



June 2019

Dear Friends and Family,

I don't give topics to our prayer letters, but this one I will entitle ***View from the Bridge***.



A picture is worth a thousand words, right? This example of transition was drawn for us during a session at Debrief and Renewal (DAR) after we first returned from Guam and visually encapsulates our current lives for you (and us) rather clearly. We have been uprooted by God from Guam. This happened faster than we anticipated but was a good thing. God was guiding.



This picture of an uprooted plant shows a bit how this feels ;-). Yes, not fun or pleasant. It feels stressful, scratchy (especially when you have boxes filling your living room), emotional. Jesus promises to give us rest and relaxation for our souls. His hands are gentle and through TWR's graciousness He has made a less stressful time for us than we initially anticipated. We are grateful.

***Currently, life is on the bridge.*** The emotions of leaving Guam are calming down. Current affairs are being addressed such as dental, medical and those boxes I mentioned! We have been able to see some of the family, which was very important to me after both my parents now being with the Lord. We participated in our Florida church's missions conference. The timing of our return worked out well for that. Our Pepper, our sweet Golden Retriever, was a star with the Children's Church as Pepper the Missionary Dog:-). Most recently, we were able to visit here in Florida with Dick and Olivia Richards, the man who led Jim to the Lord while Jim was in prison on Guam awaiting sentencing in 1987. It was a joy to see them and catch up.

As I write you I am battling the flu and pink eye, Jim is on antibiotics for a nasty sinus infection and poor Pepper just had surgery for torn tendons in her left knee. ***The view from the bridge has included sickness.*** But, it has also included joy and regular reminders of God's unfailing love, guidance and care. Some ***views from the bridge remain a bit foggy yet, such as our departure date for Cyprus.*** We are getting more anxious to be replanted, but there are still things here to attend to before the end of the bridge. One is necessary funding in our ministry funds for a vehicle.

Praise the Lord! Our transfer fund has been met. Thank you!! Our gracious God has met our need in this fund through you! Each gift is deeply appreciated. *We are still in need of ministry funds* before we leave, however. These funds will enable us to purchase a vehicle and various other necessary items when we arrive on Cyprus. And . . . it's back to driving on the left side of the road again, yikes! That is not something I am looking forward to. But, we need a vehicle. ***Would you please pray with us and consider whether you can give to this need?*** If you do, please mark clearly for **Avella Ministry Fund**, thank you! Even if you cannot give, ***please pray*** with us for God's provision for this need.



**We are not yet replanted.** We are anticipating replanting more now than when we returned from Guam. God is settling our hearts and we look forward to sharing the Gospel through media to the CAMENA (Central Asia Middle East and North Africa) regions of the world. At first we were on a mission to get there quickly, which felt stressful. But the Lord has extended our time here in the US, and we are grateful. We anticipate now a July/August departure. We have learned through the years that God's timing is always right, often seen in hindsight.

I have been thinking about how God uses tiny and insignificant places (to the majority of the world, anyway) to share His hope with the nations. Think of Guam, can you find it on the map easily? Or, how about Bonaire? Many don't know where Cyprus is. I only know because I grew up in that part of the world. Yet, ***millions hear the Gospel via TWR in their heart language because of God using seemingly insignificant places for His glory.*** Oh, and people too! We are insignificant by the world's standards. Yet like you, we are valued by the King because of His blood shed for us. Praise Him for His great love and grace!

Thank you for your love and partnership with us! I wish I could get more to personal notes. Please forgive me. You are in our hearts and prayers. Learning more of God's love and grace, we send our love in Christ,

*Karen, for both of us*

Jim and Karen Avella . . . and Pepper



*Sweet Pep, recovering. She has to wear the Cone of Shame for about 10 days :-)*