

December 30, 2021

Dear Friends,

In 2021 our family grew with the addition of Penelope on September 10. This picture shows us from youngest to oldest (my mother is 91). Our seven grandkids are a delight.

This has been a transitional year as I handed over the directorship of Shepherd's Heart to our associate director, Bert Lumetta at the end of June.



Since then, I have taken on the responsibility of being the Marriage Ministry Coordinator. This involves connecting with those who lead our Loving Well course. Two couples have joined us as Ministry Associates.

Carlos and Chelita Barros, on the right, are from Tucuman, Argentina. They have four daughters. Since their training with us in January they have led three Loving Well groups (Amar Bien in Spanish). One of these groups was in partnership with a mission agency which considered the course to be an important part of preparing missionaries for their ministry. Couples involved were headed to Vietnam, Canada and assignments in Argentina. Carlos and Chelita also contribute to missionary care for the World Missions Network and Wycliffe. Locally, they offer counseling, which they see as a growing need, as well as providing retreats for couples and missionaries.



Wally and Karen DeSmet, below, have participated with us over the past seven or eight years and continue to lead Loving Well groups in Spanish. They live in Phoenix, AZ, but were long time missionaries in



Argentina. They are currently helping marriages and churches in Chile, as well as in locally. They have had primary influence in the spread of Loving Well in Spanish speaking countries.

Our fall online group had couples from five states. From mid-January to mid-February we will visit Wally and Karen as well as other participants in Arizona and Texas. We are encouraged with the desire of couples to start Loving Well groups in their areas.

I continue to offer couples counseling and premarital counseling on a more limited basis. I have been serving as an elder in our local church during a time of transition between pastors. In September we welcomed our new pastor and since that time I have added serving as the coordinator for small group ministry. This currently involves helping group facilitators as they lead groups and providing quarterly training to develop skills. We presently have six groups.

All of this keeps me well occupied. It remains my goal to pass on what I have learned to faithful people who will be able to teach others also. (II Timothy 2:2)

We continue to be able to carry on this ministry by God's grace and because of you who pray for us and support us. We are deeply grateful for you and we look forward to what God has in store in 2022.

Happy New Year!

Mark and Mary

The Bonhams

Serving with:

