



Dear friends,

The theme of this letter to all of you, our family, friends, and ministry partners is “Change”. Even writing to you in January is a change. We cannot get away from change. It is an ongoing progress from birth to death. When we think back to January 1987, the year we came to Costa Rica, and fast forward to January 2025, there have been a whole lot of changes.



JANUARY 1987	JANUARY 2025
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 25-year-old newbies• 1 daughter □ Amber Joy• No thoughts towards grandkids• Zero experience: “Can we do this?”• One small Bible Study• Very young but energetic	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 63-year-old fossils• 9 children, graduated & married• 20 grandchildren and counting• 39th year of ministry in Costa Rica• 1 School, 2 church plants, 2 foreign grace ministries• Old yet full of purpose & direction

That is a whole lot of change! And the time has flown by!



So, what is the next big change in our life and our future? We are not yet worthless and certainly not fossilized. At the age of 63, we still have a lot to give (especially Joy).



And yet we feel it is time for a change. No, not to retire. There is still much ministry and service to do and invest in. We are looking at a change in our roles. A change of our influence and service to God and to others. A change of scenery.

What are we alluding to? In 2025, we will be stepping down as missionaries with Grace Ministries International and leaving Costa Rica for eight months to serve as interim pastor at Preakness Bible Church in New Jersey. Why are we leaving Costa Rica? In our absence, we hope to encourage the ministry leadership in Costa Rica to better fulfill their roles and develop their own vision for the future without our influence. The church in Costa Rica is strong but we believe it is time for more independence from us and greater dependence on God. After eight months in the US, we will return to Costa Rica, not as missionaries, but as lay leaders ready to serve their needs for four months.

We want to thank each one of you for being such an integral part of the ministry here in Costa Rica throughout the years! We are so very grateful to all of you! Without you, we could not have ministered in Costa Rica for the past thirty-eight years. Thank You!

Our final month of missionary work in Costa Rica will be March 2025. Please continue to pray for us during this time of transition and for our Costa Rican church family as they respond to this change.

Thank you for your faithful generosity to our family and the ministries of Costa Rica throughout the years!

Chuck and Joy Befus

SO VERY
thankful
FOR YOU



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