



Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, Inc.

Source: Facebook page of Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, Inc.

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Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, Inc. is a medical facility situated in Tamuning, Guam. Opened in 1956, the clinic operates under the supervision of the [Guam-Micronesia Mission](#) of Seventh-day Adventists.¹

Overview

Planning for a small medical clinic on Guam began in the 1950s. The facility opened in 1956 in Agaña Heights, initially staffed by a single physician in a tin-roof structure. The Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic has since developed into a multi-specialty outpatient facility located at 388 Ypao Road, Tamuning, following its relocation in 1966 to a 10-acre (4-hectare) site. The clinic was founded by medical missionary Dr. Raymond Barker, who was joined the following year by Dr. Leslie Smart. The current facility officially opened in 1997. Now known as Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, Inc., it is owned and operated by the Guam-Micronesia Mission of Seventh-day Adventists. The clinic has expanded significantly in both scope and services. As of 2026, it employed more than a dozen physicians and advanced-practice medical providers, including dentists, optometrists, ophthalmologists, and allied health staff. The clinic offers a comprehensive range of services, such as family practice, obstetrics, gynecology, pediatrics, internal medicine, ophthalmology, surgery, preventive medicine, laboratory, X-ray, pharmacy, dentistry, optometry, wellness, physical therapy, and immunization services. Although it does not maintain inpatient beds, the clinic serves over 250 patients daily across all departments, amounting to approximately 80,000 to 90,000 patient visits annually.²

History

In 1953, Dr. R. H. Barker was appointed to establish the Guam Clinic. Unable to secure a suitable facility immediately, Dr. Barker worked full-time at the government hospital while overseeing the construction, furnishing, and supply of the first clinic building.³ The land for the clinic was donated by Ana T. Gay, enabling its opening in 1956 with three examination rooms, a laboratory, and a small waiting area.⁴ Dr. Leslie A. Smart joined the staff the following year, and despite significant religious opposition, the clinic prospered. Mrs. Violet Clark Cruz, the first missionary nurse, contributed to the completion of the medical staff. The Dental Department was established in 1966, with Dr. W. N. Young as the first dentist. The clinic expanded to occupy the adjacent mission office. When further expansion in Agaña Heights was no longer feasible, the clinic acquired a 10-acre (four-hectare) site in Tamuning for future growth.

In 1962, Typhoon Karen, with sustained winds of 175 mph (281.6 kph), devastated Guam and destroyed 90 percent of the island's buildings. During the typhoon, Dr. Walter Thompson, a clinic physician, was the only doctor to remain with patients at the hospital throughout the storm. He delivered two babies and led 30 mothers with infants from the hospital's fourth floor, which was being destroyed, to safety on the first floor. As a result of his actions, there were no injuries or fatalities.⁵ On January 25, 1963, Dr. Thompson received a citation from the Seventh Guam Legislature commending his "courage, calmness, and fortitude" during the storm. The Legislature also expressed appreciation for the Guam SDA Clinic for "providing low cost medical assistance to all in the territory needing the same, without regard for race, color, or creed, all of which is in the highest traditions of the American Missionary Movement."⁶

Between 1966 and 1969, under the leadership of Merritt Crawford, plans were implemented to relocate and construct a new health facility at the current Ypao Road site in Tamuning. Dental services began in 1970, followed by expanded medical services in 1972. The facility was designed to allow for the future addition of a small hospital. To extend its medical missionary work throughout Micronesia, the Guam clinic established a branch dental clinic in Saipan in January 1973, with Steve Fisher, D.D.S., as director. Dr. Fisher led the Saipan clinic for over 16 years, developing it into a modern, fully equipped, and highly successful dental facility.

On March 29, 1978, the Guam clinic established a second branch by transferring Dr. and Mrs. Robert Baker to Palau. Dr. Baker, an optometrist, supervised the construction of the clinic, which initially provided only eye care services.⁷ In 1990, the Palau clinic relocated to a larger facility donated by Mr. Roman Tmetuchl, an Adventist businessperson from Palau. The expanded clinic began offering medical, dental, and eye care services. Dr. David Allen, an internist, was appointed to oversee the construction and serve as the first director.

In 1991 and 1992, the Guam clinic received requests from the governor and legislature of Chuuk to establish a branch medical clinic in Moen, the most populous island of Chuuk state. Plans for this branch were under development as of 1994. On October 25, 1992, the Surgicenter held its grand opening. In 1997, a new Eye Clinic was launched to address the community's vision care needs, and the Guam SDA Clinic also introduced a Physical Therapy and Wellness program. In February 2026, a women's health services branch opened at PeMar Place (472 Chalan San Antonio, Tamuning).

Directors/Administrators/CEOs

R. H. Barker, 1953-1956; L. A. Smart, 1956-1959; R. Gloor, 1959-1962; W. C. Thompson, 1962-1964; T. E. Gibson, 1964-1970; C. A. Renschler, 1970-1972; A. W. Olson, 1972-1976; J. S. Shank, 1976-1978; Y. P. Aoyagi, 1978-1982; E. B. Holm, 1982-1987; L. K. Hanson, 1987-1988; C. J. Rick, 1988-1991; S. W. Hilderbrand, 1991-1992; B. A. Geslani, 1992; Marson M. Eaton, 1992-1997; Donald Weidemann, 1998-2001; Michael Mahoney, 2002-2004; Frances Mantanona, 2005-2010; Koklian Lim, 2011-2013; Theodore M. Lewis 2014-2015; Victor R. Shepherd Pottinger (acting), 2016; Victor R. Shepherd, 2017-present.

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NOTES

1. "Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, Inc.," *Seventh-day Adventist Yearbook* (2026), <https://www.adventistyearbook.org/entity?EntityID=13264>.
2. "Services," Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic's website, <https://www.adventistclinic.com/>; "Milestones," Guam Seventh-day Adventist Clinic, 2013, <http://adventistclinic.squarespace.com/milestones/>.
3. V. T. Armstrong, "Far Eastern Island Mission," *ARH*, February 25, 1954, 20.
4. "Far Eastern Division," *In Brief*, *ARH*, December 24, 1959, 26.
5. G. A. Haas, "Typhoon Karen Strikes Guam," *ARH*, December 27, 1962, 16-17.
6. G. A. Haas, "Medical Hero Honored by Guam Legislature," *ARH*, May 9, 1963, 16-17.
7. "Far Eastern Division," *News Notes*, *ARH*, October 5, 1978, 28.

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