

ACTS AND LOVE IN ACTION

An Update from your BGs Et Al

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



Interdependence or dependence?

That is the sixty-four thousand dollar question... A question we ask often when we dive into the international mission field. One that we can also ask ourselves in the national and local arena. What is the most appropriate answer? Those are another twenty...

After we served in Chile and Spain, we arrived to Nicaragua in 2013. The Baptist Theological Seminary had invited us to support them reaching out to people in their regions who couldn't access the Seminary in Managua because of academic, financial or time limitations or all the above. This wasn't our first country of service nor our first mission partner. In our mission society we respond to the invitation from our international mission partners and go in response to their needs; our way of exercising interdependence.

However, quite frequently we are tempted to think that our going to an international country implies

that we are bringing the solution, and we can sin by assuming we know what they need or that our option is better than what they already have. We can even sin by thinking that we're taking Christ to them, when Christ has already been, is, and will always be everywhere as for Him, through Him, and with Him everything is done. So, the next temptation is to focus first or almost immediately on ministries or projects that require financial resources for constructions, sanctuaries, schools, or community service centers; all which are needed in most of the places where we go.

Our great surprise in this third country of service was when we visited each of the six regions in the National Baptist Convention of Nicaragua that is served by the Seminary. We wanted to hear them and know what they really needed and wanted. All of the regions, one after the other, without consulting

with each other, all of them asked us to help them to study the Bible and get closer to Jesus to truly know Him and become His disciples according to His Word. Eureka! Hallelujah! Glory to God! They did not ask for support for something tangible but for that which has eternal value and that would provide a solid foundation for the service ministries to their communities that were also very needed.

That is how the Lord inspired us to begin developing our materials



"Discípulos del Camino: A.V.E. / Disciples of the Way: L.L.T." through which we seek to learn, live out and teach the Word as we go "With Jesus in the Way". These discipleship encounters are blessing many in Nicaragua where we began

the discipleship encounters as well as in Chile, Spain, and Colombia. We ask the Lord to continue opening doors in the rest of Iberoamerica and the Caribbean and provide the necessary resources for your BGs to continue making more disciples that make more disciples as the Lord has sent us all to make disciples.

May that be so for each colleague in Puerto Rico and the USA and wherever there is someone who dedicates their life to serving the Lord where they are and where He sends in each season of life and as many places around the world. May God help us and those who are yet to join the One whom we depend on to continue serving as interdependent fellow servants in His mission.

Pressing toward the goal, *"depending on Him and being interdependent"*,

your BGs Et Al
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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), contact Betty Burger, Cori Catellier, Dan Catellier, Dick Sharber, DuRhonda Pinegar, Jan Jackson, Jonathan Balmer, Kendall Ellis, Lee Riggs, Oscar Guerrero, Sue Menefee, Tracy Karnes, Yana Cruz-Pagan, Paul Prochazka, Scotty Robertson, or your BGs to the following email address (bonigiova89.mpt@gmail.com).

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>.