

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission-Ministry Newsletter

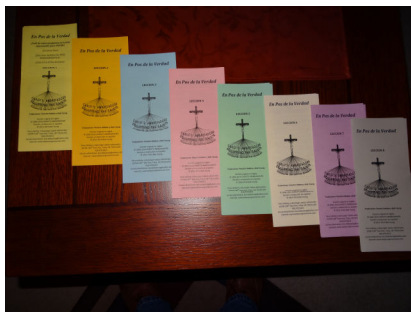
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www.bobyoungrsources.com

Let me begin by telling you a couple of things about this work. **First, it has been a very good year.** Many churches, leaders, and members have participated in the seminars and presentations; churches are growing spiritually and in number, planning for the future, seeking greater unity, naming elders, and growing in evangelistic fervor. In the churches where I have worked, there have been many baptisms. To God be the glory!

The second thing I want to share concerns financial needs. When I started this work five years ago, Jan and I were pleased that we could be self-supporting and that we would not need to ask for personal support.

My idea was to raise some working funds for travel and materials, and to simply show up, teach, and preach. I know now that such was not realistic. When one is in regular contact with the churches in Latin America, it is impossible to remain isolated from the many financial needs. While I cannot help with every need that arises, there are one-time, limited needs that are important bridges to the future and will enable many good works. Therefore a part of my work of 2014 has been to establish guidelines for when and how to help with financial needs. These guidelines are available for those who are interested. In the future you will see more and more financial needs outlined in these reports.



UPDATE ON “EN POS DE LA VERDAD”

After completing the translation in late spring 2014, the first printing of these evangelistic Bible studies was done in May (about 500 sets, 4000 lessons). In the summer, Spanish Literature Ministry (SLM) did a second printing of 24000 lessons. That printing will be depleted early next year so preparations are underway for a third printing. I spent a day in Wichita Falls recently to work through various details. Through the generosity of several readers, the funds to help SLM include a sample set with every order have been given—thank you!

Last month I rewrote the workshop training booklet (20 pages) to help others use the materials more effectively. That training is now available online. I am constantly encouraged by the focus on evangelism among the Latin American churches, the interest being shown in these studies, and the results being reported.

PROGRESS IN GUATEMALA

I recently received a message from a young man in Guatemala who wrote, “My father is using the materials from your website without your authorization to train leaders in the church and in surrounding churches.... maybe you can come and visit us soon.” May we never forget that the fields are still white until harvest!





In October and November, I was in Guatemala for the second time this year. The week before I arrived in La Unión, Zacapa, there were five baptisms in the mountain congregation in Timushán. On Sunday I spoke at an area-wide worship in Timushán (picture previous page, assembling at the building) with 130+ present, many of whom walked up to 3 hours one way from other mountain villages to be part of the special day. Timushán is a rural, mountain village where electricity is not yet available. Going from La Unión to Timushán, we had

to walk part of the way because recent rains had completely washed out the road. We used two pickup taxis. One took us as far as possible; then we walked a path that paralleled the washout to the other pickup (picture above, some of the church leaders who were present).

It is always special to visit Sololá and the small congregations around Lake Atitlan (picture right). I presented a two-day seminar on Revelation in Chichicastenango (picture below, some of those present), and on Saturday traveled to Xela for an afternoon seminar focused on church unity. Xela is a new seminar location; they immediately wanted to know when I could return. The themes of the seminars were chosen by the local brothers.



2014 SUMMARIZED

In the US, in addition to several trips to work on transfer, printing and distribution for “En Pos de la Verdad,” I taught in Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, Tennessee, and Michigan. One thing I like about the US trips is that Jan more often accompanies me. We were away from home a month and a half for US appointments.

Internationally, I made trips to Guatemala, Honduras, Panamá, Perú, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Guatemala, and Honduras. I spent a little over 3 months in Latin America as I spoke in 25 different locations involving leaders from approximately 117 congregations.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2015

My terms as board chair of Baxter Foundation and president of the board of Asociación Amicus expired in early December and I asked not to serve again, desiring to step back and have more time for this work. While I am no longer a standing member of either board, at the December board meeting of Baxter Foundation, I was named a Lifetime Board Member. I was also named a senior board member of the Honduran board. This will allow me to spend more time in the work of Latin American Leadership Development while maintaining contact and involvement with the work at Baxter Institute.

The 2015 calendar is all but complete with 8 international trips (Honduras, Mexico, Chile, El Salvador, Honduras, Colombia, Ecuador, and Guatemala) and 7 US trips. The number of invitations continues to increase so that it is not possible to answer all of the invitations. This ministry is obviously making a difference in the growth and development of the church in Latin America. In 2015 I want to increase my focus on evangelism seminars and make more materials available online.

FINANCIAL NEEDS UPDATE

Thanks to the generosity of some who receive this report, some of the needs outlined in the October report have been met. Thank you for your interest and support as we work together in the advance of the Kingdom of Christ. 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. I am happy to provide a connection and make sure you receive reports.

→\$100 monthly to help support an evangelist in Guatemala for 2015. He is currently living on \$300/month.

→\$125-150 monthly to help support an evangelist in Nicaragua. The remainder of his support is provided by the local church in Nicaragua. This amount will give this brother an income of slightly more than \$4000 annually and the work of the local church will be advanced tremendously. This is also a one-year commitment.

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 funds are for a specific financial need, please include that information with the gift. Please note that **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133) so I can handle deposits and gift acknowledgements, and have an accurate accounting.

[**Note:** all reports of this work are available at www.bobyounresources/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]