

History of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in Guam



Members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints have been in Guam since the 1940s. The first Church members probably came to Guam as part of the armed forces during World War II. Four small congregations from 50 to 300 servicemen were organized in 1945. On one occasion, they dedicated the graves of fallen Church servicemen.

In 1951 fundraising events by Church members raised enough money to purchase land and two Quonset huts, which they used for a chapel and classrooms. The facilities were dedicated in 1953 and the Guam congregation became part of the Oahu Hawaii Stake (like a diocese).

Missionaries arrived in August 1957. As members increased, land for another meetinghouse was purchased. A new meetinghouse in Barrigada was dedicated on March 10, 1970. In May 1976 the Guam congregation was divided.

The first Chamorro couple to join the Church, Don Calvo and his wife, Maria, were baptized in May 1977. The Agat congregation was created in 1978. And in 1979 Herbert J. Leddy, the first missionary of Chamorro lineage, was called to the Tennessee Nashville Mission in the United States of America.

The Micronesia Guam Mission was created April 1, 1980, and the following June, the Guam District was created with four congregations.

In 1989 selections of the Book of Mormon: Another Testament of Jesus Christ were translated into Chamorro, and Herbert J. Leddy became the first Chamorro member to be called as district president. Church membership in 1995 was 1,400. Today there are over 2,500 members of the Church in Guam.

In the Church's October 2018 general conference, President Russell M. Nelson announced that a temple would be built in Yigo, Guam. Elder Yoon Hwan Choi, president of the Asia North Area for the Church, subsequently presided over the May 4, 2019, groundbreaking and dedication of the Yigo Guam Temple site. In total the temple will serve 9,600 members of the Church in Guam and the islands of Micronesia.

