

Richard,

A few months ago, before you left this worldly adventure for another (which, I am firmly convinced, will not be your last), you shared with me some encouragement about writing and Roatan Island life.

You said: "I just read your delightful article which was absorbing and very intriguing. When you published your previous articles on Micscape, I read all of those and enjoyed them immensely. I do hope you will continue to make contributions and I look forward to many more. You mention that you are in your 70s, so you're still a young guy. I'm 85 and not in good physical shape but I continue to scribble rambles for Micscape. So, no excuses."

Cheers,

Richard Howey

A month later, your last words to me were:

"Hi Garry/Joseph,

I don't know which you prefer. I apologize for the delay in responding; I have been rather ill and haven't had much energy.

I hope this email gets through. I would be happy to know if you receive it. Again, a delight to encounter your contribution. You create an impression of an idyllic situation and yet, I know that all of that which you and your wife are doing is the result of sometimes hard, demanding, if joyful work. Ah, if only I were younger and healthier, I would be tempted to seek out an island world of my own. That not being possible, I am grateful to you for sharing yours.

Warm regards,

Richard"

So, Richard, although I thanked you for the kind words, I had no idea how profoundly your advice would affect me. (By the way, I'll answer to Garry, Joseph and even "Hey you" but ever since a boy named Billy-Bob called me Garry-Joe in Junior High, I prefer Joseph). I shall happily continue chronicling our experiences here, and now that you have no hindrances, your spirit is welcome to stop by here anytime. I have decided to dedicate the humble microscopy lab I am constructing here to that spirit. My wife and I agree it will be named the "Richard Howey Island Niche" and I do hope it will meet your approval. It will be but a small gift to help your life achievements and inspiration to live on and I would be honored to help carry that flag.

May God bless you and your family.

Cheers,

Joseph Wilhelm

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