

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission-Ministry Newsletter

Bob and Jan Young, 10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133

www.bobyoungresources.com



As you will read below, 2015 has begun with great hope and lots of activities. One exciting development is that the **Fort Gibson Church of Christ** mission committee has agreed to oversee and help manage funding for special projects. This will keep special projects funds separate from the working fund that is used for travel, materials, and seminar expenses. The Fort Gibson church has helped and encouraged this ministry in various ways and assists with one trip each year. Several times **Glen Elliott**, deacon of missions at Fort Gibson, and I have discussed ways the church there could be more involved in this work.

This will be a natural step toward their increased participation.

In January, I sent an “out of season” fifth anniversary report to various friends, family members, and supporting churches. Here is an excerpt from what I wrote.

The opportunity to work with Latin American churches that are not satisfied with the status quo is refreshing; to work with churches that are open to God, wanting to share the gospel and advance the work of the kingdom is a blessing. We are blessed as we work together with such churches to develop healthy churches. This we do by focusing on explaining the biblical text, spiritual maturity, unity, leader development, and biblical organization.

Our goal is to model Christian character and spiritual maturity and to provide a healthy model for reading, understanding, and applying Scripture. One cannot overstate the value of spending time with the brothers and sisters—I learn from my time with them and they learn through the informal time we share as well as through the seminars, teaching, and preaching. I rejoice that I get to participate in the development and naming of additional elders and deacons. The ultimate goal is healthy churches able to function with minimum external assistance. The work often requires conflict interventions and management to resolve past difficulties, problem solving, and an extra measure of understanding and patience.

ARIZONA, ARKANSAS, KANSAS, OKLAHOMA, and TEXAS

In January Jan and I spent a few days in Arizona. We were blessed during our visit to be able to teach and preach at the Mission Valley congregation in Tucson and to share some of the excitement of our mission work. We worked in some personal relaxation and enjoyed time with our friends **Bill and Betty Sims**.

In March, April and May, I will limit my international trips as I teach a Wednesday night adult Bible class at **Park Plaza church in Tulsa**. This will give me time to work with more Hispanic churches in the U.S. and report to some of the congregations that provide working funds for this ministry. I either have traveled or will travel to various places in Arkansas, Kansas, Texas, and Oklahoma.

NICARAGUA and HONDURAS

A scheduled trip to northern Honduras for early 2015 kept expanding, and eventually included four days in **Managua, Nicaragua** and two weeks in Honduras working with various churches (picture left, speaking on Nicaraguan national television). A scheduled visit to **Barrio Cabañas in**



San Pedro Sula was extended to include a three-day seminar in **Puerto Cortés**, two days in **Talanga**, and multiple seminars and teaching-preaching opportunities in Olancho and the area around **Catacamas**.

BAXTER INSTITUTE. I was happy to be able to spend a brief time on the campus at Baxter while passing through Tegucigalpa. I had the opportunity to speak to the students in the daily devotional (picture, right). Steve Teel, president at Baxter, suggested I tell them of some of the successes I am seeing in the work in Latin America, explaining what the local churches are doing to advance the gospel.



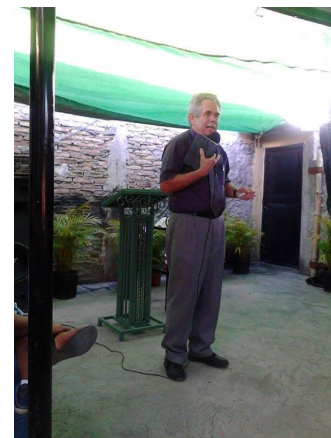
NICARAGUA TELEVISION PROGRAM; FINANCIAL SUPPORT FOR ANOTHER EVANGELIST. The TV program, "Nicaragua Para Cristo," was struggling financially as 2014 ended. Thanks to a generous donor, money was given for some much needed newer equipment and funding was provided that will help the program continue through 2015. In Managua, I also had the opportunity to deliver funds to the elders of the **Nueva Libia** church to provide much needed financial support for an effective, experienced evangelist.



NEW INVITATIONS IN HONDURAS. In Honduras, I made several new contacts and have new invitations to Villa Nueva, Travesía, and Gracias Lempira. These will be included in the January 2016 trip.

SETTING UP BIBLE STUDIES. I teach evangelism, I also try to model evangelism. In Honduras, there were contacts made with at least 11 non-Christians who are interested in Bible studies. The local churches will continue these studies. One study resulted in a baptism at Barrio Cabañas during my time there (picture, left). The next week I received news of two more baptisms in Colonia Agrícola.

A NEW CHURCH BUILDING IN TALANGA, HONDURAS. The **Park Plaza church** has been involved in the work in Talanga since the planting of this new church. While there, I met with the men (about 15 present for a Monday night Bible study), visited the location that has been purchased for the new church building, and was able to preach and teach on Sunday (picture, right). On Sunday, the church adjusted their meeting time to accommodate my schedule. I preached twice in Catacamas that morning, then took the "irregular" bus to Talanga. Because of the frequent stops, I arrived late, but two brothers were waiting for me at the bus stop and rushed me to the house the church currently rents. The congregation was there, patiently awaiting my arrival. The patio was filled and overflowing. Thankfully, construction on the new church building began the week after my visit.



EVANGELISM MATERIALS AND TRAINING



The evangelism training workshop materials are now available online. The number of congregations requesting and receiving the lessons is increasing. I distribute lessons and provide training on most of my trips. I am encouraged by the focus on evangelism within the Latin American churches, the interest being shown in these studies, and the results being reported. I recently conducted an evangelism workshop with the **Empire Central iglesia de Cristo** in Dallas. The church selected elders late last year (picture left, visiting with one of the elders at Empire Central). While I was in Dallas, I also spent some time with a minister from a Fort Worth iglesia de Cristo and started planning toward an evangelism seminar there.

LOOKING AHEAD

Before the next scheduled report, I have international trips scheduled to Chile and El Salvador. Please pray for safety in travel, the success of these efforts, and that the increased efforts in evangelism will bear fruit for the glory of the Lord. I share this so that you can pray specifically for these activities.

I have already filled much of the first half of 2016 and am working to answer as many calls as possible. Please pray for health, energy, and the ability to use these opportunities wisely.

YOU CAN HELP

One of the most important things you can do is pray for the advance of the gospel around the world. I encourage you to pray for this effort, but also for the numerous mission efforts being made to take the gospel to the lost in other nations.

You can assist with funding for special evangelism and outreach projects in Latin America. As mentioned above, this funding is coordinated through the Fort Gibson Church of Christ. Checks for special projects should also be mailed to my Tulsa address. (Picture right, the beginnings of a new church building in Cumbal, Colombia)



Finally, you can assist with the working fund of this ministry. We work with the elders of the Main and Oklahoma church in McAlester, Oklahoma to accept tax-deductible gifts. 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 provide an accurate accounting.

[**Note:** previous reports of this work are available at www.bobyoungrsources/missions/mission-reports.htm.]

Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you),
Bob and Jan Young
918.470.0421 (cell)
bro.bobyounq@yahoo.com



[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]