

Dear supporting friends,

It is with a sense of anticipation mixed with a bit of disbelief and sadness that we write this letter confirming the date of our retirement from Global Strategy as September 30, 2022, which includes three months of transition beginning June 30. How is it even possible that 37 years have flown by since we accepted the call to ministry in Micronesia? And yet here we are!

So what does this date for retirement mean? It means that we will step away from full-time service with Global Strategy but remain in Micronesia and enter a two-year period of semi-retirement. We are prayerfully hopeful that there will be servants called by God to continue ministry on Yap. Gary has agreed to visit quarterly at pertinent times in the school year. On Guam (where we are currently living), he will continue training a young man and his family who have been identified for pastoral leadership for Touchpoint Church of God. This has been 10 years in coming and we are thrilled about God's provision. This couple has Chamorro and Filipino heritage—in other words, they are local, which is a definite plus. And the entire family is passionate about advancing the Kingdom of God. Gary has been offering them the pastoral courses that he has taught other pastors-in-training over the years.

Our hearts' desire is to visit those support churches with whom we have close ties for the purpose of an in-person thank you and time of closure. In light of present ministry commitments, that may be several years down the road; nonetheless, it is definitely in our plans, and Lord willing it will be possible as our son's job as a pilot affords us some flying privileges.

Gwen personally plans to support these ministry endeavors as much as she can while still spending quality time with our children and now seven grandchildren in North America. Semi-retirement will give Gary some flexibility in this area as well.

We want to thank you so much for your faithful and loving support over these many years. Our hearts have been blessed countless times by your generosity, your servanthood, your financial and emotional support, and your consistent prayers, not to mention all of you who have visited Guam and Yap and helped with the construction of various buildings. God has used you to advance his Kingdom in Micronesia; we are ever so grateful! Know that our memories will always include (with fondness) the wonderful ministry of you, our support churches. As we move into semi-retirement, please remember us in your prayers as God brings us to mind.

Feel free to contact us at any time with your own updates or any questions. May God's Spirit continue to minister to and through you and unite us all in continued pursuit of advancing his Kingdom in this troubled world.

With love and gratefulness,

Gary & Gwen Bistritan