

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission-Ministry Newsletter

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This report briefly summarizes the year to date, anticipates some upcoming trips, shares some examples of the impact of this ministry, and explains how you can help.

So far this year, more of my activity than normal has been focused in the U.S. I have taught and preached in eight congregations as I spoke at mission emphasis days, men's retreats, and special series. I agreed to teach a Wednesday night class at Park Plaza on "Restoration History" in March-April-May and that has limited my international travel but has left weekends open for special engagements. I have spent a lot of time on Baxter matters during the first few months of the year since Memorial Road in Edmond has agreed to serve as the new host congregation. As reflected in my previous report, along the way I worked in a three week trip to Guatemala.

I am pleased to announce that the rewrite of the evangelistic Bible study series is finished and that the transfer of the Spanish evangelism arm of "Quest for Truth" (in Spanish, "En Pos de la Verdad") has been finalized. The first printing is done and I will be able to distribute new evangelism materials to a few hundred preachers and leaders on my trips to Honduras and Peru in May. I am working with a well-known mission ministry among churches of Christ to arrange future printing and distribution.

The work of developing more seminars and written studies to address the needs of the Latin American churches and writing materials to help explain Bible passages that present special challenges to the churches is slow but progressing. I continue to format and post seminars and materials to make them more accessible.

My schedule for the rest of the year is almost complete. In May, I speak at Baxter Seminar in Honduras and at the national preachers and church leaders' conference in Peru. In June I will return to Honduras for seminars at Ocotopeque, Santa Rosa de Copan, and San Pedro Sula. A trip to Ecuador and Colombia is planned for August and September, and a trip to Nicaragua is scheduled for September and October. The Nicaragua trip is a new invitation and will expand the influence of this ministry. I have invitations to Guatemala, the Dominican Republic, and Chile yet to be scheduled—I hope to schedule one of these in October or November, the others will have to wait until early 2015. The last trip of the year is always to Baxter Institute in Honduras for graduation and the annual board meeting in December.

The Lord continues to bless this ministry. Every week I receive news of baptisms in the congregations I work with. In March, elders were established in Wanchaq, Cusco, Peru and in Pilanqui, Ibarra, Ecuador. Elders were recently added in San Pedro Sula. The churches in Venezuela meet in homes at times because of the violence, scarcity, military presence, and barricades in the streets, but the spirit of the churches is strong and I receive reports of continual baptisms. For the present, it is difficult to travel to Venezuela. Congregations in Guayaquil and Babahoyo, Ecuador are very near to establishing elders. One of the most exciting things I observe across Latin America is that those who have been named as elders are traveling in their own countries and assisting with the training of additional elders. I am reminded of Paul's instructions to Timothy to train those who will be able to train others.

HOW YOU CAN HELP. This work is possible because interested churches and Christians provide working funds for travel and materials. [With regard to personal support, Jan and I are totally self-funded.] We are also grateful for the many brothers and sisters who pray regularly for this work. Of course, ultimately the work of strengthening and edifying local churches in order to develop healthy model churches, developing biblical leadership in the churches, and equipping local churches for ministry, evangelism and church planting is possible only by God's grace. God calls us and places us in service according to our gifts, opening and closing doors as we seek to make his purpose our purpose.

This work is overseen by the elders of the congregation in McAlester, Oklahoma. Gifts are tax-deductible. Checks can be made payable to the Main and Oklahoma Church of Christ with the memo line for "Latin American Leadership." Please note that **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY TULSA ADDRESS** so I can handle deposits and gift acknowledgements. This ensures accurate accounting.

[**Note:** all reports are posted and available at www.bobyongresources/missions/mission-reports.htm.]

Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you),
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[In the great cities of Latin America many people are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ and Christians hunger and thirst for the word of God and encouragement toward healthy church development and effective leadership]