

Carol Witthun's Guam Chronicle – December 2020 Edition

Hafa Adai from Guam!

Welcome to the “Christmas edition” of Carol’s prayer letter. Have you ever heard these phrases before?

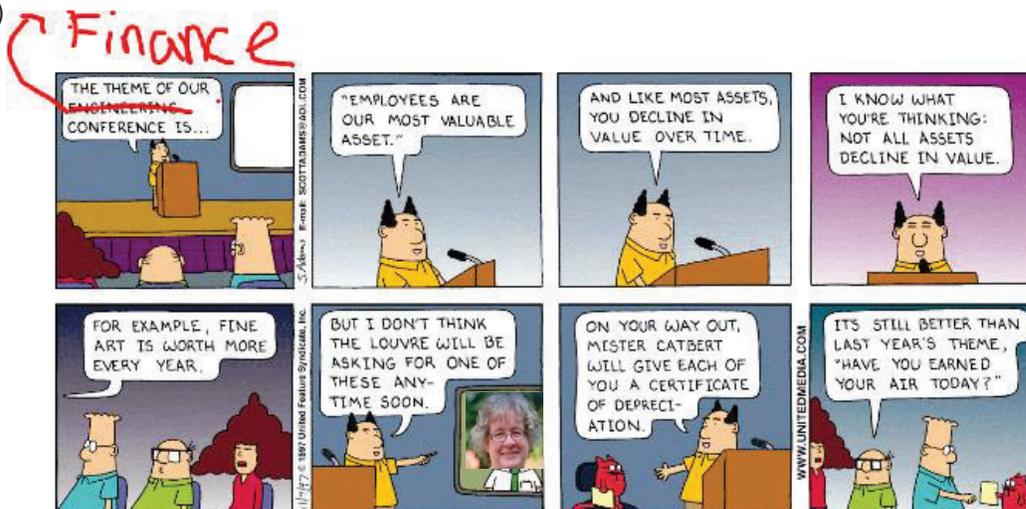
- Selamat Natal (Indonesian)
- Meri Kurisumasu (Japanese)
- Maligayang Pasko (Tagalog)
- Rik-reay Bon Noel (Khmer/Cambodia)
- Sheng dan Kuai Le (Mandarin)
- Seng dan Fai Lok (Cantonese)



These are ways of saying “Merry Christmas” in languages of Asia that KTWR broadcasts to from Guam. I pray that you will have a very special Christmas with family and friends this year.

In mid-August, COVID-19 had a strong resurgence on Guam. As of mid-November, Guam has had over 6200 cases since the virus first “arrived” back in mid-March (approximately 5800 new cases since mid-August). Over 100 lives have been lost to the virus, 95+ since mid-August. That may not seem a lot to you, but the population in Guam is approximately 168,775 people. So, in some respects, it is a bit alarming. Facemasks, extra cleaning around the office, logging in any visitors (including FedEx drivers) to our transmitter site have become the norm. Social gathering has been limited to five people which meant I celebrated Thanksgiving alone. I have been able to worship Sunday morning at my church, but with a reduced capacity at our building (temperature checks and hand sanitation required). We started up Sunday school classes in October (by Skype or Zoom). I have been teaching grades 6-9 via Zoom. We are currently studying the Apostle’s Creed.

Since we were not able to meet in person this year for our annual Global Finance Team conference, we had our meetings via Zoom the second week of November. The challenge for me was to stay awake because I was participating between the hours of 10 pm - 3 am Guam time (the joys of having global meetings with participants from all the continents). Joining the meetings with a live video screen prevented me from falling asleep in front of my monitor unlike my kitty friend to the right. Although it was great to see my colleagues from Europe, Africa, Asia, and the States via video, it was not quite the same as meeting in person. (I missed having those one-on-one discussions over a meal.) I also gave a presentation to the team about fixed assets. Hopefully, I was coherent at that late hour. Those of you who have any accounting background may appreciate the humor in the cartoon I presented at the start of my talk about fixed assets (see below)





Here is a great screenshot of my TWR finance colleagues who participated in our GFT Zoom conference from Africa, Europe, US, and Asia. Did you find me? (top row, third from left)

Ministry Update

Listeners to our broadcasts send letters/emails from places like Australia, Japan, China, India, The Philippines, and Vietnam – countries you would expect. But we also hear from listeners in countries like Germany, Brazil, The Netherlands and Spain. It is amazing how the signal bounces around the world. We recently received a letter from someone who has been listening to our programs since the first week Guam began broadcasting, September 1977. Here are some comments we have recently received from listeners:

From Japan:

“Thank you for giving us a great message and gospel song tonight. Thanks for the DRM broadcast. Great program tonight. I’ve learned that we have to read the Bible. We have to read it differently now. I realized that I’ve been reading the Bible, but just to flush it out. I’ve learned that from now on I have to read the Bible like I’m looking for natural resource items in it, and I’ve learned that God asks us to do it. I give thanks to the engineers, all the staff and brethren who are involved in delivering this program.”

From Germany:

“Thank you for the great message of Bryan Chapell (Program: *Unlimited Grace*) in the program today about family life. Everybody wants a happy family and there were some great advices. Concerning the message of today, I want God to be part of my family life, that is the best that could happen.”

Prayer Items

- Continued good health of our TWR team
- Guam’s broadcasts into Asia – that they would be a source of encouragement and help to listeners
- More sponsored programs to be aired from Guam so more people can hear the gospel in their heart language
- Home Ministry Assignment (formerly known as furlough) planning. I was originally to come to the States this past August, but it was postponed due to COVID-19. The hope is that I will be able to go to the States around May 2021. Specific requests for that trip are: housing and transportation in the US (NC & New England) and someone to cover my finance responsibilities while I’m away from Guam.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2021!

Carol Witthun 😊

Carol Witthun, P.O. Box 6095, Merizo, GU 96916