

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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Latin American Leadership Development: Celebrating 20 years!

The first newsletter I have in my files is dated Fall 2004. The title of that report was **Mission: LEARN**, an acronym for “Linking Evangelism and Resource Networks.” That two-page newsletter is reprinted and attached on the last two pages of this newsletter.

Twenty years of writing mission reports -- one-third of a career devoted to ministry, Christian education, and mission work. In 2006, we began publishing our mission and ministry newsletter on a regular schedule: Vol. 1, No. 1. The headline declared, “**The Good News of Jesus Is the Hope of the World!**” From 2007 to 2013, our newsletter was titled, **Esperanza Eterna** (Eternal Hope). Beginning with Vol. 9 in 2014, the newsletter was titled **Latin American Leadership Development**, the name adopted when the McAlester church elders agreed to serve as a host congregation.

God placed ministry and missions on our hearts from the very beginning of our marriage. We committed to Kingdom service and he has graciously opened doors into all the world. We are slowing down, but our commitment to spreading the gospel of the Kingdom is unwavering. We appreciate your love, your partnership, and your prayers.

Thanksgiving 2024: What Shall We Give to God for All His Benefits toward Us?

Psalms 116 is part of the Egyptian Hallel (praise book). The Hallel contains psalms that were used during Jewish religious festivals. At Passover, Psalms 113 and 114 were sung before the meal, Psalms 115-118 were used after the meal. The context of Psalm 116 is deliverance from Egyptian slavery. Today the psalm provides assurance in various life situations. At the Thanksgiving season, the psalm reminds us of important principles and truths, challenging us to greater gratitude.

God has overflowed multiplied blessings into our lives (v. 7). How can we adequately respond to God’s countless blessings? (v. 12). The psalmist is certain of two things.

First, rest, tranquility, serenity, and peace are possible because the Lord has been good to us in multiplying our blessings. For the psalmist, this certainty rests on the bedrock truth that God is God, acting always according to his nature. The human response is prayer, praise, and peaceful rest.

Second, the question of the title is rhetorical. What shall we give to God to repay his benefits to us? We cannot repay God! All we can do is be thankful, call on his name with gratitude, and tell him “Thank you.” How do we express that gratitude? By fulfilling our vows, being faithful, loyal, and committed.

Perhaps you will find new meaning in reading Psalm 116 in your seasons of thanksgiving!



**WHAT SHALL I RENDER UNTO THE
LORD FOR ALL HIS BENEFITS?
(PSALMS 116:12)**

Tulcán, Ecuador Update

During 2024, **Latin American Leadership Development** has provided financial support for weekly equipping and training in Tulcán, Ecuador (picture left, leading a Bible study during my visit to Tulcán earlier this year).

Transportation costs have been reimbursed for brothers who have traveled every weekend from Ibarra to share Bible studies and leadership training. The church has been reenergized by these studies, resulting in several baptisms.

The Tulcán church

recently celebrated its 32nd anniversary (picture right). The church has a new building in a good location, poised for growth.

We anticipate the establishment of biblical leaders in the congregation soon. Let us pray that the church will be able to develop biblical leadership and to move forward toward greater kingdom service. Thank you in advance for your prayers!

Iberoamericano Encuentro, October 2024

The Iberoamericano Conference is an annual gathering of church leaders from across Latin America. The conference rotates between countries with the 2024 event held in Nashville, Tenn. I spoke on the conference theme, "Returning to the Old Paths." Jan and I were blessed to share time with 200+ church leaders from 13 different countries. (Picture below, explaining the evangelism series, *En Pos de la Verdad*, to Dominican brothers.)



Dominican Republic Update

October was an exciting month for the work in the Dominican Republic. Because of my commitment to speak at the Iberoamericano Encuentro in Nashville, I was not able to join the build team that traveled to the Dominican Republic in mid-October. Even while I was at the conference, I was receiving daily reports and pictures. My heart was in two places—but my body can be in only one place at a time!

In the Dominican Republic, God is blessing the work of faithful brothers and sisters. The Los Cocos church in Neyba was a “house church”—technically, a “backyard church”—until mid-October (picture above right)! The picture collage (middle right) shows the completed Los Cocos building with interior and exterior views.

In October, a build team from Liberté Ministries traveled to the Dominican Republic with the goal of completing two church buildings—at Los Cocos in Neyba and at Postrer Rio.

The Postrer Rio building is pictured in the bottom collage at right. Your generosity has made it possible to send funds for doors and windows at Postrer Rio, completing both buildings. Both congregations began meeting in their newly completed buildings on October 19, the Sunday after the build team left on Saturday.

The team also built and painted forty new benches to be distributed and used in the new church buildings and in the other new church plants.



The build team is ready to go back to the D.R.! We are committed to raising funds to help these churches do what they cannot do for themselves. Teachers and evangelists are always welcome! ***Contact me if you have an interest in participating personally, or if you would like more information about the finances required to build adequate houses of worship.***

Putumayo, Colombia Update

Exciting news! The church has rented a location in town, enabling a move from the finca. The church began in 2019; attendance is now 35-40. The official government recognition should come through by the end of the year, the land purchased is being cleared, and this renewed church plant is preparing to build its own building. (I will share pictures in the next newsletter.) Praise God!



