

MEDICAL MISSION TAKES OFF AGAIN

Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic visits Palau and Rota

BY ELENA TANEVA

Now that all the islands in the Guam-Micronesia Mission region have reopened to visitors, they are also welcoming back medical missionaries. Before the pandemic, the last mission trip by a medical team of the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic was in November 2019. At that time they traveled to Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia to provide primary care.

The return to missions began in November 2022 when the clinic's eye-care team went to the Republic of Palau, followed by a medical and dental trip to Rota in the U.S. territory of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) in January 2023.

Shipwrecks and Health Recovery

The trips included various missionary activities. During the trip to Palau, I was asked to conduct a weeklong evening seminar addressing topics relevant to the Palauan population's health needs. During the seminar, entitled "Shipwrecks and Health Recovery: Are We Wrecking Our Health or Are We Rebuilding Our Ships?" we navigated through health topics using the stories of prominent Palauan shipwrecks and what led to their destiny. The famous Jake Seaplane wreck, for example, occurred because the seaplane's engine stopped prematurely. We were able to compare this to one's health. If a person does not take care

All photos provided by Elena Taneva



Dr. Jeffrey Ing, part of a medical team of the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, examines a patient's eyes during a recent medical mission trip to Palau.



Elena Taneva, nurse practitioner, presents at a nightly series at Palau's Koror Seventh-day Adventist Church during a recent mission trip as part of a medical team from the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic.

of their heart, they can experience premature heart failure.

We were able to take the comparisons and lessons even further. The same applies to the spiritual life. The steering wheel of the famous *Teshio Maru* fleet oiler of the Imperial Japanese Navy was damaged during the Desacre 1 World War II attack, and the ship was made unnavigable. It was taken by the currents until crushed by the Rael Edeng Reef. It is vital to place the steering wheel in the hands of the Master Captain of our life and relinquish control to enjoy good spiritual health.

Medical Treatment and Health Tips

Much-needed health care was provided on the mission trips. In Palau the eye team performed numerous eye surgeries. In Rota dental treatment and medical checkups were provided. Patients were equipped to improve their health through health screening for blood sugar and blood pressure, along with medical, nutritional, and lifestyle consultations.

The trip to Rota was especially encouraging to the two Adventist

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church members on the island, as the team helped support them in reaching people with the gospel. The goal was to invite patients from the dental and medical clinics to the evening health and evangelistic presentations.

The team visited the primary school, and the sophomore, junior, and senior classes at the Sinapalo and Songsong schools to teach the NEWSTART health principles. The medical team also visited a senior center. There, the visitors played a "Health Bingo" game, in which, instead of numbers, the names of illnesses and health tips were called out. Everyone seemed to enjoy it!

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went looking for those who would benefit from our services. We even reached out to the Muslim population in Rota.

One strategy we implemented was to take some dog food with us. We were warned not to walk along the streets since the dogs could be quite vicious, but this did not deter our team. We fed many dogs, allowing us to go door to door to help their owners with health care.

With the success of these recent trips, the clinic looks forward to continuing the ministry of healing with trips to the islands of Saipan and Tinian this spring.

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The medical and pastoral team visiting Rota during a recent mission trip organized by the Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic.



Medical team members provide health consultations to members of the community.