

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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Here's a list of some of the exciting articles you will find in this report

DEVELOPING AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH: update from Lexington IDC

AN EXAMPLE OF GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND LEADERSHIP: Pílanquí, Ibarra, Ecuador

CHURCHES IN DEVELOPMENT: Tulcán, Ipiales, Cumbal, Túquerres, Pasto (news from northern Ecuador and southern Colombia)

NEW CHURCH PLANTING IN PUERTO GAITAN: news from Bogotá, Colombia

ELDERS APPOINTED: Miramonte, San Salvador

TWO NEW STUDIES PUBLISHED IN SPANISH

SPECIAL PROJECT NEEDS!

A brief overview of travels and activities during the last three months

After spending the last half of May in Perú (see June report), U.S. travels for preaching appointments, seminars, and various meetings have taken me to **Rolla, MO; Wichita, KS; Fort Gibson, OK; Lexington, KY** (seminar at Iglesia de Cristo); **Lansing, MI; Kalamazoo, MI; Edmond, OK; and Nashville, TN** (spoke at national conference of Hispanic preachers and preached at Crieve Hall Iglesia de Cristo).

Three international trips found me in various locations in **Ecuador, Colombia, and El Salvador** as I preached, taught, and presented seminars in eight different congregations.

In early June, I finished my spring quarter adult Bible class at **Park Plaza** ("Letters from an Old Man") and the next week was privileged to introduce the Park Plaza summer series with a study from the early chapters of Genesis, focused on the question of how we should understand the suffering that exists in the world. Also in June, Jan and I were with **Rolla (MO)** church in our last visit with them during their interim search for a new preacher. As I wrote previously, spending time with this church was special for Jan and me.

An ongoing part of this effort involves helping churches renew and sharpen their mission focus with better understandings of the dynamics of involvement in missions. Meetings and various consulting appointments take another chunk of time, along with arranging seminars and travel details. Along the way, I work diligently on the production of additional studies and materials, both in English and Spanish.

DEVELOPING AN INDEPENDENT CHURCH: update from Lexington (KY) Iglesia de Cristo

In July I spent Jan and I spent several days with the Spanish congregation in Lexington, Kentucky. While they are currently meeting in the same facility as the English congregation, I was most encouraged by the news that they are aggressively working toward the establishment of an independent congregation that will be located nearer the Hispanic community (considering housing patterns). They are working on getting their own non-profit identity so they can purchase property, they have identified several suitable locations, and they are praying that this can become reality within a reasonable timeline. I am more and more confident that this is the best approach in most of our Hispanic congregations! Will you join them in praying about this important step forward as they seek to have a greater evangelistic impact in their community? (Picture, some of the children showing us what they learned in Bible class)





AN EXAMPLE OF GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT, AND LEADERSHIP: Pilanquí, Ibarra, Ecuador

In November 2016, the Pilanquí church will celebrate its Fifth Anniversary! Here is a young church, growing in number, attracting lots of young people, developing healthy ministry structures, led by two elders. On Sunday morning, the attendance was about 125. While in Ibarra, I was privileged to teach an evangelistic home Bible study. The church is involved in several church planting efforts, and dreaming about more opportunities. They have purchased land so they can erect their own building. The land has good visibility just a few yards off a

major street, and is one-half block from a major bus crossing—they have outgrown the space they are currently renting (picture, one of the elders and I are standing in front of the property).

[The next step in developing their own location on their own land will require about \$15000.]

CHURCHES IN DEVELOPMENT: Tulcán, Ipiales, Cumbal, Túquerres, Pasto (news from northern Ecuador and southern Colombia)

I spent a week with five churches near the Ecuador-Colombia border. All of these churches are in various stages of healthy development. In Tulcán (picture, right), the church is working on completing a new building expansion, with an auditorium that can seat as many as 250-300 in the future. They have outgrown their present facility which will be turned into more classroom space. They currently lack pouring the floor, finishing three walls, and the roof—total cost for this phase is \$6500.



