

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 74133*www.bobyoungrsources.com

Greetings in our Lord and Savior! It has been only two months since my last report but I am bubbling over with gratitude for God's marvelous works! Looking at the activities of the last two months encourages and excites me! God has opened doors so that we are involved in an incredible number of mission efforts and projects. Here is a brief overview of some of what is included in this report.

AUGUST-SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER ACTIVITIES. In August Jan and I celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary. I have included a couple of pictures and some reflections on reaching this milestone! In September I traveled to Colombia and in October I spoke at the Global Mission Conference in Austin, Texas.

PERSONAL NOTES. In a personal message, I share an update on my problems with vision, neuropathy, and periodic dizziness. I also unveil my plan to take a brief sabbatical from November to March.

Good News since my last report...

In my September report, I mentioned a sister from El Salvador who was in need of immediate surgery to deal with stomach cancer. I am pleased to report that the need was met within a short time as we combined efforts with churches across El Salvador and the local church at Miramonte in San Salvador. According to the doctors, the surgery was successful and there is no evidence that the cancer had spread.

When I was in southern Colombia in July, I asked the local evangelist about his greatest need. He explained how and why a vehicle would expand the work. Thanks to generous donors, the funding was completed within a week and the funds have been sent to Colombia.



On the visit to Colombia in July, the church leaders in Cumbal asked me if funds could be found to complete the second story of the building, providing space for classes for the children. The brother traveling with me from Bella Vista, Ark. made the funds available immediately and the picture (left) shows how the work was progressing in early September.

In the new church plant in Cajamarca (Peru), due to continuing baptisms the church became too large to meet in homes. The evangelist asked if we could provide funds to rent a locale (picture, right). The building they found is functional and is very near the center of town (\$100/month)!

Baptisms, baptisms, baptisms! The reports of baptisms in various places is amazing! God's people keep on sharing the message continually, and receptive people are accepting Jesus as Lord of their lives. Evangelism + discipleship = strong churches!

I am encouraged as I visit with churches, church leaders, and members in the US. We keep planning and working and God gives the increase.

I received a report from a ministry couple in West Virginia. She accompanied me on a mission trip when I taught at OVU. Now she is involved in mission work internationally. What a blessing to see how mission work bears fruit and produces more workers.





August, 50th Anniversary

August 15, 1969! Jan and I began celebrating our 50th year of marriage in August a year ago. We revisited many of the places we had visited on our honeymoon and shared other special memories throughout the year.

In July, when the churches we were visiting in Latin America learned of our upcoming 50th Anniversary, we were honored with celebrations in Colombia and in Ecuador.



Once we were back in the US, our sons hosted a reception (picture, left), and we dressed up in our nicest to help friends celebrate their 50th the weekend after our reception (picture, right).

September, back to Colombia



In late September, I spent a few days working with the churches in Bogota, Colombia. The original plan included two weekends and the intervening week.

The first weekend was scheduled in Santa Marta with Glen Elliott and Dan Rouse from the Fort Gibson church. That weekend had to be cancelled when Houston was so inundated by tropical depression Imelda that United cancelled our flights.

Once flights resumed, I flew to Bogota for the second weekend – I presented an evangelism seminar, helped with evangelistic Bible studies (picture, right, another decision made for Jesus), presented a team-building seminar, taught and preached on “Friends Day,” and spoke at a city-wide confraternidad (fellowship) of the churches (picture, left, preaching at the city-wide gathering).



2019 Global Mission Conference



The second weekend of October Jan and I attended the 2019 Global Mission Conference in Austin where I spoke on the theme, “Jesus’ Mission Unifies Us.” Making Jesus’ mission our #1 priority unites us as we focus on fulfilling God’s purpose. We were blessed to share time with hundreds of Christians who are dreaming, planning, and committing to reach the billions on this planet with



the message of Jesus.

Bill Richardson from Harding University challenged us to refresh our commitment and renew our identity: "In the US, churches are racing to the mainstream of culture, failing to be salt, we must become countercultural.... ministry and mission are too often focused on benevolence without asking if people are lost.... the measure has become church attendance vs. discipleship and transformed lives...."

Evertt Huffard, quoting Michael Green, echoed a similar challenge: "If you make disciples, you get a church. If you make a church, you seldom get disciples."

Among the folks we were blessed to greet and share time were Truitt Adair, Herman Alexander, Tim Archer, Benny Baker, Evertt Huffard, Ben Little, Bruce McLarty, Rex and Brenda Morgan, Howard Norton, Phil and Elaine Palmer, Zane and Tae Perkins, Larry and Lou Ann Phillips, John and Beth Reese, Bill Richardson, Dan Rodriguez, Dino Roussos, Steve Teel, and Calvin Warpula (picture right, Dino Roussos and Steve Teel).



