

# ACTS AND LOVE IN ACTION

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

June 2023

Vav - Pei...



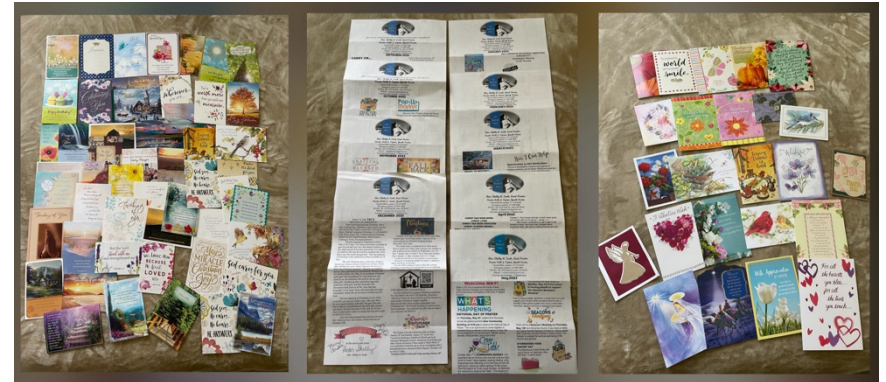
On June 30th we are completing our US/PR assignment! This month's letters are *vav* and *pei*. *Vav* stands for *vered* which means rose and *pei* for *para* which means cow. Say what? Before you ask... Yes, we have found a correlation between these two words in the Hebrew alphabet which applies to our discipleship encounters.

As we think of how God provided for this year of visits, we can think about roses. They have colors and fragrance. They also have thorns. It was very difficult to travel differently than each previous US/PR assignment, when we traveled as a family. Our current circumstances are not conducive for that, and we had to come to a decision to still make it work. We are so grateful for the regional executive ministers and their willingness to open spaces for us to visit key regional events. Many of them even provided the transportation we needed and were very involved in the logistics of each visit. Not having the whole BGs family in a visit was not easy and each trip we missed each other, yet the warmth of each region, church, association, and sibling made each visit worth it!!!

When it comes to cows, how does that relate to these visits or to discipleship, you may still be asking? As we investigated the word *para* and its meaning (cow), we discovered another way the Hebrew people use the word in a phrase: *para para* means "cow cow", which connotes "cow after cow" (like cows being milked one after another cow). In other words, "one cow at a time" or "one thing at a time". In the same way, we learned to take one trip or visit at time throughout this US/PR assignment. You know us! That's not how we operate. We used to have the whole US/PR assignment schedule ready 6-12 months in advance. We "needed" to know the details of where to go, the route, the places, the churches, the meetings, everything plotted and organized in advance. Oh, beloved siblings: *para para*. This US/PR assignment we learned to focus on details of one trip/visit at a time... We learned to continue being organized while also relying on God's Spirit to be intertwining each visit and arrangement along the way. Trusting His Spirit continues to be an exercise of faith that we are learning from, living out, and trying to teach others as we make disciples...

Last May 2022, when we asked our LifeGroup to pray with us as we were preparing for our time of visits and the need to plan for Mami's care, a sweet couple approached us asking how they could also be of support to us even when they couldn't volunteer to care for Mami. We answered: "Please pray".

*Para para...* Week after week we received a card as a token of their prayers for us as we prepared for each trip. Week after week we knew they were in our corner, bringing us before the Lord so that He would pave the way for each absence. Week after week we knew these faithful servants were being our Ur and Aaron. With them, there are churches like FBC Amo that send us their monthly newsletters by mail and FBC Bicknell / PIB Caguas and others who send us their weekly bulletins by email. There are ABWM Circles that share their love toward their BGs through written communication, social media interaction, and ongoing financial support. For that we are so grateful to them...



And that is how we have been able to complete this US/PR assignment. One trip at a time, one prayer at a time, one gift at a time... One more trip left in the calendar: to the **ABCUSA Biennial Mission Summit in Puerto Rico**. We pray we can celebrate reaching 100% of support pledged. We're so close. A 6% gap to being 100% covered for our PSG. A friend mentioned that some traditions give in multiples of \$18 others in multiples of \$23. With those to signify *life* (the word life in Hebrew is "*chai*" which adds to 18) and our anniversary (23), take your pick on your new support pledge toward our fifth term of service starting on July 1st, 23 years after our day 1 in 2000, and for the next five years... We are grateful...

Next month we will catch you up with the stats of miles, beds, and days of this year of visits and share about our tentative plans for our first year back to in-person visits to Iberoamerica and the Caribbean brought to us by GOD and YOU. Please, stay tuned!

Stretching further toward the goal "*from vav to pei*",  
your BGs Et Al ([www.facebook.com/BGSEtAl](https://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](mailto: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](https://www.internationalministries.org), click on **Who we are** and then **Global Servants**. To commit your support, visit <https://portal.internationalministries.org/give>.