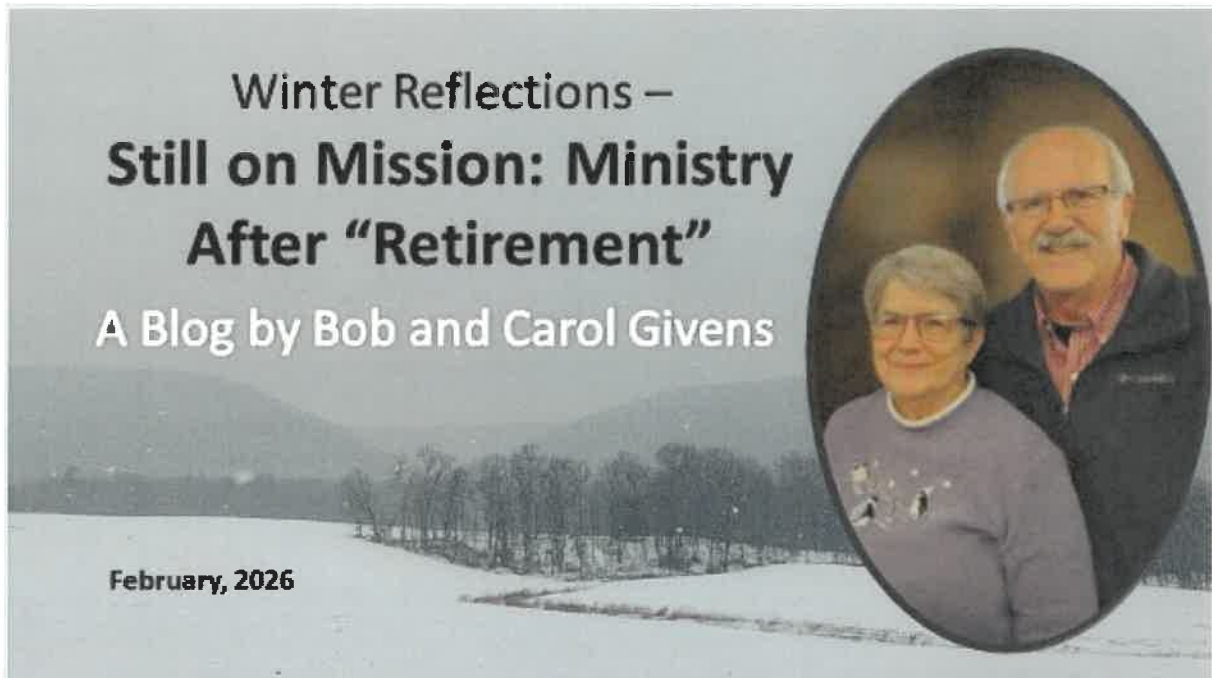


**From:** Bob and Carol Givens <bob.givens@sim.org>  
**Sent:** Saturday, February 7, 2026 10:41 AM  
**To:** info@niemonsds.org  
**Subject:** A blog: "Still on Mission: Ministry After "Retirement"

A Blog - Still on Mission

"Ministry After Retirement"



## Still on Mission: Ministry After "Retirement"

**"Therefore, my beloved brothers and sisters, be steadfast, immovable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, knowing that in the Lord your labor is not in vain."**

*—1 Corinthians 15:58*

There is a quiet misconception that missionary service ends when passports are put away and the word *expatriate* is replaced with *retired*. But calling does not retire—it deepens, matures, and finds new soil.

After many years serving with SIM in Bolivia and Paraguay, we are now based in Richfield, Pennsylvania—back in our home culture, yet forever shaped by the global

Church. What some might call a “return,” we experience as a *re-integration*: learning again how to live, love, and serve here while maintaining meaningful relationships with leaders and believers we continue to walk alongside in Latin America.

This season has not been about stepping aside, but stepping into a different expression of the same calling.

Re-entry into home culture can be complex. While grateful for familiar rhythms, we carry a longing for depth, shared pilgrimage, and gospel-centered community. Rather than becoming spectators, we have leaned into active participation in the local church. We operate a small hospitality center, opening our home as a place of welcome, conversation, prayer, and the Word.

We are deeply involved in our church’s discipleship ministry and treasure our men’s and women’s ministries. Twice a month, we shepherd a Life Group of 15–25 adults through shared meals, Bible study, and fellowship—spaces where faith is shaped not only through teaching, but through presence and relationship.

Our ministry beyond borders continues as well. Through WhatsApp and shared resources, we nurture believers and leaders in Bolivia and Paraguay, offering encouragement, pastoral counsel, and study materials. Technology has become a bridge, allowing us to remain spiritually present despite physical distance.

We also continue to financially and emotionally support a Bolivian missionary couple involved in mobilizing Bolivians for the World Christian Movement, while remaining active in evangelism and discipleship. We walk with them as trusted companions—listening, praying, and discerning together what faithfulness looks like in their context.

At the heart of this season is a simple posture: we walk as fellow shepherds and fellow pilgrims. We are not distant commentators, but active participants—still learning, still growing, still fixing our eyes on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.

Our desire is to guide others into deeper intimacy with Christ—not only in doctrine, but in daily experience; rooted in the Word, responsive to the Spirit, and resilient in the face of challenge. We offer not just lessons, but lives. Not just instruction, but invitation.

“Retirement” has given us flexibility—but not an exit ramp. Mission has not ended. It has

simply moved closer to home, while still reaching to the ends of the earth.

We are deeply grateful for your continued prayers and financial support as we press on together.

*Bob and Carol*

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