

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT*Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond****Mission and Ministry Newsletter***Bob and Jan Young, 10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133www.bobyoungrsources.com**Greetings!**

Writing newsletters and sending reports can be complicated! Is it better to send reports on a regular schedule (quarterly, for example), or should one write and send another report when there is lots of news? Is a short report better than a long report?

God is at work among and through his people! I am sending this report early because there is lots of news. Despite my comment in the first newsletter of the year about the possibility of slowing down, in this report you will see that slowing down is not going to happen in 2019. I believe 2019 will be another banner year in this work.

Contents

In this newsletter you can read about the March trip to the **Dominican Republic**, my visit with the **Fort Gibson church** in late March as part of their Mission Emphasis Month leading up to Mission Sunday, and an early April trip to Texas to work on **mission planning**. In mid-April I preached a bilingual service at the **Park Iglesia de Cristo**. I have briefly summarized **teaching and preaching** opportunities in in other places. Plus, there is an update on **writing projects**, video production, and website development; plus, updates that describe progress in the works I help with in **Peru, Chile, and Costa Rica**.

Dominican Republic, March 2019

The purpose of the trip was to provide additional teaching and training for preachers in the new churches being established among the Haitian immigrants (*picture left, leaders from the churches*). I presented two days of seminar teaching about the church: its purpose, establishment, organization, work, and worship. Also included in the planning were two nights of an evangelistic campaign (*picture right*). The trip concluded with teaching and preaching at the new church plant in **Neyba** plus the opportunity to encourage the local church and to work with the elders and deacons who were named two years ago (*picture below left, with some of the elders and deacons*). I was blessed to have **Clark Lineback** accompany me on this trip.



The special projects aspect of Latin American Leadership

Development now supports the work in establishing and developing **eight Haitian churches**, with the hope of soon beginning to work with two more church plants. The basic cost is \$10 per month per church, but in my conversations with the elders at Neyba, the decision was made to increase that support. Even with the increased commitment, the total cost to work with eight church planting and development efforts is only \$2400 per year. Thankfully, when God's people hear about and understand the possibilities of efforts such as this, they are ready to step up and assist.



Mission and Ministry in the US



Fort Gibson. This good church has been a part of this ministry almost from the beginning. Not only does the church assist with funding for my travel, they have also committed to help with the work at Baxter Institute, and in 2019 they have added a new work in Colombia. I am always blessed by the opportunity to “go home” to this church where we spent eight years in ministry. I was also able to deliver Spanish Bible study lessons for the prison work and lessons for the evangelism program of the church. **Everett Laney** has served as the deacon charged with evangelistic outreach for many years and continues to make sure visitors are noticed and that follow-up occurs. **Henry Petree** is working in the men’s prison at Jesse Dunn and the church continues the prison work at Eddie Warrior that was begun during my ministry with them over 20 years ago. This church has reached hundreds of souls through the 30 years I have worked with them. I was privileged to share in their “Month of Missions” in late March (*picture from my archives*).

Mission meetings and planning. In early April Jan and I spent a few days in Texas to share time with **Dan and Elise Coker** (*first picture to the right*) and with **Calvin and Linda Henry** (*second picture to the right*). These two couples have been a major encouragement to Jan and me as we have explored open doors in order to understand how God wants us to be involved in his mission of taking the saving gospel to the world! We are thankful for the wonderful way such friends in Christ buoy our spirits and keep us moving forward in sharing the gospel! Dan always has unique insights; Calvin and I were able to develop plans for a fall 2019 effort in Colombia.



members who are involved in Latin American mission work through short-term trips to various locations. I spoke about the challenge of developing unity, working together, and making certain we are doing God’s work and accomplishing God’s purpose (*picture right*).

Park Iglesia de Cristo. With my frequent travels away from home, I do not have as much time as I would like to share time with my Spanish-speaking brothers and sisters in the local church (*picture left*). I was honored when **Francisco Davila** invited to preach a bilingual sermon for a special bilingual event in mid-April. The goal was to bring together the Spanish church along with many English-speaking



Ministry opportunities. I am blessed by the opportunity to work with churches and to minister in a variety of settings—teaching Bible classes, preaching, sharing in special series, and Mission Sundays are but a few examples. In late March Jan and I were privileged to participate in the memorial service for Dr. Rod Boydston, friend and colleague with whom we worked at Ohio Valley University.

Publishing and teaching. As I prepare to make the volumes that I have completed in the Bible study series available on Kindle, I am taking the opportunity to make minor corrections and changes. By summer, the newest corrected editions should be available both in print version and Kindle version. Once I finish the work on the six current volumes, I will be able to work more diligently on the books I have “in progress” – volumes on *Revelation* and the *Holy Spirit*. At the same time, I continually produce more written materials and videos. The revision of the ten lessons in the evangelistic series, “En Pos de la Verdad,” have been published and are in distribution (*picture right*).



