

## **LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond*

### **Mission and Ministry Newsletter**

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#### **A Personal Note**

*[I know that this personal note is long, but I know also that many who receive this newsletter are friends and family with interest in our lives beyond the mission and ministry work we share. If you wish, you can easily skip over this note and go directly to the second page for updates and mission and ministry news.]*

Developing my ministry and mission schedule has been filled with difficulties and setbacks in 2018! In January and early February, I planned time in the U.S. to take care of medical appointments, to adjust to new medications, and to have cataract surgery on both eyes. I thought that after that brief interruption, I would be free and clear—ready to resume a full calendar of travel. Not so!

In February and March, I spent three weeks in Chile, but upon my return I learned that I needed lens exchange eye surgery to correct a problem associated with the cataract surgery. The problem was the result of having had RK (radial keratotomy) 25 years ago.

I was barely past my lens exchange eye surgery when I left for two weeks in Ecuador and Colombia in April. I schedule spring mission trips to minimize the Wednesdays I am out of the country since in March, April, and May I teach a Wednesday night adult Bible class at Park Plaza. This year's study, "You've Got Mail!" focused on the General Letters. Teaching this class has been a regular part of my spring calendar for the past several years.

I used the interruption in scheduling to complete another Bible study guide – the *General Letters* is the fourth volume in the series. I also completed much of the writing on the fifth volume, the *Prison Letters*. (That volume is at the publishers and is due to be released about August 1.) I also completed more study materials and videos.

In June, I had a trip planned to Peru to work in three different locations, but by early May, the challenge of coordinating the three visits forced the postponement of the Peru trip until August. Such interruptions are frustrating, but in this case, God was actively watching over us and providing just what we needed.

During our Mother's Day visit to Jan's mother in Arkansas, we visited at length with the hospice nurse. He told us that Jan's mother was in a significant decline. Jan's mother deceased the next week, and we were glad that I was not scheduled to leave for Peru. It has been a blessing to be in the US, to be able to share this time together and to be present for Jan, just as she was there for me 25 years ago in the death of my mother.

Since I had to postpone the Peru trip, new possibilities opened up and the schedule for the rest of the year was reprogrammed. In mid-July, we visited friends in northeast Arkansas who are coming to grips with his stage IV pancreatic cancer. We shared time with another couple from our Ohio Valley days. We then spent a few days in Tennessee where I spoke about God's mission for his people and how we can fulfill that mission.

As I write this report, I am home for the weekend. In late-July and early-August I will be in Colombia to visit churches in Tuluá and the surrounding area, to present a seminar in Bogotá, and to speak at a national conference in Santa Marta. I will return August 6.

In late-August, I will spend a weekend with a Hispanic church in the U.S. and then will make the trip to Peru, working in Lima with the Bible Institute and with the Los Pinos church, and then with the church in Trujillo.

Between Colombia and Peru travels, I will have another eye surgery since the left lens has become cloudy. Jan and I will celebrate our 49<sup>th</sup> anniversary on August 15 (beginning the 50<sup>th</sup> year of our marriage). We have decided to begin the celebration early and spend some time together in the United States, visiting several places in September and October. I am working on



integrating these travels with visits to some US churches. I will report on these late July and early August activities – mission studies and Colombia – in the next newsletter.

Updating the calendar for the rest of the year, I have the trip to Peru in late August, in November Jan and I are planning to travel to Cuba as part of the Pan American Lectureship, and in November-December we will go to Honduras and Baxter graduation.

### Updates to past reports...

- The suffering and needs in **Venezuela** continue and worsen. Please pray for the churches and for the advance of the gospel. There are ever-increasing material needs. If you wish to help financially, I can help make certain the money or shipments get through with minimal delays.
- The problems in **Nicaragua** continue with almost daily reports of more senseless deaths at the hands of the government. A recent report said that some churches are not assembling due to fear of being on the streets and crossing the barricades. Please continue to pray.
- The churches in **Chile, Peru, Colombia, and Ecuador** continue to share encouraging reports of baptisms and church growth with the accompanying growing pains as meeting places become inadequate and more souls must be disciplined. In addition, I receive encouraging reports from various places in **Central and South America** where I have worked. Where the churches are focused on evangelism, the multitudes are listening and responding!

### Matthew 9 Revisited

May God help us lift up our eyes and see the fields white to harvest! When seeking and saving the lost is primary, when the gospel of salvation is proclaimed, and when the goal is developing faithful and committed followers of Jesus Christ, people respond and the world is changed. The workers Jesus taught us to pray for are those that will go forth into the harvest to reap the harvest!

How can we be satisfied with a meager harvest? Why do we continue to invest millions of dollars with minimal results? Jesus saw multitudes in need and spoke to their needs. May we be satisfied with no less! Do you believe the gospel can be preached in all the world? Do you believe that disciples can be made by baptizing and teaching? If not, Jesus gave his followers an impossible task. If we believe Jesus' words, let us be more diligent in obeying them.

### HOW YOU CAN HELP

I do not know how to express my constant gratitude for your interest and prayers. God is making possible hundreds of baptisms with new churches being planted each year. Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), we accept tax-deductible gifts (checks payable to "Church of Christ," memo line "Latin American Missions" or the specific project being funded). **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY ADDRESS** (10704 S 89<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133), since I handle deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting. If funds are for a specific need or project, please include that information with your gift.

*Que Dios lo bendiga (may God bless you),*

**Bob and Jan Young**

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*Overview of Ibarra, a city in Ecuador where the gospel is sounding forth. The world is in darkness without the gospel! Who will bring the light of the gospel? All across Latin America, people are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ; Christians hunger and thirst for the word of God and training in evangelism, healthy church development and effective church leadership.*

