

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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Latin America Calling

In Acts 16 Paul heard the “Macedonian call” when he had a vision of a man of Macedonia saying, “Come over and help us.” As a result Paul went to Macedonia, God opened doors and churches were established. Several of the Macedonian churches became bulwarks of the faith and still serve as examples to us today through the letters Paul wrote to them. Today a similar call echoes forth from Latin America. Churches and Christians in Latin America are calling, “Come over and help us.”

The call from Christians and churches in Latin America must be heard.

I wish North American Christians could clearly hear and grasp the call, so that our response could be multiplied. The Latin American call is important and worthy of response for several reasons. First, the Latin American churches are trying to do the work God has placed before them. The call does not come from churches that are lazy and unmotivated. The call comes from churches and Christians that are committed and evangelistic, and want to do God’s will. Second, they cannot do it by themselves. The fields are white and the laborers are few. Available resources are limited, especially outside of a very few well-known mission-point countries that have received numerous groups and much financial support. Many of the Latin American churches are relatively new; many of the Christians are new Christians. They do not have the long history shared by the churches in North America. They need help to mature and grow spiritually; they need help to develop churches and leaders. Third, the help they most need is for guidance in developing healthy churches, establishing healthy dynamics, motivating spiritual growth, developing healthy families, and developing leaders and teachers. They long for practical training in how to accomplish the work, and sound relevant Bible studies that model effective Bible study and teaching.

The work of Latin American Leadership Development (LALD) seeks to answer the call from Latin America through seminars, training, preaching and teaching. The map at the right gives an idea of the extent of this work. (Space on the map allowed only one star per country or state even though I work with multiple churches in almost all locations.)

If you would like more information about how you can help answer the Latin American call, contact me. There is a need for more people to go. There is a need for more churches to see the need and connect with the mission. There is always a need for more resources that can be channeled to things that contribute to healthy, independent churches.



2015—A QUICK LOOK

The following have kept me busy during the first part of 2015—

- Teaching, preaching, and reporting for English-speaking churches: Tucson, AZ; Dierks, AR; Park Plaza, Tulsa, OK; and Fort Gibson, OK.
- Teaching, preaching, and seminars with Hispanic churches (Iglesias de Cristo): Empire Central, Dallas, TX (3 seminars, various topics); Siempre Familia, Fort Worth, TX (evangelism seminar); and Bond Street, Dallas TX (weekend seminar).
- Teaching a Wednesday night adult Bible class at Park Plaza in Tulsa.
- A trip to Managua, Nicaragua to consult with two elderships and help to support the work of two churches—Villa Alemania and Nueva Libia.
- Two weeks in Honduras, working with church leaders in 3 congregations around San Pedro Sula, 25 congregations around Catacamas, and visiting the church in Talanga. The trip also included visiting and speaking at Baxter Institute.



- Jan and I traveled to Kansas for the funeral of a long-time friend and brother in Christ who had helped financially with this work in times past.
- Writing and posting more materials available by Internet; establishing a YouTube channel to share teachings in both English and Spanish.
- Two weeks in Chile, speaking at a national men's conference and men's leadership retreat (picture left); teaching, preaching, and presenting seminars in three churches—Los Andes, Nogales, and Providencia (details below).

FUNDING UPDATE

Latin American Leadership Development, through various supporters, has provided **new equipment** for the national TV program in Nicaragua and purchased 30 minutes of **weekly air time** for 2015. Partial temporary support to avoid disruption in the works and to provide time to identify new funding sources is being supplied for an **evangelist in Guatemala** and **two evangelists in Nicaragua**. Temporary funding is also being supplied for **evangelists in Venezuela** due to the severe economic strains at this time. Almost **13000 evangelism lessons** have been printed and distributed. Funding has been given for the next phase of a **new church building** in Cumbal, Colombia; we are working on construction details.

Thank you very much for your interest in this work and for helping provide essential short-term funding to meet special needs and to help congregations mature and develop in healthy ways.

CHILE

I spent the last half of May in Chile. Activities included a leadership seminar and preaching at Providencia, a leadership seminar and teaching and preaching at Nogales, and teaching and preaching at Los Andes. In addition I spoke at national men's conference and the annual men's retreat (picture right, dressed for a cold night at the men's retreat). A good way to summarize the trip may be to share a part of a report sent out by a Chilean national preacher:

This May was a huge blessing...as we had the privilege of having the amazing Bob Young with us here in Chile. This month was full of organizing events like our national men's conference and Biblical Seminary Studies for the congregation, plus the annual men's retreat.





The national men's conference had over 10 congregations participate with over 50 men in attendance. We studied unity within the body of Christ.

With Brother Bob, we held three biblical seminars averaging 50 people a night, men and women focusing on servant leadership within the body. We also had morning Bible studies on Exodus focusing on God's relationship to his People, with about 15 people daily. The men's retreat had 33 men in attendance, Brother Bob's lessons all focused on the book of Colossians.

I am grateful to God for our congregation in the way their passion in their faith was felt and put into practice, especially in response to the great teaching of Bob Young who taught

us about the servant hearted leadership of Christ (Mark 10:45 "For even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.")

YOU CAN HELP—A MESSAGE FROM BOB AND JAN

One of the most important things you can do is pray for the advance of the gospel around the world. We appreciate your prayers for this effort. You can assist this ministry with working funds, or with funding for special evangelism and outreach projects in Latin America. All contributions, whether for the work fund or special projects, should be mailed to my Tulsa address.

We work with the elders of the Main and Oklahoma church in McAlester, Oklahoma to accept tax-deductible gifts. Checks should be made payable to the Main and Oklahoma Church of Christ with the memo line, "Latin American Leadership." If funds are for a specific financial need, please include that information with the gift. Again, note that **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133), so that I can handle deposits, gift acknowledgements, and provide accounting.



Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

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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]