

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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“In season and out of season....”

I am sending this report about a month early because of the intensity of the upcoming schedule. I would normally send the summer report in late August or early September, but the schedule does not give me enough consecutive days in the office next month to prepare and send a report. You will better understand that when you read the “Looking Ahead—For Your Prayer List” section below that outlines upcoming events, travels, and activities to give you specific things to pray about.

SUMMER 2015—A QUICK LOOK

I returned from Chile on June 1 and the flurry of normal summer activities took off in earnest. The rest of that week and the first part of the following week—10 days—were a whirlwind.

- One last night of teaching the spring Bible class series. Studying for and teaching the series on the Minor Prophets (“God’s Twelve Voices that Shaped His People”) stimulated and inspired me.
- I was honored to have the privilege of kicking off the Park Plaza Summer Series with the assigned topic, “Paradise Lost.” That video is available online. (The easiest access to the videos I have posted on my YouTube channel is through the YouTube link/button on the front page of my website.)
- It overfilled the brief time available, but Jan and I worked in a couple of day trips to visit her mother and my step-mother. I also had a profitable meeting with Norm Easter, new chairman of the Baxter board. I was pleased to be able to pass on numerous files—I now have one less 5-drawer legal filing cabinet in my office!

After 10 days stateside, I left for El Salvador for 10 days (picture right, the church in Nuevo Cuscutlán, one of several churches I visited and worked with in San Salvador). A detailed report of the activities in El Salvador is on the next page.

In early July, I was blessed to be able to spend time with Byron Huertas, native mission worker in La Union, Zacapa, a region of eastern Guatemala. Byron was in the U.S. for a conference and to visit a Hispanic church in Texas. He traveled to Oklahoma City to visit the Edmond church because the university ministry there is involved in annual mission trips to La Union. I took advantage of the opportunity to drive to Oklahoma City and to share some profitable time with Byron as we discussed future plans and activities.



Also in July I presented a weekend seminar at the Iglesia de Cristo, Crieve Hall in Nashville, Tennessee, and took advantage of the opportunity to spend a little time with Steve and Jeanne White to discuss how we can best assist the Latin American churches in moving forward toward independence, developing healthy churches capable of standing on their own and doing God’s will.

Along the way, the tasks of scheduling future trips, arranging travel, seminar and class preparations is a constant, along with my commitment to new studies and new articles, writing, posting, and recording videos.

JUNE 2015—EL SALVADOR

The trip to El Salvador had multiple purposes—to understand better the current state of the churches in El Salvador along with their challenges and needs, to spend time with and encourage specific congregations in San Salvador, to travel with Ralph McClurg and teach in the La Palma/Ocotepeque region near the Honduran border, and to assist the Miramonte church in the process of establishing a formal leadership.

All went as planned in the first part of the trip with visits in Nuevo Cuscutlán and Santa Elena, along with lots of visiting and analyzing the present circumstances of the churches in El Salvador. A two-day trip eastward to San Miguel gave me a firsthand view of the churches in El Triunfo and La Cruz. A church from Mayfield, KY was working in a brigade, and I was blessed to spend time with Rudy Arguera as I tried to understand more about the work in El Salvador.

The arrival of Ralph McClurg was delayed so that I was not able to go to La Palma and Ocotepeque, but that was only a minor setback as I prepared to spend three days with the Miramonte church. The church is hoping to establish an eldership in 2016. The weekend seminar that focused on various details of spiritual leadership along with practical applications and a time for questions and answers seemed a positive step forward.

Much more could be written about special people and events—perhaps it is a weakness of my reporting method that I tend to focus on “nuts and bolts” as I try to give a flavor of the work that is done and the things accomplished on a typical mission trip.



JULY 2015—NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE

In mid-July, Jan and I traveled to Tennessee and Kentucky to spend time with Jacobo and Marcela Chalco and the Iglesia de Cristo in Crieve Hall, Nashville, TN. The seminar focused in the study of Exodus, thinking about how God reveals himself to his people, desiring to make them like him. A study of the verbs related to God shows that God reveals himself, develops a plan for his people, blesses and consecrates them, delivers them, and then protects and tests as they travel to Sinai to receive a new identity, confirming with a covenant that God will continually be with them.

We spent 6 hours in a study of Exodus on Friday evening and Saturday. On Sunday I showed how

various concepts from Exodus play out in the New Testament in Titus, 1 Peter, and the “I am” statements in the Gospel of John.

Since one of the purposes of the seminars is to develop spirituality among God’s people, I generally include in the seminars at least one lesson on prayer or another topic specifically related to spiritual growth. To study Jesus’ prayer life is intriguing. How do we talk to God, about God? How and when does he hear us—our words, our mouths, even our hearts? We try to measure prayer—big mistake! Prayer is not to be measured by frequency, how long, how many people, or the number of positive answers from God. In fact, Jesus condemned such measurements. How can prayer permeate every moment? In his ministry, Jesus acts when I would expect him to pray; he prays when I would expect him to act. Prayer reflects the joyful awareness that God is present, right here, right now, always, everywhere. Our prayers reflect our faith, but prayer is not just talking, prayer is relationship.

LOOKING AHEAD—FOR YOUR PRAYER LIST

I appreciate your prayers for this ministry. To give specific items about which you can pray I am listing some upcoming trips and events. These can guide your prayers, matching your supporting prayers with specific dates and locations as I am working with the churches.

- August 10-24, Colombia and Ecuador, Bogotá, Tulcán, Ipiales, Cumbál, Túquerres, and Pasto
- September 13, weekend mission emphasis in Texas
- September 16-21, Dominican Republic
- October 2-7, Michigan, conference, special series at Holmes Road, Lansing
- October 11, weekend mission emphasis in Arkansas
- October 16-23, Guatemala, Chimaltenango, Chichicastenango, and Sololá

YOU CAN HELP

Looking ahead to 2016, the challenge of answering the many invitations is only accelerating. I am working on scheduling southern Ecuador, the annual trip to northern Honduras, a new invitation to Cuba, the possibility of Nicaragua and El Salvador, and eastern Guatemala (since I will not be able to visit there on my October 2015 trip). Already scheduled is a May trip to Peru for the national conference of church leaders and preachers, along with seminars and work with various specific churches in the northern part of Peru.

Jan and I are blessed by the number of churches and Christians who participate in this ministry with working and travel funds and with funds for special evangelism and outreach projects in Latin America. We are blessed by our relationship with various churches we have worked with over the years, and especially are we grateful for the Main and Oklahoma church in McAlester, Oklahoma and their participation which allows us to accept tax-deductible gifts. (Checks can be made payable to “Church of Christ” with the memo line, “Latin American Leadership.”) We are blessed by our relationship with the Fort Gibson church as we help fund special and one-time needs. If funds are for a specific need or project, please include that information with your gift.

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 accounting for the two funds.

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]