

# Joshua D. McClure

## MY TESTIMONY



“Ya, Right... Whatever, I just want to be a normal kid and have fun.”

Hello, my name is Joshua David McClure and this is what I thought as a child under the age of 13. “Why?” You may ask? Well, because my parents were missionaries and as a missionary kid, I traveled around with them as they would visit church across the United States. Most of the time when I was standing beside my parents, who were displaying the country God called them to, people would look to me and say, “If you give your life to God, He can do great things with you and everything will be all right.” Then they would proceed to tell me how great it was to have parents like mine. It seemed that I had heard this kind of encouraging phrase hundreds of times. It became monotonous. You see as a 13 year old boy being a missionary kid was my life I didn’t really have a choice in the matter. Yes, it was fun traveling, meeting new people and getting days off of school but I hated always saying, “Good Bye” to everyone that I met. I was home schooled so I did not have many friends and because we traveled so much our car was our home. I thought to myself, “I don’t want to be like my parents when I grow up I just want to be like every other kid and have fun.” But as I matured through my teens all this changed and I learned that they were following God and his way truly is best. Now I am 28, a third generation missionary and extremely grateful for faithful, God fearing and loving parents that helped me understand the purpose for life. But wait a minute; I am getting ahead of myself.

My story of finding God’s purpose for my life started before I was born with my Grandpa, David McClure, who faithful taught my dad, Terrence McClure, who faithful led his family of five. By the time I arrived in this world several things had already happened to my parents. My Dad and my mom, Terrence and Gloria McClure, already had two other sons, Andrew and Anthony. My family had already spent several years serving on the mission field of Saipan with my grandparents David and Dorothy McClure, before moving back to the States. They were approved as missionaries with the World Baptist Fellowship in 1988 the same year I was born and God called them to the Caribbean island of Jamaica. In 1990, at the age of 2, my family moved to the mission field of Jamaica where we lived and served for the next ten years. But in 1995, the most important even in my life happened. The church my dad started, Hopewell Independent Baptist Church, had the privilege of hosting a mission team that came to Jamaica to help with a Vacation Bible School. It was during one of these nights that I remember feeling convicted to accept the invitation that they had given to get saved. That night I went forward and my dad explained to me salvation, as he had done many times before, but I seemed to understand it now. He explained how God created everything and made rules, I had broken some of those rules, like lying and disobeying and this was sin. Now because of my sin I had to be punished. The punishment for sin was death and separation from God and His home, Heaven. I knew that I did not want to be separated from someone who loved me so much that He gave His Son to die for me, and I most certainly did not want to go to Hell. So, that night I believed in my heart and confessed with my mouth that Jesus is Lord and repenting I received God’s free gift of eternal life and forgiveness.

The next 5 years saw some growth but mostly I was just being a kid living from day to day and doing what my parents said. On furlough, I was baptized into the Bible Baptist Church, which was my parent’s sending church in Slaton, Texas, pastored by Chris Downer. Then, in the year 2000, the Lord shut the door in Jamaica for our family and opened the door to a small pacific island called Palau.



On December 5, 2001, we arrived on the new mission field of the Republic of Palau. My dad started the first and only Baptist Church in the whole country. After a couple of years, when I was 15, our pastor, my dad, challenged our youth group to see if we were paying attention to God and living our lives with purpose. It was from those challenges that I realized that I needed to pay more attention to what God's will was for me. At the same time I started making God's right and wrong my right and wrong for up until this point, I was just following my parents. Furthering my growth I began apply things like tithing and soul winning which are important for all Christians to do but now I was being genuine from my heart. In 2007, at the age of 19 and before graduating high school, I began to struggle with the future and what was my place in the world. Most teens before graduation or shortly thereafter, have the same lingering question that they try to answer all through life. Yet, even still most adults struggle with this question even in their older years. What is the purpose of life? I found that the Creator of Heaven, Earth and everything in them gave us the answer to this question in Revelation 4:11. *"Thou art worthy, O Lord, to receive glory and honour and power: for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created."* The answer: I was created to please God, which led me to this question. How can I please him? I already knew the Lord was calling me to preach and to serve Him full time like my parents because I had a longing for it and I couldn't see myself doing anything else. So, after many hours of thoughtful consideration for the future and its possibilities, I stepped out on faith to follow God's will for my life. In addition, I got God's very clear answers to my prayers to serve Him as a missionary; therefore, during my senior year in high school, I entered Bible College, doubled my classes and began to use what I was being taught in our local church underneath my dad. I started song leading and playing instruments but then later also leading our church choir, preaching and giving home Bible Studies. I pursued this direction with all my heart and soul; consequently, I had peace and joy that did not come from circumstances but from the Lord and this too assured me that I was on the right path. I didn't need to look to the world or follow the media to obtain success or fulfillment because I knew I was fulfilling my life purpose and there is now greater feeling or accomplishment.

In 2011, God opened the door for my parents to return to the States on a long overdue furlough; while at the same time as God directed Andrew and I to stay and continue the work. We were like Titus and Timothy whom Paul had left to watch over a particular work and help it grow. For the next 2 years, I saw God open hearts, answer prayers, save souls, bless lives and lead me in ways which I pray every Christian may experience for it is truly amazing. God is always good and I am thankful that he has been training me and providing opportunities for me to serve Him.

Finally, on January 30, 2015 the Lord moved me to the CNMI to assist in the ministry under my grandpa and I began working with First Baptist Church as the Youth Director, Choir Conductor and Assistant Preacher. This relationship and team work that I have had with both my parents and grandparents is priceless and our family is truly blessed beyond compare to be able to carry out our Heavenly Father's business.

I am a 3<sup>rd</sup> generation Baptist Missionary now serving in Micronesia, CNMI. I know God's purpose for my life and that he has called me to help others see his purpose for their lives through the Gospel. I am going to keep serving the Lord with all of my heart and soul and there is nothing else I would rather be doing for the rewards are both figuratively and literally out of this world. Please pray for me as I follow God's will and continue the work in Micronesia.

A Fellow Laborer for Christ,

Joshua D. McClure

Mailing Address: PO Box 506399 Saipan MP. 96950 Phone# 670-789-0022

Email: JoshuaMicronesia@yahoo.com