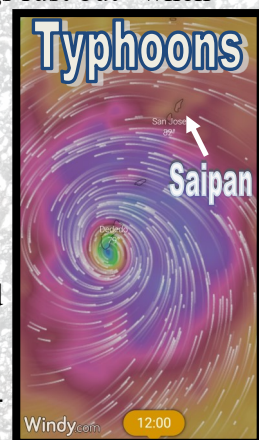


Dear Pastor & Church Family,

Rust, pests, and maintenance. There are many who when they hear that I am a missionary on a tropical island they retort, "You're really suffering for the Lord serving there?!" While it is true that we are serving the Lord on a tropical island with the Pacific Ocean all around, where we can go swimming and fishing any day of the year; it is also true that there are many not so positive or ideal things that are rarely considered. Because we live on a small island, about 5 miles wide by 12 miles long, we get to enjoy the very salty air which means it is not a matter of "if" things rust but "when" they rust. Even things like aluminum, copper and brass corrode in this environment. We generally experience around 90% humidity year-round which makes our 80° - 90° temperatures feel like 100+°. We do not have snow or freezing weather but we do have tropical storms and super typhoons with sustained winds of sometimes over 180mph, like Mawar which just missed us and hit Guam back in May or the close call we had recently with typhoon Bolaven. In addition to the weather, we also have the most ideal climate for bugs and pests. We try to curb this by fumigating and spraying for bugs every 3-4 months year-round.



In spite of this, once every 4-6 months we have termite swarms that literally come out of the wood work. If you have wood in your home, it is not a matter of "if" but "when" it will get termites. Though expensive, treated woods and poison merely prolong the inevitable. Furthermore, mosquitos and ants are particularly annoying because they bite and leave welts. Our fire ants like to get into our outlets and switches and chew on things which shorts out the electrical making it necessary to replace the receptacles. It is a year round struggle but we pray for wisdom and do what we can to help control and avoid future expenses (i.e. use cement instead of wood). Over the last 3 years we have slowly worked on gutting, repairing, and replacing wood with metal studs and cement board in 19 rooms.



Every place has its pros and cons but every Christian should find the beauty in the place the Lord has them serving. I do live & serve in a beautiful place and though there are difficulties, I am not complaining. Sadly, human nature is rarely if ever content with our lot in life but, as children of God, we all must learn to be content and remember that we are His stewards of His stuff and when we serve cheerfully He blesses.

Please pray for the following needs and we will anticipate the Lord's provision. Our church van, a 2007 Toyota Sienna, has been serving the church faithfully for the majority of the last 6 years, but now it has



finally bit the dust and the engine is unrepairable. One church has already donated \$4000.00 to help us get an engine or put towards a newer van. As of yet I have not found an engine. If it is the Lord's will, I am praying that we will be able to get a newer 8 passenger or larger van; however, most vehicles that are 2013 or newer are around \$16,000-\$20,000 and up. We do not want to go into debt so we will wait for the Lord's provision. Also pray for our auditorium as the ceiling is full of termites and may collapse soon; therefore, it is needing replaced which will require supplies, laborers, and finances.

Happy Thanksgiving! We have made an update video that is on our website and our YouTube channel. Please feel free to look it up at mccluresmicronesia.com or <https://youtu.be/j7prx9lFIxw>. Once again we thank you for all your faithful prayers and support as it is making a difference out here.

Joyfully Serving,
Joshua McClure & Family

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