

**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 89<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133[www.bobyoungrsources.com](http://www.bobyoungrsources.com)**Greetings!**

This mission report has news about a weekend preaching assignment with the Iglesia de Cristo in Madill, a visit with Bob and Jane Miranda, a mission trip to El Salvador and Honduras, a US trip to visit churches and mission partners in Tennessee, Kentucky, Michigan, and Missouri, a mission trip to Peru, and several other activities. There is also an update on the current **writing projects**.

**God is at work among and through his people!** On the six to eight international mission trips I make each year (seven are scheduled in 2019), I am able to work with leaders and members from approximately 100 local churches. This is done by visiting multiple churches on each trip and through my participation in regional and national conferences. Frankly, I cannot keep up with the reports of what God is doing among those churches – some of them have 40, 50, or 60 baptisms during the year with significant numerical growth. Others

are involved in planting new churches. I believe, as an average, the churches have 20-25 baptisms each year. I do not have exact numbers, but I conservatively estimate 2000-2500 baptisms per year, several new churches planted, and leaders trained and named in a growing number of congregations. **To God be the Glory—Great Things He Has Done!**

**A Visit with Bob and Jane Miranda from EVO**

In early May, I spent a couple of days with Bob Miranda, talking about the work of EVO (Training for Vocational Workers). EVO is a work of the Memorial Church of Christ in Houston. Bob and I share a kindred spirit, we often work together, and I am honored to be able to help with multiple EVO projects.

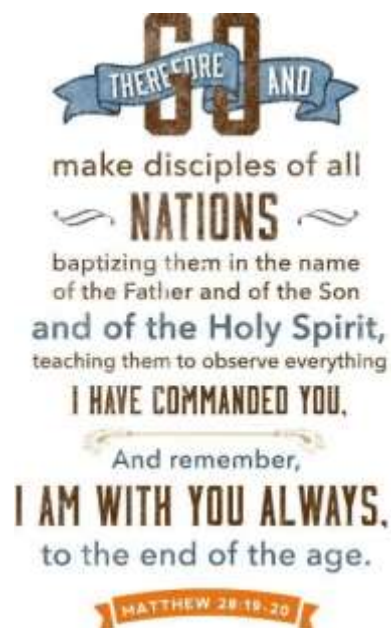
Not long after we were together, Bob sent out a report about the work of EVO. I share some of that report here because it reflects the philosophy of mission of Latin American Leadership Development.

*“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus, and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also.” 2 Tim 2:1-2*

The apostle Paul had a plan; he had a mission. With your help, involvement, support, encouragement and prayers, we have worked in the mission of developing spiritually healthy churches in Latin America and training leadership in dozens of congregations in the Spanish speaking world. We report activities and share statistics.

Here are some of the core expectations of the work.

- We help develop Christians (servant-leaders) who avidly want to search for the truth in the Holy Scriptures.
- We help Christians learn to enjoy Bible study; to focus on the Word; to trust and let their lives be led by the gospel of Jesus Christ; to understand the scriptures; to understand God’s grace in truth.
- Our purpose is to develop humble servant-leaders that submit to God and Jesus first, understanding His grace abounds toward the humble.
- Our Lord and Savior wants Christians who love the Lord enough to submit to Him and completely trust His counsel. Christian leaders must also love the church with the attitude of tending and feeding them spiritually and physically.



First, thanks to God. And thanks to you for your continuous efforts, involvement, care support, encouragement and prayers, we have been blessed to reach thousands of souls with this ministry, working with several hundred congregations throughout the Spanish speaking Americas. We have helped around 30 of these organize and establish elders and deacons. Most of these congregations are now financially independent and are not only growing but becoming missionary churches, involved in church plants in new areas. We work with the strength that our Almighty God provides. To Him be the glory!

**US Travels and Activities**

Mission Planning Trip, April 2019. In early April, Jan and I were blessed to spend time with Dan and Elise Coker (*picture, right*) and with Calvin and Linda Henry. Dan is a constant source of encouragement and mission information—I always learn a lot by listening to his many experiences and insights. Calvin and I were able to finalize some mission plans for later in 2019.



Park Iglesia de Cristo, Tulsa, April 2019. In mid-April, I preached at a bilingual service at the Park Church of Christ in Tulsa. One purpose of the day was to give the English-speaking members and the Spanish-speaking members at the Park church of Christ an opportunity to interact and know one another better (*picture, left*).

Madill (OK) Iglesia de Cristo, May 2019. The first weekend in May, I preached a three-day series in southern Oklahoma, focusing on church health and effective evangelism.

US Mission Trip, May-June 2019. Jan and I made a two-week trip within the US to visit Spanish-speaking churches in Nashville, TN and Lexington, KY. The Crieve Hall iglesia de Cristo in Nashville is working through a change of ministers. The purpose of my visit was to encourage the church and to think



about the transitional process. Benjamin Colunga (*picture, right*) is the new evangelist. In Lexington, we spent a weekend with the iglesia de Cristo, teaching and preaching about healthy church development and evangelism (*picture, right*). Their new location in the area of Lexington where many Spanish-speakers live should present new opportunities for visibility and outreach.