Mission Updates

Peru Update. I am always encouraged by the reports I receive from areas in which I have worked. One location where the gospel continues to advance is around **Huamachuco**, Peru. I am invited to speak on the annual conference in July, 2020. (Pictures: Sarin, overview of the city and an assembly of the local church.)



Chile Update. Reports from Chile are also very encouraging. Pictures are of a recent gathering of representatives of the churches that are working together in the church planting project known as “**Misión Chile**” (picture left) and of a Santiago-area united worship at which over 300 Chilean Christians said goodbye to the **Zane Perkins family**, thanking them for their 17 years of service in the Lord’s Kingdom in Chile (picture right). In Chile, God is working in marvelous ways through the Chilean Christians who have a great heart for sharing the gospel and planting more churches.



Costa Rica Update. The decision by the local leadership in Heredia to encourage the cell groups to begin to develop into churches on their own is functioning to absorb the continued growth. Efforts to attract new members are shared by the cell groups. One of the advantages of this pattern of growth is that new areas are being evangelized and the message is being transmitted to more people through the existing cells. The Lord has blessed the church with fine leadership resources during the last ten years. Several brothers and sisters have become excellent preachers and teachers. There are brothers willing to lead groups and others who have started Bible study cells on their own so we now have a total of seven cells. An important contribution was the visit of **Bob Young, from Tulsa, OK**, whose presence during eight days among us was very encouraging and enlightening. It can be said with great confidence that the church in Heredia is experiencing a healthy transition from a centralized growth pattern to an orbiting cells growth pattern. This transition is being facilitated by the fact that leadership resources were developed during the last ten years.

*(This Costa Rica update was edited from a report written by **Carlos Ulate**).*

How you can provide prayer support for this ministry....

I appreciate your prayers for this ministry—pray for upcoming trips and activities and for the special projects God is enabling us to share.

2019 Activities

The 2019 calendar has only a few possible openings. We appreciate your prayer support as we seek to answer invitations in various places and as we walk through the doors God opens.

- **May**, Madill (OK) iglesia de Cristo, evangelistic series.
- **May**, Miramonte iglesia de Cristo, San Salvador, El Salvador. Themes: strong families, healthy elder function
- **May**, Baxter Institute, Honduras. I will speak at the Baxter Seminar. **Pete Shaw** is planning to accompany me.
- **May-June**, Hispanic churches in Tennessee and Kentucky, visits with financial partners.
- **July-August**, Colombia and Ecuador. This is an annual trip. Stops in Colombia include Bogota and work with a group of churches near the southern border. In Ecuador, I will present a seminar over Hebrews and visit new and growing churches in the region. **Jan will go with me** on this trip to Colombia and Ecuador.
- **September**, Colombia. Visits with various local churches for teaching and leadership training.
- **October**, speak at Global Mission Conference, Austin, Texas.
- **December**, Baxter board meeting and graduation.

2019 Special Projects

Special project funding is an important part of this work. Being able to help with special short-term or one-time needs complements—and completes—the travels, seminars, and campaigns. For your prayers, some 2019 special projects.

→ Bolivia. A Great Cities church plant in La Paz.

→ Chile. “Misión Chile” for church planting and strengthening.

→ Colombia. Two church planting and development efforts, evaluation and planning for future mission projects.

→ Dominican Republic -- evangelism and church planting. Work with eight new churches.

→ Honduras, Baxter Institute. Counseling program to establish stronger marriages and families.

→ Nicaragua. Half-salary of an evangelist-elder in Nicaragua.

→ Peru -- evangelism and church planting. Church plants in four locations, helping Peruvian Christians establish new churches.

→ Venezuela. Funds for relief efforts, evangelism, and preacher training.

→ Spanish Literature Ministry. Printing and distribution of evangelism lessons, materials for churches and mission points.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you for your interest in this work. I am always looking for those who want to be part of the team — financially, traveling with me, and in other ways. Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), we accept tax-deductible gifts (checks payable to “Church of Christ,” memo line “Latin American Leadership Development” [LALD]; or you can use the memo to specify the project being funded). **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133) since I am responsible for deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting.

May our all-powerful God continue to bless you in every way. Thank you for your support, love, involvement and especially, your prayers. This work would not be possible without your partnership.

Dios lo bendiga (God bless you),

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The world is in darkness without the gospel! As the moon reflects the sun into dark places in our world, Christians must reflect the Son into the spiritual darkness of the world. Who will take the light of the gospel to the world that lies in darkness so that people can see?

All across Latin America, multitudes are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition, Christians hunger and thirst for the word of God and encouragement and training in evangelism, discipleship, healthy church development and effective church leadership.



Latin America Leadership Development is part of a network of Christians working together to take the gospel to Latin America. Through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training, spiritually healthy and mature Christians and churches are developed, capable of reproducing themselves. A primary focus of the work is training those who will train others (2 Tim. 2:2), recognizing that the most effective kingdom workers are those national Christians who understand culture and language, and are capable of developing friendships and relationships to bring the gospel to their own nations.