

Retirement thanks Letter to Supporters.

Our Dear supporting churches and supporting friends,

Since 1997, we have served in Asia with ReachGlobal. Most of you have been on our support team for these past twenty three years. Twenty three years is a long time to support a missionary! We praise the Lord for all of you who believe and love the Lord Jesus Christ. Thanks for strongly believing that the Gospel must reach all people. Thanks for believing in us and supporting us through prayer, encouragement and finances to reach Muslims for Christ in Southeast Asia. We are also deeply grateful and thankful to the Lord for sustaining our physical bodies and souls and spirits so that we can be involved in this ministry for these past twenty three years. Thank you for partnership in the Gospel all these years!

At the end of this year, 2020, we step down from our leadership role. Andy Krause, Jon and Amy Gudnason, Mary Kahl (for the US side) and Denny Amin, Tony Thompson, Herman Moldez and Chiri Orozco (For Indonesia and Philippines side) have stepped in to lead. We are very grateful to the Lord for all these dear friends who have faithfully served along side us for the past several years and now each of them are taking on some of our responsibilities.

We started with the motto “Lord, help us to rake the leaves in the direction your wind is blowing.” And now as we reflect on our ministry, the Lord made it an easy and enjoyable ministry. Of course, the air travel three times a year, was very hard on our bodies. I (Bala) have travelled back in a wheelchair many times because of lung infection. But our labor in Indonesia and the Philippines was stress free and enjoyable. We had to only identify where and on whom the Spirit Wind was blowing. Once we identified those individuals, the rest of the work was easy and enjoyable. We simply spent time building relationship with those individuals. Today, in partnership with EFCA ReachGlobal, countless house churches in Indonesia and Southern Philippines thrive among the hard-to-reach Muslims.

Humbly I must tell you, our supporters; your support of this ministry opened two new mission doors to EFCA ReachGlobal. The Lord used us together to open doors for ministry in Indonesia in the year 2000 and in Southern Philippines in 2013. **But the work** in both Indonesia and the Philippines have prospered uniquely **through** the ministry of EFCA Short Term team’s relational visits and spiritual retreats; and by the financial support of the national church planters. Thank you for your part in opening and developing these ministry opportunities!

In January 2021, we start a new relationship with ReachGlobal. We become post-retirement staff. By that, both of us will continue in a role as care-givers and advisers with those key people mentioned above, but we will no longer lead and direct the work. We will also not be receiving a salary in this role, but we will still need to raise some ministry expenses (about \$21,000 annually) to make three trips to Indonesia per year. Will you please consider continuing to support us in this new role?

We would also ask you to consider this special request. Would you please consider two other strategic ways you can continue to support the work in Indonesia and the Philippines?

First, would you please prayerfully consider redirecting your support to Mitra Asia in Indonesia, led by Denny Amin? They now have 10 families ministering in Northern Sumatra. However, only four churches currently support this work. I was hoping for Denny Amin to visit the US this year and raise the support for Mitra Asia. But with the Covid 19, that could not happen. We want to see this ministry grow. If you can redirect your support to Mitra Asia, they can add many more church planting families into this partnership. You can annually send teams from your church to minister to these national church planters and conduct retreats for them. Please prayerfully consider doing this. We would be happy to set up a Zoom meeting with you and Denny Amin so that you can learn more about what God is doing through Mitra Asia.

Second, would you also consider redirecting some support to my colleague, Andy Krause? He will take over my leadership role for the work among Muslims across SE Asia. He also carries a plate full of other leadership responsibilities as one of the leaders with the Asia division of ReachGlobal. He has always lacked support. Can you please consider adding him to those you support? Andy would be willing to come and visit or meet with you via Zoom for you to learn more about his role both in SE Asia and across all of Asia.

Thank you, Thank you – for your support and the prayers that follow!

With much gratitude,

Bala and Carol