In Cumbal, the brothers are aggressively moving forward on their new meeting facility (picture, left). They have paid approximately half of the costs to get to the present point—to finish doors and windows, the bathroom fixtures, and the transparent roof over the pulpit and baptistery area will require \$3000. I am hopeful that this project can be finished before the end of the year. My personal appeal—please consider helping this with project if possible—pray about opportunities, what God places in your hands, what God places in your hearts!

In Túquerres and Pasto the churches continue to move forward—in most places there was an attendance for the special “out of season” meetings of about 50-60%. In Túquerres and Pasto, the attendance was closer to 80%. I was especially encouraged. Every church faces discouragements from time to time—the departure of a family or two is especially felt in congregations that average only about 50 members. The Pasto church continues to move forward with the leadership of the two elders—this church is also seeking to move from a rented facility into their own, more permanent location!



A part of the Saturday evening Bible study group in the home of one of the members, Los Angeles congregation, Bogota, Colombia

NEW CHURCH PLANTING IN PUERTO GAITAN: news from Bogotá, Colombia

A part of the good news that I heard while with the Los Ángeles congregation in Bogotá concerned the planting of a new church in Puerto Gaitán, seven hours to the east of Bogotá. A member of the Los Ángeles congregation shared the gospel with members of his family, and they with others. As a result, there is a small congregation in Puerto Gaitán. The Los Ángeles church is sending weekend teams to help with preaching and development. I am currently helping with \$150/month. This would be a good project for someone!

Speaking of church planting, a new church has been planted by the Talanga church. The local church budget does not have room for the \$100/month required for travel to the new church site. I am also helping with this—another great project for someone who would like to make a difference!

Church planting is one of our most effective evangelism tools!



ELDERS APPOINTED: Colonia Miramonte, San Salvador, El Salvador

The first weekend in September I traveled to El Salvador to participate in naming the first elders in the Miramonte congregation in the capital, San Salvador. On Saturday I presented a seminar centered around the theme of “Deacons.” On Sunday I was privileged to teach and preach in the morning. In the afternoon, I preached again and administered the vows of the new elders and the church as they celebrated the culmination of a dream that first took shape several years ago. While two or three El Salvador churches have previously had elders, I understand that at the present time the Miramonte church is the only church of Christ in El Salvador with elders. I have been privileged to work closely with them over the last year and a half and look forward to helping bring the deacon selection and naming to reality as well.

TWO NEW STUDIES PUBLISHED IN SPANISH

I recently completed and published two new studies in Spanish. In my travels, two of the topics that come up frequently have to do with the Holy Spirit and details of the second coming of Jesus (the Millennium, etc.) These are available online and use the same format as the evangelistic studies.

SPECIAL PROJECT NEEDS!

I am constantly introduced to special projects where a little funding can make a big difference. I include these in my reports because some of you ask from time to time how you can make a difference by helping with funding. Contact me if you want a longer list—here are projects specifically mentioned in this report.

- Cumbal, \$3000 to complete building—doors/windows, floor, bathroom fixtures, transparent roofing
- Church planting--\$100/month for travel in Honduras; \$150/month for travel in Colombia

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE—HOW YOU CAN HELP

I regularly write and report on mission concepts and opportunities in Facebook (bro.bobyong). Also, mission-oriented information and various articles are available on my website (www.bobyongresources.com).

Thank you for your help—prayers, funding for special needs. help with the work and travel fund that makes this ministry possible and also helps with funding for special evangelism and outreach projects in Latin America.

YOU MAKE A DIFFERENCE!

Through the host congregation (Main and Oklahoma in McAlester, Oklahoma), we accept tax-deductible gifts (checks made payable to “Church of Christ” with the memo line indicating “Latin American Leadership” or the specific project being funded). Please note that **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133), as I am responsible for handling deposits, gift acknowledgements, and accounting. If funds are for a specific need or project, please include that information with your gift.

Que Dios me lo bendiga (may God bless you),
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[Photo: night overview of a part of San Salvador, capital city of El Salvador. In this photo, part of the city of 6 million souls cannot be seen because of the mountain. In the great cities of Latin America 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]

