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23 YEARS OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS

Ken Seyfert, CEO and President of Grace Brethren Investment Foundation (GBIF), has announced his retirement in May of 2020. It was during 1996 that Ed Lewis (President Emeritus of CE National) encouraged Ken Seyfert to consider applying for the GBIF Director position. After much prayer and consideration, Ken and his wife, Donna, and two children, Tara and Troy, decided to move from Myerstown PA during the summer of 1997. "That was a huge leap of faith for us," says Ken, "but we felt like God was in it from the beginning and that He had equipped me with lending, investment, and ministry experience needed in the role."

A lot has happened in those 23 years, but Ken always credits God for faithfulness and protection over GBIF. During that period GBIF's total assets have increased over 150% and income is up 44%, while equity has nearly tripled. Additionally, GBIF has loaned close to 150 million dollars to churches and organizations in order to help them fulfill the vision God has given them. Also, millions of dollars have been reinvested back into the Charis Fellowship in the form of goodwill contributions for leadership development and church planting. "It's the Lord's work," says Ken. "As much as we would like to think we can take credit for it, it really is His doing. And it's not that we haven't had our share of challenges," says Ken. "The 2008 Great Recession seemed to take everyone by surprise. Our churches and ministries came through that fragile time stronger than ever. Again, I see that as the hand of the Lord protecting us."

Ken would also credit the season of ministry in our Fellowship as another contributor towards any positive results. "We've seen many churches within our Fellowship take risks for the gospel and the Lord has blessed. From my vantage point, this has been an exciting period of ministry and church growth for many of our churches," says Ken. "It's been a blessing to watch this unfold and if GBIF even played a small role in the outcome, then I'm grateful how God has chosen to use us!"

Most importantly, Ken realizes that the lasting results of church buildings are the people. "I can be brought to tears when I'm at a church and I see hundreds of children and young families. It has been an honor to be part of a movement in communities across the USA impacting thousands for Christ."

When asked about his future plans, Ken responds, "I still plan on being involved in ministry. I will continue to oversee the Fellowship's Retirement Plan. I will also spend more time with Donna and the kids, and grandkids. And I'm sure that God will fill in the blanks with volunteering and other ministry opportunities." Please join us in wishing Ken all the best in his retirement [you can send a note to Ken at kseyfert@gbif.com].





MINISTRY CONTRIBUTIONS UPDATE

Grace Brethren Investment Foundation continues its longstanding track record of contributions to numerous ministries within the Charis Fellowship. With a successful audit recently completed and 2019 year-end results finalized, the Board has approved goodwill contributions totaling \$791,957. The majority of these contributions are given to ministries that focus on church planting and leadership development within our Fellowship.

OUR DESIRE IS THAT THESE CONTRIBUTIONS ENCOURAGE MINISTRY

27 YEARS OF DEDICATION

After 27 years of dedicated service and ministry at Grace Brethren Investment Foundation (GBIF), Susanne Kessler, Business Manager, is setting her sights on a well-deserved retirement and spending more time with her recently retired husband, 'Coach' Jim Kessler and their family, including 14 grandchildren.

Susanne began her ministry at GBIF in February of 1993 as Administrative Assistant to the Director, Jim Johnson. She also handled much of the legal information and administration for the loan department. When Ken Seyfert became the Director in 1997, Susanne was given the title 'Business Manager' and she maintained this role throughout the remainder of her career, adapting to different responsibilities as various technology advances changed processes.

"When I was hired, we were still using passbooks and a ledger card system to process loan transactions," says Susanne. "A lot has changed since then." During her time at GBIF, Susanne was instrumental in transitioning through at least three software upgrades, and she also moved the loan department from a file drawer filing system to a cloud based archival system. The entire organization benefited from Susanne's commitment to excellence. Her organizational skills, commitment to integrity, attention to detail, consistency and faithfulness were always apparent as she was integral to the loan processing function.

All of us here will miss Susanne and will not forget her contributions to the team at GBIF. Please join us in wishing Susanne all the best in her retirement [you can send a note to Susanne at skessler@gbif.com]. As Susanne embarks on retirement, the staff at GBIF wishes to commend her for a stellar career and finishing strong.

"We are thrilled to share generously and re-invest our earnings into ministries strengthening the Fellowship," says Ken Seyfert, President and CEO. "Our desire is that these contributions encourage ministry throughout the Charis Fellowship."



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