From Kentucky, we traveled to Michigan where we gave a presentation about mission work at the Holmes Road church in Lansing and spent time with friends who help support the mission of LALD. On the trip home, we were able to visit briefly with another mission contact, an elder and his wife in Rolla, MO. We are blessed when Christians and churches decide to make Latin American Leadership Development a part of their mission work, participating in the great things God is doing! We love to tell the story – a story of God rescuing thousands of souls for eternity through the efforts of his faithful messengers all across Latin America.



**Mission Trip to El Salvador, May 2019**

In mid-May, Pete Shaw and I spent a weekend with the Miramonte church in San Salvador (*picture, left*). The elders of this church are committed to increasing the focus on evangelism. The theme for the weekend was “Establishing Strong Families in the Lord.” In every church, an important step toward healthy churches and healthy leaders is the development of healthy families who share faith. On Mother’s Day, we shared in a program to honor mothers and grandmothers.

Pray for this church – they are near the point of hiring an evangelist to work with them, fully supported by the local church!

## Mission Trip to Honduras, May 2019



From El Salvador, Pete and I flew to Tegucigalpa, Honduras. The primary purpose of the Honduras part of the trip was to participate in the annual Seminario Baxter. I spoke at the

formal dedication of the renovated chapel, served as a workshop leader, participated as a panelist during the Bible Forum each day

(*picture, right*), and presented the final keynote address. While I was in Honduras, I was able to have a series of meetings with various brothers about the future of the work in Talanga. Pete enjoyed his time on campus, renewing friendships from previous visits he and Mandi had made to Baxter Institute. It is always a blessing to spend time with graduates of Baxter and with brothers and sisters from various nations.



## Mission Trip to Peru, June 2019



In June, I spent eight days in Peru, teaching at the Interamerican Bible Institute (IBI), speaking at the Annual National Conference of preachers and church leaders (*picture, left*), speaking at a youth meeting (*picture, right*), and teaching and preaching at the Los Pinos congregation. In addition, I shared in several meetings to sharpen the focus of our church planting efforts.



Currently, we work with a local church in seven church planting efforts, using students from IBI. The church plant in Cajamarca is meeting in the home of one of the members and is bearing fruit. Now the church needs a larger meeting place. We will help rent a locale for the church beginning in August. We will also help with a study, training, and sabbatical for one of the IBI professors.

The generosity of our partners makes it possible for us to say “yes” even before we know the exact source of funds! Thank you! If you want to share in a great work for the Lord, please contact me!

***Words and pictures are insufficient to tell you all that is happening – new Christians, new evangelism efforts, leadership development, new church plants. Earlier this year, after accompanying me on a mission trip, a brother in Christ told me, “You write excellent reports, but there is no way to put into words and pictures what the mission you have envisioned is really about and what is being done.”***

## Publishing and Writing Projects Update

I am only days away from completing updates for all of the volumes that have been completed in the Bible study series, with all five of the books available on Amazon both in print version and Kindle version. The book on evangelism (currently available only in Spanish) was already available both in print and Kindle.

I will then be ready to begin working more diligently on the books I have “in progress” – volumes on *Revelation*, *2 Corinthians*, and the *Holy Spirit*. Plus, several have



asked me to put the evangelism book, “**Evangelism: Equipping and Energizing the Church,**” into English. I continue to produce written materials and videos as my uncommitted time permits. As reported previously, the revision of the ten lessons in the evangelistic series, “En Pos de la Verdad,” has been published and is in distribution (*picture, previous page*). I am encouraged by the reception of the studies and by the results that are being reported as people study and decide to follow Jesus. Yesterday I received a picture of a Bible study where the materials are being used (*picture, right*).



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

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

### **Upcoming 2019 Activities**

The 2019 calendar has 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.

- **July**, Colombia and Ecuador. This annual trip includes a stop in Bogota and work with a group of churches near the southern border. In southern Colombia, Jan and I will present a marriage communication seminar for couples. In Ecuador, I will present a seminar over Hebrews and encourage new and growing churches in the region.
- **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. During 2019, we are assisting with a Great Cities church plant in La Paz.

→Chile. “Misión Chile” is a work of Chilean churches for church planting and strengthening; we help with partial support for two workers who are active in Chile and across Latin America.

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

→Dominican Republic -- evangelism and church planting. We work with eight new churches, over 600 new Christians during the past 2 years.

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

→Nicaragua. During 2019, we are helping with a half-salary of an evangelist-elder in Nicaragua. The elders of the local church have indicated they will pick up this support beginning in 2020.

→Peru -- evangelism and church planting. Church planting efforts, helping Christians in Peru 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 across Latin America.

### **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 89<sup>th</sup> 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 les bendiga (God bless you),*

**Bob and Jan Young**

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*The world is in darkness without the gospel! As day dawns in Pasto, Colombia, thousands go about their daily lives without Christ. Pasto is special to me – I have visited the church in Pasto multiple times. Only God's grace can change the direction of a person's life. Will you pray for the church in Pasto that the Christians there can reflect the Son into the spiritual darkness of the world. Will you help us take the light of the gospel to the world that lies in darkness, so that more 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.*

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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.