

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: Volume 20!

As 2024 ended, I noted that this milestone was on the horizon. Volume 20 is now reality! Beginning a twentieth year of publishing mission newsletters; 130 newsletters and reports—and counting, chronicling what God does with lives focused on ministry, Christian education, and missions.

God placed ministry and missions on our hearts even before we were married almost 56 years ago. We committed to Kingdom service and he has graciously opened doors. We are slowing down, but our commitment to spreading the gospel of the Kingdom is unwavering. We appreciate your love, partnership, and prayers.

Commitments for 2025 include mission trips to the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Colombia, and Honduras. Still pending are possible trips to the Dominican Republic and Peru. Some invitations are being forwarded to 2026.

Twenty Years of Words and Phrases

I have chosen a “word or phrase of the year” for each of the past twenty years of my ministry and mission work. These words and phrases tell a story of plans, prayers, and God’s purpose. Here are my words and phrases across twenty years, beginning in 2006. 2006-2010: *Teaching and Preaching; Frustrated; Renewed and Refreshed; New Vision--Renewed Commitment*; 2011-2015: *Reorienting; Serving; Reenergized--My Calling; Focused; Priorities*; 2016-2020: *Fulfilled; Outreach; Sharing; Multiplying; Visioning; Sabbatical Reset*; 2021-2025: *Opportunities; Pursue, Restart; Rhythms; Glorify*.

You can overview the history of this mission work on the Mission Report Index page at this link: <https://www.bobyounresources.com/missions/mission-reports.htm>. (In general, the last newsletter each year includes a summary of the year.)



2025 Mission Goals

Although the New Year is well underway, it is never too late to make adjustments that will reap long-term and eternal results. Imagine how much the mission efforts of your church could be strengthened and enlarged with a few simple steps!

- Develop a mission and ministry culture that focuses on measurable results, with clearly defined expectations to guide future planning
- Manage mission funding wisely, seeking to increase the mission outreach with the available funding
- Simplify the structure and systems needed to support a thriving mission effort
- Explore different mission models, discover which mission strategies are working, commit to doing things that are most effective
- Develop plans that address the changing opportunities in missions

- Incorporate accountability into every mission effort
- Develop effective mission exit strategies that encourage mission maturity

Two important questions guide effective mission work. First: Where do you want your church's global mission ministry to be in five years? Supporting more missionaries? Sharing the gospel with more people in more regions? Inspiring more congregational involvement in missions? Engaging in global missions in a smart and sustainable way for your church? Second: Do you have a plan for clarifying that vision and making it a reality? If not, you are not alone. A recent Barna survey found that international mission is a primary area where many church leaders are looking for guidance.

(The goal-setting strategies mentioned are those that are used annually in mission planning in LALD.)

Dominican Republic Update

Two church buildings were completed by the Liberte Ministries build team in October. The build team is ready to go back! Our commitment is to help these churches do what they cannot do for themselves. Please pray for the March mission trip—the group will encourage the churches and make plans for 2025 trips.

Teachers and evangelists are always welcome! (Picture right, more baptisms!)



Contact me if you have an interest in participating personally, or if you would like more information about helping build adequate houses of worship for these infant churches.



Putumayo, Colombia Update

The excitement continues and builds! The church has rented a location in town, enabling a move from the finca. (Picture left, a midweek meeting at the new location.) This step makes inviting visitors much easier!

This renewal church plant began in 2019, just before the pandemic. Attendance is now 35-40. Once official government recognition is

granted, the land the church has already purchased will be readied, and the church will work on preparations for building its own building. Praise God!

Perú Transitions

In Cajamarca, the newly planted downtown church has merged with the Santa Úrsula church about 30 minutes from downtown. While this merger is not the original result that was envisioned, our prayer is that the Santa Úrsula church has been strengthened and positioned for future growth and outreach.

Beginning in 2025, a new church plant is planned for Chimbote, a coastal city of Peru with a population of over 400,000. Chimbote is the tenth largest city in Peru. (Picture right, Admiral Miguel Grau Square in Chimbote.) Please pray for Raul Chumbile, his wife, and the works in Cajamarca and Chimbote!



Nicaragua Update

In 2025, partial support is being provided for an evangelist at Nueva Libia in Managua. This church continues to grow in amazing ways through focused evangelism efforts. Our commitment is for one year. (Picture right, one of three Sunday assemblies at the Nueva Libia.)



Looking Ahead

Recognizing that God directs our steps, I share tentative plans as Jan and I prayerfully consider stepping back from the intensity of the past 20+ years. Our goal is to step back from this work over approximately three years, pointing toward our 80th birthdays. Our first target date is the fall of 2026. By that time, we hope to transfer continuing works to local churches. Incidentally, the fall of 2026 will mark 60 years of preaching, ministry, teaching, and mission work since I began working in campus ministry during my college days. I began preaching every Sunday in the fall of 1967. Our second target date is fall 2028 with the goal of completing and transferring the digital archives for future reference.

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" [LALD]. **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE TULSA OFFICE ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

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Pictured at right is a small part of the 300+ members of the Angel Felix congregation in the Dominican Republic. There are more people outside of this small building than there are inside! Plans for 2025 include constructing an adequate building for this growing church!

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!



Latin America Leadership Development works within an international 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.