



# United Research World Prayer Focus

November 2000 - Guam

*submitted by Allison Waugh*

Hafa Adai!

I was guided in prayer to focus our attention on Guam for the month of November. I must admit that I was completely startled by this revelation, as I was not familiar with Guam, even its geographical location, although I was aware it was an island. After some research, I came to realize that Guam is not unlike any other country in its needs: economic, political, educational, medical, social, etc

As Lightworkers, it is our job to dedicate our healing energies to everyone, and everything, regardless of the perceived value and importance. So join with me this month focusing on this beautiful gem that is steeped in culture that lies in the western North Pacific between Japan and Indonesia.

Guam is an unincorporated territory of the United States, largest and southernmost of the Mariana Islands.

Guam is one of the principal U.S. defense fortifications in the western Pacific Ocean and is the site of extensive naval, army, and air force installations.

In 1990, the population of Guam was 133,152, including military personnel and dependents. The indigenous Guamanians, or Chamorro, constitute less than half the total population. The Chamorro are of mixed ancestral heritage but are basically Micronesian in origin and speak their own language, Chamorro. English is the official language and is taught in the schools.



Executive power is vested in a governor, who is popularly elected to a four-year term. Legislative authority is vested in a unicameral legislature, consisting of 15 popularly elected members. Guam sends one nonvoting delegate to the United States House of Representatives. The island was probably visited in 1521 by the Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan, who, sailing for Spain, claimed it for that country. It was formally annexed by Spain in 1565. In 1898, by the terms of the Treaty of Paris at the end of the Spanish-American War, the island was ceded by Spain to the United

States. The Japanese captured Guam in December 1941, during World War II (1939-1945). It was retaken by American forces between July 20 and August 10, 1944. In 1950 U.S. citizenship was conferred on the people of Guam. The island was devastated in August 1992 by Typhoon Omar. Winds of up to 240 km/h (about

150 mph) damaged 75 to 90 percent of the island's buildings.

Following are some of the current issues facing the people of Guam:

Nursing shortage

Teacher shortage

Brown tree snake infestation

Threat of tropical storms, cyclones, typhoons and earthquakes

Clean-up and destruction of unexploded World War II ordnances, landmines and munitions

Guam is also the location where the Korean Air Flight 801 from Seoul plowed into a rocky hillside in August 1997, killing 228 passengers.

Additionally, the government in Guam is experiencing some strife. Governor Carl Gutierrez removed the Guam Election Commission board and appointed 7 new members, citing that the old board was too political and inefficient. The Republican Party of Guam along with the Guam Legislature filed suit against the governor challenging the legality of the new board and the governor's authority.

A resolution was then introduced to have the governor recalled from office. The case went to District Court where it was ruled that the governor was wrong. Governor Guterrez then appealed to the Circuit Court of Appeals.

Swat team members have been present at meetings for fear of protests. Luckily, no incidences have occurred.

Currently, discussions are underway to create a temporary election commission. The legislators and the governor are working together in order to reach a compromise.

Let us focus on universal peace and prosperity to Guam and all of the islands of the Pacific, north and south.