



## **2011: The Year in Review**

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**By Bob Young**



As 2011 draws to a close, we send you greetings for the holiday season and for a happy, healthy, and spiritually prosperous New Year in 2012. We hope this report finds you doing well in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ!

What a difference a year makes! As 2011 draws to a close, it is time to reflect again upon what God has done in our lives over the past year (and over the 16 months since we concluded our full-time local ministry obligations). We are grateful that God is blessing us with open doors and opportunities.

Reflecting on our activities and the possibilities for the future encourages us. Our new journey in ministry and missions has been similar to what we anticipated; it has also been different than what we dreamed. It is a developing journey which is leading us to unexpected places and opportunities. The past 16 months has been a time of finding our niche and listening to God to understand why he has put us in this place at this time.



Here is a brief summary of our activities:

- In the U.S., we preached and taught in about a dozen churches, including one Hispanic church.
- We helped a church that was between ministers in an interim ministry that lasted six months. We provided onsite ministry for about half of that time. During our absences, we monitored the progress of the church, serving as a consultant to the leadership and search committee. Well-chosen guest speakers assisted with the rest of the interim period.
  - I preached a "Restore My Spirit" campaign and conducted two leadership workshops—one of the workshops included an education component
  - I continued to produce DVD studies for New Life Behavior of Oklahoma—we now have 118 videos for use in prison classes and for broadcast on prison TV systems.
  - I spoke at a Latin America Leadership Training Workshop
  - I taught a class at the 2010 Pan-American Lectureship in Tegucigalpa, Honduras, focusing on Galatians as a missionary manual
  - I continued to serve as chairman of the board of directors for Baxter/Amicus. This work included several trips, appointments, meetings and presentations.
- These activities combined represent about 80 sermons and special presentations in English. In addition, numerous seminars and classes were presented in Latin America.

•I made eight mission trips, including trips to Honduras, Guatemala, and Colombia. These provided opportunities to teach and preach and help in dozens of Latin American churches.

•I continued to write and maintain my website (approaching 200,000 annual visits).



In one sense, this does not look like much on paper. But as we reflect, we recall a time rich with opportunities, relationships, service, and growth. It is helpful to us to remember what we are trying to do. We see that God has brought us to this particular place in our lives, combining our experiences, training, and connections to open new doors.

- We are strengthening churches across Latin America, and also in the US, with seminars focused on Bible study, leadership development, teacher training, strengthening Christian families, ministry, small groups, and missions.
- We are personally participating in mission work through preaching and teaching in schools, churches, and various places in Latin America.
- We are increasing awareness of missions among the churches, and strengthening the mission outreach of the US church, especially focused in Latin America.
- We help churches meet special ministry needs with workshops, seminars, and interim ministry.
- We continue an active writing ministry, including our website where resources for ministry and missions are made available.
- At Baxter Institute, we prepare ministers and missionaries for evangelism and church planting.
- In the work of training leaders and teachers, we meet an immediate need as churches seek to identify local leaders who can help the church move ahead with biblical organization and increased local responsibility and ownership.

Our involvement in these works requires an increasing number of foreign mission trips each year. Funds received are used exclusively as working funds and to help with needs in Latin America. Our work is overseen by the Main and Oklahoma Church of Christ in McAlester, OK. [Tax-deductible contributions may be made out to the church and sent to 1108 Ono Ct, McAlester, OK 74501.]

Que Dios les bendiga,

Bob and Jan Young

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***[an overview of the city of Tegucigalpa, a reminder of the great cities of Latin America where many people are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ]***