

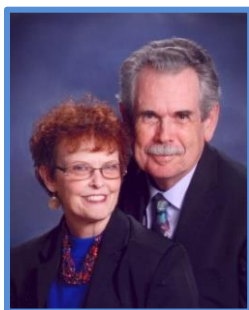
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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Recapping; Finishing 2024 with a Flourish

Spring 2024. As Jan and I sought to find a new rhythm in this mission work, 2024 travels started out slow in comparison to years past. The first four months included one international mission trip, two stateside mission trips, and a planning retreat. The slowdown in travel was more than offset by a flurry of online classes, presentations, and Bible studies, coupled with meetings to incorporate new mission partners, mentoring sessions, teaching the Wednesday Early Bird class at Fort Gibson, and helping with the annual mission emphasis at Fort Gibson.

Summer 2024. Travels found me in Ecuador, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic (see June-July newsletter for details). In late summer, Jan and I made an extended stateside trip for preaching, reporting and fund-raising contacts. In late summer, the final production details for the publication of the "Knowing Jesus" video series were completed with a dedicated YouTube channel, a new Facebook page, and study resources available online (see details in August newsletter and brief update below).

Fall 2024. I share our upcoming schedule so you can pray specifically for the mission work. Plans for the last three months include Mission Sunday efforts in Oklahoma and Arkansas, the international conference of Spanish-speaking church leaders in Nashville (TN), a weekend series in Florida with a multi-ethnic church, and Baxter graduation. Pray also for the works mentioned below in this newsletter. **We appreciate your prayers.**

Ecuador Update

Since January 2024, Latin American Leadership Development has provided support for a series of equipping visits in Tulcán, Ecuador (picture right, a weekend presentation during my visit in May). Transportation reimbursement has been provided for brothers who have traveled every week from Ibarra to share Bible studies and training.

The studies and training have focused on dealing with division and disagreements, lack of commitment, and the need for holy lives. Thankfully, the church has exhibited a great desire to study the word of God, with attendance at the studies and training at about the same level as Sunday morning attendance.

The studies have resulted in the baptisms of four youth and an adult. The church is more unified and more committed to participating in area events with other churches of Christ. For the rest of the year, studies will focus on the organization of the church, the importance of good works, and leadership development. With candidates who could serve as elders and evangelists, **pray that the church will be able to develop biblical leadership** and to move forward toward greater kingdom service. **Thank you for your prayers!**



Dominican Republic Update

Exciting things are happening and getting ready to happen in the Dominican Republic! God is blessing the work of faithful brothers and sisters.

In October, build teams from Liberté Ministries will travel to the Dominican Republic (D.R.) with the goal of completing two more church buildings—at Los Cocos in Neyba and at Postrer Rio. **Pray for safety and success for the brothers who are part of this Alabama group.** (A summary of the trip will be included in the next newsletter.)



In June, I traveled to the D.R. with Arvy Dupuy and Jay Gregory to help acquaint them with the work (picture left, Jay, Bob, and Arvy). Liberté Ministries has worked in Haiti for many years, but that country is currently closed. A logical extension of the work in Haiti is to help with the needs of Haitian refugees who have fled their country and are now part of churches in western D.R. near the Haitian border. (Picture right, Jay Gregory, your servant, Los Cocos leader, and Manuel Aquino, near the site of the Los Cocos construction.)



Colombia Update

Online platforms like Zoom, Facebook Live, and YouTube Live have been a blessing in the development of the mission works. Online virtual meetings often have 30-50 participants (picture left, sample of advertising used in Bogota for an online series of lessons).



Advancing the work in southern Colombia, the **Holmes Road church in Lansing (MI)** has committed to continuing to help with the church redevelopment effort in La Hormiga, Putumayo, Colombia.

Most of the support for an evangelist in southern Colombia is being provided by two families, with LALD making up the difference. (Picture right, the evangelist and his wife, Jairo and Andrea, with Mitch Whittington and your servant, during our May visit).



Cajamarca, Perú Update



The new church plant in downtown Cajamarca is slowly gaining a foothold, developing relationships with those contacted and becoming more visible in the city (picture left). The rented location is very near the very center of downtown, about half a block from a major traffic circle. Church planting work that depends on only one family is often difficult and lonely. **Pray for Raul Chumbile and his wife in this work.**

Another work, Santa Úrsula, is about 45 minutes away. The possibilities in downtown Cajamarca can be seen in the attendance at a recent conference hosted in Santa Úrsula (picture right).



"Knowing Jesus" Update

I encourage you to explore the resources available online, YouTube, Facebook, and published resources. Consider how this series can bless your life, your family, your church. As with all my online resources, everything is available free of charge. Bless others by sharing this resource with them.

I consider that this project could well be my *magnus opus*. I share my heart with the hope of touching lives with truth, pointing to Jesus, and focusing the story through fresh eyes! May many see more clearly who Jesus is!



Thank You!

I am grateful for the opportunity to share what God is doing. God continually gives the increase! His goodness excites my spirit and sends me forth with the Good News of the Kingdom. I never tire of saying it: God is faithfully at work through his faithful people. Thank you for your prayers, your partnership, and your encouragement.

Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), you can make tax-deductible gifts payable to "Church of Christ," memo line "Latin American Leadership Development" [or LALD]. **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).



Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

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The masthead and the closing for this newsletter do not change frequently. I trust you do not tire of the same reminder as we close!

My title for this picture is "Urgent!" I took the picture in La Serena, Chile. Is it a sunrise or a sunset?

In our world, many are seeking the Son. When will their sunrise come? Multitudes are receptive to the gospel. People hunger and thirst for the word of God. God's people are seeking encouragement and training in evangelism, discipleship, and effective church leadership. When the gospel is preached and received, a new day is made possible in the lives of believers. Thank you for helping make that happen as we fulfill God's purpose in this world – to save as many as possible!

Urgent! Because in our world, sunset comes to thousands every day. The gospel springs forth as an eternal sunrise, even as the sun sets every day in the lives of countless souls without Jesus. (The picture is a sunset.)



Latin America Leadership Development works within a network of Christians committed to taking the gospel to Latin America. Through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training, spiritually healthy and mature Christians and churches are developed, capable of reproducing themselves. A primary goal is training those who will train others (2 Tim. 2:2), recognizing that the most effective kingdom workers are national Christians who understand the culture and language, are known and trusted, and easily develop friendships and relationships that carry the gospel to their own nations.