Upcoming Activities

I appreciate your prayerful support as Jan and I answer invitations and walk through the doors God opens. I include a list of upcoming activities so that you can pray specifically about the ministry and mission work God places before us.

- Oct. 26-27, teach and preach, install elders and deacons at Arrington iglesia de Cristo, Nashville, TN
- Nov. 1-2, return to Oklahoma Christian for 50th year reunion, Jan was a member of the class of 1969
- Nov. 10, Mena, AR; mission report, teaching and preaching
- Dec. 1, Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK; mission report and preaching
- 2020 – plans are underway for trips to the Dominican Republic, Greece, Peru, Colombia, Ecuador, and Honduras
- 2021 – trips to the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Colombia are already scheduled

In the next issue....

SPECIAL PROJECTS. As the year draws to a close and we look forward to what the coming year will hold for mission work, the last report of the year will include an overview and update of the special projects we are involved in. We prayerfully look forward to 2020.

Personal Note

Because many have asked, I share a brief update on my vision and eyesight problem, and my problems with foot pain, neuropathy, and dizziness. My eyes do not work together and therefore cannot focus correctly and sharply. In many situations, I experience double vision. It appears the best possibility for resolving the problem (at least partially) will be surgery. The surgery has not yet been scheduled, but will likely occur in November. At the same time, my medical doctor is monitoring my foot pain, neuropathy and imbalance. I often use a cane since I cannot feel my right foot and the dizziness is unpredictable.

As I look forward to what the next five or ten years may hold for my work in missions, specifically anticipating that I will not be able to continue the pace of the last ten years as my health and energy diminishes, I plan to take a brief sabbatical to rest, recover some physical energy, refresh my spirit, work through my vision and health concerns, and prayerfully consider future plans for the work. I am purposefully limiting my travel beginning in November 2019 through February or early March of 2020. I continue to schedule trips for 2020 and 2021, but I am scheduling fewer trips and cutting back on my travel schedule.

UPDATE ON WRITING PROJECTS

Here is an up-to-date summary of the status of my major writing projects. Hopefully, my sabbatical time will give me the opportunity to advance some of the projects that are underway.

BIBLE STUDY GUIDES

- All five volumes in the Bible study are available on Amazon both in print (paperback) version and Kindle version: *Early Letters, Prison Letters, Pastoral Letters, Hebrews, General Letters.*

EVANGELISM (available only in Spanish)

- The book on evangelism is available both in print and Kindle: *Evangelismo: Equipando y Energizando a la Iglesia.*

BOOKS IN PROGRESS

- Work continues on Bible Study guides over *2 Corinthians* and *Revelation*.
- *My New Testament Reading and Devotional Guide* will cover the entire New Testament in a year.
- Because several have encouraged me to help the English-speaking churches evangelize more effectively, I will make the evangelism book available in English, “**Evangelism: Equipping and Energizing the Church.**”
- I continue to work on a volume about *The Holy Spirit*.

OTHER MATERIALS

- Along the way, I continually produce written materials and videos as time permits.
- The revision of the ten lessons in the evangelistic series, “En Pos de la Verdad,” has been published and is in distribution. I am encouraged by the reception of the studies and the results that are being reported as people study and decide to follow Jesus.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you for your interest in this mission work. I am always looking for those who want to be part of the team — financially 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 use the memo line 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.

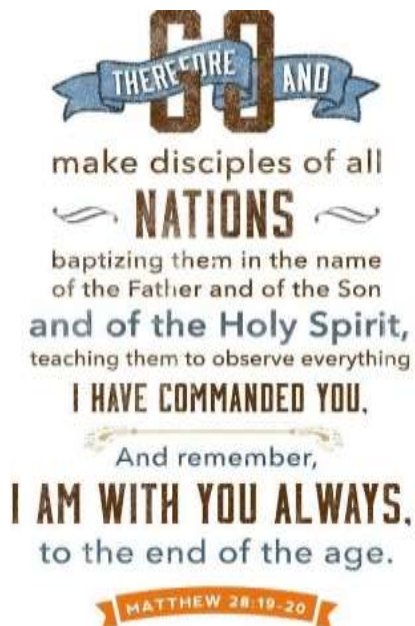
May our all-powerful God continue to bless you in every way. Thank you for your support, love, involvement and especially, your prayers. This work would not be possible without your partnership.

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

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Imbabura Volcano (15190 feet) towers over Ibarra, Ecuador (7300 feet). Spending six days in Ibarra, looking every day at Imbabura, suggested to me an illustration of what it should mean for us to every day contemplate God.

Only God's grace can change the direction of a person's life. Will you pray for the churches in Latin America that the Christians there can communicate the greatness of the Son into their world.

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.