

ACTS AND LOVE IN ACTION

An Update from your BGs Et Al

ABFMS – International Ministries
Regional Consultants for Discipleship
in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean

December 2023

Kaf - Lamed...

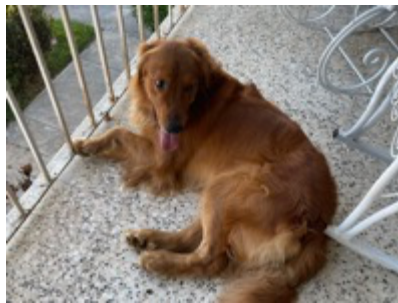


In December, we reach the end of 2023 and this year's discipleship lessons based on the Hebrew alphabet. This month's letters are *kaf* and *lamed*. *Kaf* with *kelev* meaning dog and *lamed* with *lechem* meaning bread... As we prepare for our second post pandemic international missionary trip this month (to **Colombia**), let us see where dog and bread take us... Read more...



In 1996, the year we had our first-born son, we bought some place mats which have traveled with us to each of the different countries we have served. Now you can see what we used to guide our lessons this year. Our Christian faith has its roots in the history and faith of God's chosen people. We have so much to learn from our Jewish roots from

which springs that tree into which we have been grafted as born-again followers of Jesus Christ, Y'shua Ha'Mashiah, the Anointed Messiah of Israel and of all who believe in Him as Lord and Savior.



In 1992, 1993, and 1996 we had the awesome privilege of living and spending long periods of time in Jerusalem. One of the apartments we lived in had a view to Bethlehem when looking out of our kitchen window (pic above). Bethlehem means "house of bread" and Jesus is our "bread of life" (John 6:35). He is the One we follow, and He is the One we share with others who are seeking to find Him and to follow Him as disciples of the Way. Bethlehem

is where Jesus was born so it seems quite appropriate to make that connection between the "house of *lechem*" and Him being the "*lechem* of life".

This month we will be reconnecting with our partners in Colombia, the Wayuu in The Guajira, siblings in Cúcuta, Cartagena, and Bogotá (including migrants from Venezuela). These are those we met in 2018 and could only spend a year with as we relocated to Florida in 2019. We are grateful that through technology, we remained in touch and can now resume in person ministry with them through discipleship encounters. While in Colombia, we will also visit some of Carlos' relatives as well as have him celebrate his high school 50th graduation anniversary. It will be a time of reconnecting and rejoicing in God's faithfulness. This is our first trip to Colombia since November 2019 (Carlos) and February 2020 (Mayra).

This year draws to a close as did Mayra's dad's earthly life this past March 17th after his 88th birthday on March 2nd. When attending the home-going service on March 30th, his faithful *kelev* Max remained close by as if knowing the connection. God's creation, people and animals, the skies and the earth, everything is interconnected. The same with words and life.

As 2024 is around the corner, may each of you go back and review all we have learned this year through the Hebrew alphabet, and anticipate what we will learn, live out, and teach others for years to come. We are trusting God to provide our *lechem* as He provided *manna*, and many of you are His vessels as you share the adequate resources for our ministry in Iberoamerica and the Caribbean. Next month we go back to square one: **Chile**. Because our ministry fulfilled Acts 1:8 starting in Jerusalem in the 90s (including Judea and Samaria) and started in 2000 through ABFMS in Chile (the ends of the earth!), we know YHWH YIRE as that God is faithful, much more than Papi's faithful dog, Max, who is just an example.

Let us continue learning from the faithfulness of a *kelev* like Max (or Caleb from the same root) as we share the *lechem* of life we have in the One born in the house of *lechem*! We step into 2024 as our promised land of opportunities of service, with the same faith Caleb and Joshua had against all the giants they knew existed yet chose to trust the God who sent them!

Responding together for good, "from *kaf* to *lamed*,"
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>.