

ACTS AND LOVE IN ACTION

An Update from your
BGs Et Al
ABFMS Global Servants & MKs
Colombia, Iberoamerica and
the Caribbean

May 2023

Hey - Tzaddie...



May brings us more events, travels, and lessons. This month's letters are *hey* and *tzaddie*. *Hey* stands for *har* which means mountain and *tzippor* for *tzaddie* which means bird. There is always so much to learn from the Hebrew alphabet and how they interact with our discipleship encounters...

Last month, while we were traveling to Alabama and New England, a beloved brother in Y'shua received His call to continue singing like a *tzippor*, but in heaven hereafter. We met Jonathan Settel in Israel in 1992. Then in 1993 he and his wife Sharon asked us to sit their house while they traveled to the USA in one of his singing tours. From May to July of 1993, 30 years ago, we lived in their house, shared with Jonathan's brother Marshall, and their dog Bubba. Where is the connection? This was in Jerusalem's *Har Gilo* on Ha-Ziporen St. (*tzippor*)...



In loving memory of Jonathan Settel

Born 16th April 1947 - Died 18th April 2023

If you have never heard Jonathan's music, please find it in your preferred platform. The album "Through His Eyes" includes the song "The Wall" which has particularly touched us as we have made it our own to seek seeing others as He sees them and us. It is also available in Spanish. Jonathan's voice will continue to resonate in many congregations and everywhere the Lord opened a door for Jonathan to share his

testimony as a Jew that was transformed by his Messiah Y'shua. To us, Jonathan remains as our "jibarito", the way he introduced himself to us. He had studied music in San Germán, Puerto Rico, and that in itself became a sweet connection between us and his family. We later attended the same congregation in Ft. Lauderdale. Find his music and the video in YouTube to learn more about him. We continue to pray for his family.

In seeing others through His eyes, we embraced our trip to Alabama and our task as part of the Racial Justice Committee. As we continue our visits to the churches in the network, be sure to visit us on FB/IG to see the pics of each place and person we have visited, including that transformational stop in Montgomery. There were too many pics to include in a journal, so we are grateful there are other platforms to share more extensively about the trips as we go or soon thereafter!

In May, buckle up, a lot of things are happening...

*ABCGI says farewell to Joan Friesen as their executive minister after many years of faithful service to the region. We will also be with the Latino family in Greater Indianapolis before being driven North to Michigan by our beloved snowbirds to share in their regional clergy retreat and to meet short-term volunteers that have served in Puerto Rico.

*Of course, Mother's Day is around the corner. Let us be sure to share our love with our Mami's each day, not just one day a year.

*May 21st is going to be extra special this year: we celebrate 209 years of the establishment of this venture of faith and our beloved Lembke family is being commissioned to serve in Thailand that afternoon! The commissioning service will be live-streamed on FB.

*May 22nd we celebrate 40 years of our "Estrellas '83" graduation.

*May 28th is Pentecost! And, May 29th is Memorial Day...

So many things that before we know it the month will be over and many of us will be preparing to travel to Puerto Rico for the ABCUSA/PR Biennial Mission Summit. If you are planning to attend, please let us know to keep an eye out to visit with you; especially those of you whom we couldn't get to visit in your neck of the woods, home, church, association, or region. We want us to sing like *tzipporim* (birds) in what may be a *har-top* experience (mountain-top). Yet we always need to remember that when we have those opportunities to be together with each other and closer to the Lord, we are being revived, comforted, brought up, and given life to be equipped to continue with the day to day service to Him in the variety of ministries in which He involves us.

We are grateful for your prayers and company as we are wrapping up this US/PR assignment. With barely an 8% gap to being 100% covered for our PSG, we continue to trust the Lord to provide and close that gap to allow us to start our new term of service on July 1st, 23 years after our day 1 in 2000... Are you part of the 92%, THANK YOU! Would you like to be part of the remaining 8%, WELCOME! The call continues to be to make disciples, to fulfill peace and justice initiatives, and to bring with us short-term mission volunteers to experience firsthand what our Lord is already doing in so many places in our region and around the world. He is always making everything beautiful in its time...

Stretching further toward the goal "*from hey to tzaddie*",
your BGs Et Al (www.facebook.com/BGsEtAl)



You are invited to join **Acts and Love in Action Team & Network** of individuals and churches who support the ministry of the Bonilla-Giovanetti family (your BGs Et Al) through prayer, encouragement or financial support. To learn more or join their Mission Partnership Network (MPN), email Jan (jmackson815@sbcglobal.net) or call Cori Catellier at 317-626-6169.

To read more about their ministry and of other American Baptist missionaries, global consultants and development workers, visit www.internationalministries.org, click on **Who we are** and then **Global Servants**. To commit your support, visit <https://portal.internationalministries.org/give>.