

## ***LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT***

*Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond*

### **Mission-Ministry Newsletter**

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Dear brothers and sisters in Christ, family and friends,  
This report updates the progress being made to encourage more evangelism in Latin America—evangelistic Bible study materials, evangelism seminars, and new opportunities. I also report on my trip to Colombia and Ecuador and my recent trip to Nicaragua. Finally, there is a brief preview of 2015 and a description of some financial needs in Latin America. Thank you for your interest and support as we work together in the advance of the Kingdom of Christ.

#### **PURSUING THE TRUTH--“EN POS DE LA VERDAD”**

One of the most exciting developments in this ministry is the increased focus on evangelism. In the last newsletter, I reported on the evangelistic Bible study, “**En Pos de la Verdad.**” **Spanish Literature Ministry** has agreed to help with printing and distribution. They now have 3000 sets available (24000 individual lessons). Because these are new materials, SLM is willing to include a sample set with every order. I am committed to help raise funds (at least \$1000) for that purpose.

This year I have distributed thousands of these lessons to churches and church leaders in Peru, Guatemala, Panama, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Nicaragua. Those receiving and using the studies are enthusiastic and more and more local churches are requesting evangelism seminars. In Bogota, the churches plan to use the lessons for follow-up in their city-wide campaign. Baptisms resulting from these studies have begun and I am confident they will multiply.



#### **PROGRESS IN COLOMBIA AND ECUADOR**

A trip to Colombia and Ecuador in August and September allowed me to revisit several congregations that are growing and developing rapidly. I visited five new congregations. In **Tuluá (Colombia)** I visited the congregation “Las Americas” (new contact) and on my next trip we will spend a more extended time together; the tentative plan is for a combined effort of the two congregations in Tuluá. In **Cali (Colombia)**, the Metropolitan church now has 3 excellent elder candidates and is tentatively planning to install elders before the end of the year. In **Tulcán (Ecuador)** I presented a 3-day seminar focused on the book of Acts. On Sunday morning we had 80 present (picture, right). I received an invitation to preach in the evening in **Ipiales (Colombia)** and after the sermon the leaders asked that I please plan to spend more time with them on the next trip. In the area around **Ibarra (Ecuador)**, I presented a seminar on “How to Study and Understand the Bible.” This was a combined effort of **Pilanquí, Atuntaqui and Otavalo**. In **Túquerres (Colombia)** I was able to speak at the location of a proposed church plant in **Suyapes (Colombia)**. In **Cumbal (Colombia)**, I met with the church leaders who are in the process of buying property to erect a building. They have purchased the property and materials for foundations and



initial work. Completing the first phase will cost \$1500 more (picture, right; also see below under money matters). I spent the night with the preacher in **Pasto (Colombia)** before an early morning flight. The church has two elders, and we shared a good study of biblical leadership. I am committed to including Pasto on my 2015 trip with a seminar to encourage church maturity and increased evangelism.



### **BACK TO NICARAGUA AFTER 7 YEARS**

In late 2014 I received an invitation to visit the Villa Alemania church in Managua. The church has 2 elders, 2 evangelists, 3 deacons, and numerous preachers, teachers and evangelism workers. The week was spent in seminars focused on evangelism, strong families, and church leadership. On Sunday, I preached twice; the total attendance was 681 (picture, left). This church sponsors a weekly national TV program.



The second week I spent with the Nueva Libia church. This church began 13 years ago, and on Sunday I preached 3 times with 318 present in the 3 assemblies. Their goal is to have an attendance of 400 by the end of the year. The church has 2 elders, 6 deacons, 2 evangelists, and 9 teachers. The building holds only about 150

comfortably, which is the reason for 3 services. They are planning to add a Sunday morning service (7 AM) soon to accommodate more people. This would not be popular in the US, but in a society where many new Christians have roots in Catholicism, it is quite normal and will meet the needs of many people. I also spoke on the weekly radio program hosted by the church. Both of these churches are well on their way to being model churches to encourage the future development of the church in Nicaragua.

I also visited a number of the congregations in Managua and the outlying areas. At one meeting, conversation turned to the possibility of a celebration of the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the church in Nicaragua. While that is still 4-5 years away, I was encouraged by the creative thinking and (of course) said I would be willing to help.

I generally do not spend much time in tourist-y things on my trips, but I was able to see Volcano Masaya and to look down into the crater of the volcano! A first for me—to look down into an active volcano! Unfortunately the rain was generating a tremendous amount of sulphuric smoke making good pictures impossible.



### **PLANS FOR 2015**

As I think about next year, I see that the invitations only increase and that it is more and more difficult to meet all of the requests. Almost always, I receive an immediate invitation to return, but with such visits usually have to be scheduled at least a year away. As I evaluate this work and plan for 2015, it is evident that this ministry that is making a difference in the growth and development of the churches in Latin America. Nonetheless, with more U.S. invitations and my desire to write materials that can have lasting value; I am trying to limit the number of trips and to include more locations on each trip. With significant increases in airfare costs, this is also a good use of resources, even though the cost of each trip increases slightly.

### **MONEY MATTERS—HOW YOU CAN HELP**

This 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 because of our great God. Working funds for travel and materials are provided by interested churches and Christians. No personal support is received from contributions since I do this work as a volunteer and Jan and I are self-funded with regard to personal support. We are grateful also for those who pray regularly for us and for this work.

**Please note these opportunities to help with special needs in Latin America. As always, I will be happy to provide the connection and make sure you receive reports.**

→\$1000 to help Spanish Literature Ministry in distributing free samples of evangelism lessons

→\$6700 one time gift for the television program in Nicaragua—includes upgraded camera and partial purchase of airtime through 2015, with all other expenses funded by the Villa Alemania church in Managua

→\$1500 one time gift to help the Cumbal, Colombia church complete Phase 1 of the construction on the new building, including plumbing, concrete, and roof

→\$125-150 monthly to help support an evangelist in Nicaragua. The rest of his support is provided by the local church there. This amount will give this brother an income of slightly more than \$4000 annually, but the work of the local church will be advanced tremendously. [An excellent opportunity for a smaller US church.]

This ministry 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.” If the funds are for one of the efforts described above, please also include that information with the gift. Please note that **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133) so I can handle deposits and gift acknowledgements, and have an accurate accounting.

[**Note:** all reports are available at [www.bobyounqresources/missions/mission-reports.htm](http://www.bobyounqresources/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]***