

July 2020

Joe Simonetta

Sarasota, Florida



1. **Do you still live in Sarasota?** Yes, we moved back to Sarasota in November 2014. The previous ten years, we lived in Ecuador where I did a residential real estate development.

2. **How long have you lived there?** After my undergraduate years at Penn State, a couple of years as an Army artillery lieutenant, and a short time as a computer programmer at the Bethlehem Steel Company, I moved to Florida. I moved to Sarasota in December 1970 in response, while in Florida, to an offer I received to be the head tennis professional at a Sarasota country club. After four years in that profession, I left to study architecture at Southern Cal in L.A. I've left and returned to Sarasota a number of times. Since 1970, besides Sarasota, I've lived in Los Angeles, Denver, Crested Butte, CO, New Zealand (Nelson), New Haven, CT, Cambridge, MA, and Ebensburg, PA.

3. **Why did you relocate to Sarasota? (job transfer, retirement, closer to children, etc).** Please see answer #2.

4. **What do you like about living in Sarasota and Florida?** I like the warm weather. Sarasota, in particular, is one of Florida's gems. It pretty much has everything to offer (culture, arts, sports, restaurants, shopping, good schools, etc.) including some of the best beaches in the world.

5. **What are some of your favorite things to do where you live?** While unusual for people our age, I have a son who is seven and a daughter who is four and half. I am kept very busy raising them with everything that entails. Very loving, they are budding great students and athletes. Never a dull moment. I'm also working full time as president of a Title Insurance company in Sarasota, Main Street Title. In addition, I do some speaking related to my last book, *7 Words That Can Change the World*. I also work out regularly and compete in sports (racquetball). Our family enjoys our pool as well which we use frequently about eight months out of the year.

6. **How does Sarasota differ from Bethlehem?** Obviously, the weather is very different as well as having great beaches minutes away. Sarasota's population, like that in many Florida cities, swells in the winter months when the "snowbirds" arrive. It is likely there are a higher percentage of retirees (from all over) here in Sarasota as compared to Bethlehem.

7. **Might you attend the 60th reunion?** My wife and I made the 50th reunion which we very much enjoyed. We would like to make the 60th. If we can, we will be there.