Perú Transitions

In Cajamarca, the newly planted downtown church is merging with the Santa Úrsula church on the outskirts of the city. Future possibilities can be envisioned in the attendance at a recent conference hosted in Santa Úrsula (picture left).

Beginning in 2025, a new church plant is planned for Chimbote, a coastal city of Peru with a population of over 400,000. Please pray for Raul, his wife, and these works!

“Knowing Jesus” Update

At least two more churches have decided to use the video series in their Bible studies. For more information, contact me directly, check out the YouTube Channel (youtube.com/@KnowingJesus24), or follow the Facebook page (www.facebook.com/KnowingJesus24/). May we touch lives with truth, pointing to Jesus and focusing the Jesus story through fresh eyes! May we and many others see more clearly who Jesus is!

Thank You!

I love to tell what God is doing. His power goes beyond our dreams and imaginations and excites our spirits, sending us forth with the Good News of the Kingdom. 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),
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Witnessing the multitudes coming to Jesus and wanting to be baptized was common in Jesus’ day and is too rare today. Nevertheless, in the world today, many are seeking the Son. 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!

[Picture right, 16 baptisms in the Dominican Republic]



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.



MISSION — LEARN

“Linking Evangelism and Resource Networks”

FALL 2004 MISSION REPORT

Bob Young

Oklahoma Christian University
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

During the last two months of 2004, I have two opportunities to be involved in mission efforts, to study and research current mission efforts, and to encourage mission work in Central America.

The first week of November, I was in Guatemala for the Pan American Lectureship. I was privileged to deliver one of the major addresses at this year's lectureship. The assigned title was “Faithful to His Calling.” During the week, I interacted with members of the churches of Christ from Guatemala and learned more about the history of churches of Christ in Guatemala. I visited the work done in the mountains, primarily among the Maya, at the Ezell Clinic which is overseen by Health Talents International. I had the opportunity to visit with Dr. Amanda Madrid, director of Predisan in Catacamas, Honduras as we planned activities for summer 2005. I also was in contact with folks from Continent of Great Cities, Mission Resource Network, World Radio, Mision Para Cristo, and several other mission groups, as well as some who teach and work in missions from Abilene Christian, Lipscomb, and Harding universities. I met with mission teams planning works in Peru, Chile, and Costa Rica. I also visited with a former student who is doing an effective work in Guatemala. I tried to provide encouragement and insight for his work. I was able to make an appeal for a new work in Nicaragua and to continue networking so that I might be better able to match the needs in Central America with the resources available in the U.S.

In early December, I will spend a week in Honduras. The agenda includes a board meeting for the medical and educational endeavors of the Amicus Association, and the opportunity to visit various works being done around Tegucigalpa, including some of the work planned for spring break trips from OC. I will attend graduation as additional Latin American preachers go forth to spread the good news of Jesus--18 graduates planning works in various areas of Latin America. I will visit with various churches, perhaps visit the prison, and continue networking with Latinos who are increasingly involved in doing the Lord's work in their own countries. I have a meeting scheduled with two brothers from Nicaragua to see how we can best help them, doing for them that which they cannot do for themselves, but never overstepping that boundary as God gives us wisdom. For the most part, we want what we begin to be capable of self-sustenance, so that what is occurring can continue without continued U.S. monetary support.

I always feel doubly blessed when Jan can travel with me, and she is a wonderful encouragement to the women we meet; her presence allows us to visit in many places and homes. Despite the great good she

does, we do not ask assistance in her travel. We are honored to be able personally to fund her travel with me.

To those who have helped with my travel for these two trips, I am grateful, as are the people of Guatemala and Honduras, and many others whose lives we touch. Great mission works are being done--encouraged, planned, and carried out through efforts such as we are involved in. Cost for these two trips is about \$2500 each, including some miscellaneous expenses and assistance with various local works in the countries visited.

Jan and I continue to fund about 75% of my travels along with totally funding Jan's involvement. Therefore, we are always looking for additional friends and congregations who would be willing to make a one-time gift, or a regular gift, to assist with our work.

I have three trips planned for 2005 and invitations for several others. The invitations to come and help with evangelism, leadership development, and strengthening the churches are numerous, but those mission congregations who invite cannot pay our way. We always work gratis, freely providing the help God enables us to give. Because of the large number of invitations, Jan and I usually use all our vacation time for mission work.

I ask you to consider assisting us with this worthwhile endeavor. Our home congregation, the Edmond church of Christ, in Edmond, Oklahoma, has graciously agreed to serve as our receiving congregation for funds, so your help is totally tax deductible. Make your check payable to the Edmond church of Christ and mark it for "Bob Young missions." You may send the check directly to the Edmond church if you prefer, but if you send the check to me, I can do a careful accounting and deliver the check to the church personally. Either way works fine.

Thank you for your consideration, and for your help and support. If you can do nothing else, please pray for the spread of the gospel around the world, and especially in Latin America.

Sincerely,

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