

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 some of what you will find in this report

- >>>Summary of activities during September-October-November
- >>>Words of appreciation and hope from El Salvador—gospel campaign baptizes 61
- >>>Teaching evangelism methods in Chile; two baptisms the same week
- >>>An encouraging story
- >>>Church planting is one of the most effective evangelism tools
- >>>Special Projects—Updated List, ways you can help with special needs
- >>>Looking back at 2016

Travels and activities during the last three months

The last three months have been busy—I was “on the road” for over eight weeks. [During the last four months, I was out of the country 11 weeks, since I spent much of August in Ecuador and Colombia.]

→Elders were named in the **Miramonte congregation in San Salvador**. At present, this is the only congregation in El Salvador with elders. I also presented a seminar about deacons.

→Three elders and four deacons were named at **Neyba, Dominican Republic**.

This is the eighth Dominican congregation with elders [picture right, new elders in Neyba]. I also preached an evangelistic campaign with two responses.

→I worked with six congregations in and around **Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic** and presented a Saturday seminar attended by leaders from twelve churches. The churches want to study evangelism. While I was there, there were six baptisms in the churches I worked with (see picture on p. 2).

→In **Montevideo, Uruguay**, we worked on building a ministry team. I also presented a seminar over the book of Hebrews: How to Encourage a Tired Church. The spirit and attitude of the church has been buoyed by the immigration of Christians from Venezuela and the Dominican Republic.

→I visited the new church plant in **La Serena, Chile**, teaching an evangelistic Bible study, teaching evangelism to the ministry team, and facilitating planning for the future development of the church plant.



→I visited the small church in **Los Andes, Chile**, where the members have worked together to purchase land for constructing a building. [Picture left, home Bible study in Los Andes.]

→In **Puerto Montt, Chile** (42° s. latitude), a small group of Christians meet in a school building but are working toward the purchase of land. A brother from **Antofagasta** in the far northern part of Chile attended my seminar via Skype.

→I presented seminars in **Nogales, Santiago de Chile**, where the local church is led by two elders. The attendance is nearing 150 and they have had 25+ baptisms this year.

Stateside, I visited the church in **Mena, AR** where the new preacher, Jeremy Jones, is laying the foundations for a good work.

This church has walked alongside this work for almost 10 years as coworkers together. Other stateside meetings

were focused on new possibilities for printing and AV production. Along the way, I am always working on the production of additional studies and materials, both in English and Spanish.

Words of Appreciation and Hope from El Salvador

Here is part of a letter I received from the wife of one of the new elders appointed in September. [Picture, new elders in El Salvador.]

...[M]y dear brother, may God bless you always for doing such a marvelous work. We love you, you are a great example for our elders, thank you for your support. We are thankful there are brothers like you.

Soon after I was there, several congregations in El Salvador combined efforts in an area-wide gospel meeting, resulting in 61 baptisms. Preacher for the campaign was Pedro Sanchez, elder from Chile.



Teaching Evangelism Methods in Chile

Here is an excerpt from the newsletter of the missionary couple in La Serena.

Shortly after the departure of our New Zealand friends, we were visited by preacher and professor, Bob Young from the USA.... While here, he led Bible studies for one of our weekly small groups and also led a Bible study for us and the ministry team in the church. He inspired us and gave us new ideas on how to improve the work here. We are thankful to have had so much wisdom and love shared with us!

In the letter to which the report was attached, I learned “the rest of the story.” [Picture below, some of those present for a small group study in La Serena.]



“After you left we had a Bible study with our aunt Carolina and friend Kano. Carolina was the one who we were asking you what should we do because she had mentioned she wanted to be baptized but would never say yes, I’m ready. She serves faithfully in the church and hosts a Bible study group in her home, so we couldn't figure out what was holding her back. We were studying Acts 22:1-16, Paul’s conversion story. At the end, Ananias asks Paul, ‘What are you waiting for?’ We asked Carolina and Kano what may have been holding Paul back or not holding him back and then asked them what was holding them back. Kano had a few questions and fears. We talked about them and read what the Bible said and he

said ‘then I am ready.’ Then we asked Carolina what was holding her back and she smiled and exclaimed, ‘Nothing! Let’s do it!’ So, that coming Sunday they were both baptized. It was beautiful! Thank you for your advice! It helped them make a very important decision and helped us know how to go about asking them. Thank you!”

An Encouraging Story—One of the Reasons I Keep Going

About four years ago, I had the privilege of sharing the gospel with a young man who was in prison. Both he and his wife were baptized. After his release, they continued to grow in the Lord and are developing into wonderful Christian leaders. He has made no secret of his Christian commitment, living joyfully in the midst of his neighbors. When one of his neighbors constantly belittled and criticized him, he never responded negatively. Eventually his neighbor wanted to know why he was always so friendly and never responded negatively. The door was opened, the neighbor heard the message of Jesus and was baptized.

[Picture right, a baptism at **Bellas Colinas, Dominican Republic**.]



Church Planting is one of our most effective evangelism tools!

Honduras: \$100/month. A new church has been planted by the Talanga church in La Trinidad. The local church budget does not have room for the \$100/month required for travel to the new church site. I have been helping with this—a great project for someone who wants to make a difference!

Colombia: \$150/month. Here is a summary of a recent report I received about the new effort in Puerto Gaitán.

“The last three months have been good months to begin this new work with Bible studies on Saturdays at 10 AM and 7 PM, and the meeting of the church at 1030 AM on Sundays. We have had visitors in the studies with questions and answers. We have emphasized themes for the edification of the new Christians, the identity of the church, how to worship God, and true discipleship. The hospitality of the new Christians and their desire to seek new contacts is encouraging. We keep praying for this new work which is coming to fruition in the name of Christ.”

The brothers in Bogota continue faithfully in the weekend trips to Puerto Gaitán, seven hours to the east of Bogotá. Special project funding has provided the resources necessary for the trips through the end of 2016 (\$150/month). This would also be a good project for someone or for a mission-minded church.

[Picture right, part of an overflow Sunday crowd at Nogales, Santiago, Chile.]



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.

- Church planting—\$100/month for travel in Honduras; \$150/month for travel in Colombia
- Church planting—\$100/month for an effort in Guatemala. They have planted 5 churches in the past 6 years.
- Help for Venezuela—the churches have struggled in various ways during the ongoing crisis. There are too many needs to itemize: expensive food, lack of personal hygiene items and basic household necessities, lack of parts for cars, lack of money for public transportation, lack of medicine. For those interested, I can share a letter from one of the evangelists in the church in Barinas. I will funnel any funds received through Bob Brown.
- A Venezuelan couple need assistance with a surgical procedure for their soon to be born son, to correct a heart problem. They are in the U.S. The Northwest church in Houston is receiving funds for this need, and I will funnel any funds received through them.

LOOKING BACK AT 2016

I was privileged to teach and preach in **Honduras, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, El Salvador, Dominican Republic, Uruguay, Chile** (international); and in **Oklahoma, Texas, Missouri, Arkansas, Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan** in the U.S.

Leaders from **80+ congregations** across Latin America attended the seminars I presented.... I spoke on campus at **two Bible institutes**.... I taught, preached, and presented seminars in **27 local congregations** across Latin America.... I worked with four Hispanic churches in the U.S. There were 35 restorations in a campaign I preached in Peru.

Thousands are studying the materials available online.... the number of evangelistic Bible lessons distributed is approaching 50,000.... new materials and several videos and audios were produced.

MORE INFORMATION AVAILABLE—HOW YOU CAN HELP

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

Bob and Jan Young

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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]

