

The Baran Family

MISSIONARIES TO CEBU, PHILIPPINES



BIRTHDAYS:

Chris~2/14 Elizabeth~9/28

Abigail~6/8/2011

Micah~1/20/2013

Philip~1/8/2018

Moriah~10/27/21

ANNIVERSARY:

November 28, 2009

CONTACT INFORMATION:

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www.fbbc.com/chrisbaran

FIELD ADDRESS :

P.O. Box 394

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Cebu City, Philippines 6000

PHONE NUMBER :

(716)240-0824

SENDING CHURCH:

Faith Bible Baptist Church

8688 S Main St.

Eden, NY 14057

www.fbbc.com

(716)992-2091

Pastor Art Kohl

SUPPORT ADDRESS:

Word for the World

Baptist Ministries

PO Box 849

Rossville, GA 30741

www.wftwbm.org

(706)866-8826



Dear Pastor & Church Family,

As you know we've been praying and seeking the Lord for direction regarding the next step in our ministry. We thought we knew what that was but then God closed doors. Covid shut everything down, we couldn't even travel to Bohol. So we waited and prayed again. We prayed for a flaming arrow; direction that would obviously be from the Lord. And then it came, quite unexpectedly. ***My Pastor asked me if I would consider being the next pastor of our beloved home church.*** Wow! What an honor but at the same time I had no intention to leave the Philippines. Elizabeth and I had built a life in Cebu, we even purchased burial plots. We had every intention of living and dying in the Philippines...*but I could not deny that this might be from the Lord.* I needed to take time to see if God was in this. I felt like I couldn't make that decision from the Philippines so we decided to take a furlough. Also, Elizabeth was pregnant and strict Covid laws made it difficult to have the baby there. *The timing was right in many ways so we decided to step through the open door.* After getting to the US, our purpose was to settle in our home church and wait for the Lord to confirm this was His will. Our pastor was so kind to pray with us and patiently wait for the answer. To be honest, I did not want to be in the US because of the spiritual dearth here. Then, during a missions conference, one of the missionaries preached a powerful message on Jonah. An unlikely man going to an unwanted people. I felt like I related a little bit and God smote my heart. *So instead of buying a plane ticket back to the Philippines I surrendered again to God's calling.* I saw the burden for our country. In the few churches I visited, four of them needed a pastor. I knew God was showing me the need, again confirming His call. ***So it is with sadness and great anticipation we are resigning as missionaries to the Philippines.*** *With all our heart, we want to thank every single one of you for your support these last ten years.* Fruit has been added to your account and will continue to be added in the years to come. Please pray for us as we transition to life in the USA and our new ministry at Faith Bible Baptist Church in Eden, New York. Also enclosed is a letter from Pastor Kohl, we ask if you would take time to read that too.

We want to thank everyone who has expressed their desire to help the churches that were hit by Typhoon Odette. After the storm, Pastor Elbern and North Cebu Baptist Church, bought metal sheets to repair roofs and wood to rebuild homes. They have delivered clean drinking water and food to families who had none. Pastor Rackson has done the same in Bohol. If you still want to send relief you can send it anytime between now and February. By March our account with Word for the World will be closed. I will write one last prayer letter with an update on the relief effort in the Philippines next month. If you have any questions regarding any of this, please call my US number: (716) 946-5206. ***We humbly ask that you would please consider supporting us until February as we transition.*** Thanks again for your faithful support!

We are His and He is Ours,

Chris Baran

Chris, Elizabeth, Abigail, Micah, Philip & Moriah Baran
(Psalm 28:7; Psalm 37:4-5)

"Delight thyself also in the LORD; and he shall give thee the desires of thine heart. Commit thy way unto the LORD; trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." Psalm 37:4-5

Faith Bible Baptist Church



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01/07/22

Dear Pastors and Churches who support Missionary Chris Baran,

As you have read by now, doors are currently closed for Brother Chris to minister in Cebu and it became impossible for him to get to the church plant in Bohol.

For years I have prayed for my replacement as the Pastor of FBBC, Eden. Pastor Chris Baran came into my mind, but he was a missionary. With the severe Covid restrictions in the Philippines I asked Chris to come back to the states with his family for their emotional and mental well being. I also asked him to pray about the future.

They got back in July of 2021. It was just in time, as Elizabeth had their baby in October—their 4th child. In the mean time I began to develop health problems requiring medication that affects my energy levels. Energy is important as we have started 4 churches and its hard enough to keep one church healthy! Fortunately over the last 38 years God has given us a lot of good help. Although my spiritual strength is good, my physical energy is running out of gas.

After consideration, prayer, and fasting I asked Chris Baran to take my place. He has agreed to do so. We both believe that this is the perfect will of God. In December Chris came to this conclusion.

The plan is to immediately name Chris as the Associate Pastor of FBBC and install him as the Pastor on June 4, 2023 or earlier. I will have finished 40 years as the Pastor and will continue to serve God through this church as Pastor Emeritus. I am not retiring, I am resigning.

Thank you for supporting Brother Baran and his family. The 10 years on the mission field were very fruitful. I believe he will still have a heart for missions and as our church currently supports 140 missionaries, his influence on the world will be great. He has been a member of our church for 24 years. The people love him, and I love him. I can't tell you how good I feel to hand over to him the ministries. After 40 years of investing my life in them, they will be in good hands.

You have been a blessing to the Lord's work in helping Chris,

Pastor Art Kohl, 716-398-0532