

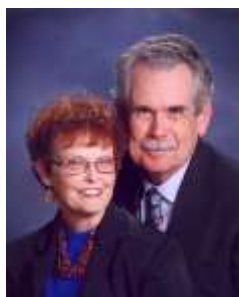
## **LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*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 in our Lord and Savior!**

As 2019 draws to a close, Jan and I wish to each of you a Merry Christmas and the best in your spiritual life in 2020! I chose the greeting at the right in honor of Jan. She gives hugs throughout the year, but this special Christmas hug is from both of us, saying thank you for your love and support of the mission God has placed before us.

As we send you a hug, you are receiving hugs of thanksgiving from hundreds of Christians all across Latin America!



This is our last report for the year of 2019 -- here's a quick look at what is included. After a summary of our activities since the last newsletter, I share a glance backward at 2019—another opportunity to pray. An overview and update on special projects is followed by a preview of what we prayerfully look forward to in 2020. Finally, I share a health update and personal note.

#### **Recent Activities**

In late October, I spent a weekend with **the Arrington (TN) iglesia de Cristo**. The purpose of the visit was to provide leadership training and to officiate at the naming of the first elders and deacons at this church.



Pictured are the candidates and their wives.

In November and early December, I taught and preached at **Northside in Mena (AR)** and at **Main and Oklahoma in McAlester (OK)**, as I shared mission reports of what God has been doing during the past year. These two churches have participated in this work since its beginning.

Although I did not attend the December board meeting and graduation at **Baxter Institute in Tegucigalpa, Honduras**, due to my eye surgery, I was selected to serve as vice-chairman of the board of directors. I have served on the Baxter board since 2003, as secretary, as chairman, as a member at large, and now as vice-chairman.

#### **A Final Glance Backward at 2019**

When I look back and remember that 2019 was supposed to be the year that I slowed down a little in my travel schedule, I have to admit that the past year is a testimony to how difficult it is for me to say "no." All of the trips I mention here have been included in previous reports. I list them here (date, country, location, and brief description) because it is not only appropriate to pray about future plans for this work, it is also appropriate to pray that God will continue to bless the lives and situations of those with whom we have worked in the past year. Please join me in a word of prayer concerning these works. The lists represent hundreds of baptisms, many new churches, and national indigenous leadership teams named. (Please forgive the long lists of 2019 works and special projects!)

## International Trips

- January, Costa Rica, Heredia, La Fortuna, various local churches and multiple house churches
- March, Dominican Republic, Neyba, local church with elders, eight new Haitian churches
- May, El Salvador, Miramonte, local church with elders, focus on the Christian family
- May, Honduras, Baxter Institute Seminar, leadership class, panelist, keynote
- May, Honduras, Talanga, meetings to work toward problem resolution
- June, Peru, Lima, teach at Bible Institute, speak at national leaders' conference
- July, Colombia and Ecuador, work with churches in Bogota, Pasto, Tuquerres, Cumbal, Ipiales, Tulcan, Ibarra
- September, Colombia, Bogota, evangelism training, Friends' Day, area-wide fellowship

## Domestic Trips and Works

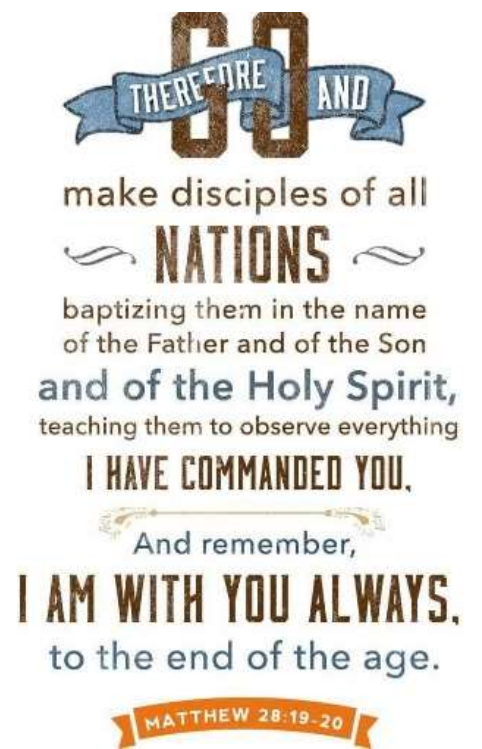
- February, Van Buren, Ark., recently established Hispanic church, evangelism and spiritual development themes
- April, Tulsa, Okla., bilingual preaching at Park iglesia de Cristo
- May, Madill, Okla., weekend series at iglesia de Cristo, evangelism and spiritual development
- May, Nashville, Tenn., Crieve Hall iglesia de Cristo
- May, Lexington, Ky., Lexington iglesia de Cristo
- October, Austin, Texas, Global Mission Conference, speaker
- October, Arrington, Tenn., leadership consulting and installation of first elders and deacons, iglesia de Cristo

In addition, throughout the year I was blessed to teach and preach at churches that assist with the mission work (in Michigan, Arkansas, and Oklahoma).

## **2019 Special Projects**

Special projects that you helped fund in 2019 include the following.

- Dominican Republic, church planting effort with eight Haitian churches, 300-400 new Christians
- Colombia, conclude church planting effort in Puerto Gaitan
- Colombia, Bogota, assist with building acquisition for Los Angeles congregation
- Colombia, La Hormiga, re-establishment of congregation, at least 15 baptisms with attendance near 30
- Chile, partial support for an evangelist, dozens of baptisms, new churches strengthened
- Chile, assistance for international evangelist, dozens of baptisms in campaigns throughout Latin America
- Colombia, salary for evangelist who works with seven churches
- Colombia, a vehicle was secured for the evangelist just mentioned
- Peru, multiple church plants, Cajamarca church plant and building rental for growing church (one-year attendance at 20+)
- Nicaragua, half support for elder-evangelist (church has had about 50 baptisms in 2019)
- Bolivia, assist with Great Cities church plant
- Honduras, fund Baxter Institute counseling program
- Venezuela, evangelism and benevolence (evangelistic churches, for example, 150+ baptisms in Barinas in 2019)
- Ecuador, transportation to have a weekly ministerial presence in San Lorenzo church plant
- Ecuador, assist with building construction at Ibarra
- Colombia, church planting exploratory trip, mission evaluation for Colombian missions done by Colombian churches
- Peru, additional training for a native worker
- Colombia, assist with second story addition to church building at Cumbal
- Help with printing for evangelism materials in Spanish



## Looking Ahead to 2020 – and 2021

As another year draws to a close, it is natural to anticipate what the coming year will hold for this mission work. As announced previously, after 10 years of constant involvement in the work of Latin American Leadership Development, I am taking a brief sabbatical in early 2020. According to the present plan, my travel schedule will resume around March 1<sup>st</sup>. We appreciate your prayerful support as Jan and I answer invitations and walk through the doors God opens.

- 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. Late in 2021, Jan and I plan to make another trip to the Holy Land. If you would like to travel with us, mark your calendar and contact me for details as the time approaches.

## Eye Surgery and Health Update, Personal Note

I am happy to report that my eye surgery in early December has helped with (hopefully resolved) my vision problem with double images. I continue to limit night driving since I cannot see well due to glare and starburst.

Good News! I am in good health! The few problems I have are not severe and are manageable as I continue to obey my medical doctor. I still use the cane at times, although not as frequently as before.

I will spend much of the next three months thinking and praying about what the next five to ten years will hold for this mission work. With God's help, I believe that after a time of rest, recovering some physical energy, and refreshing my spirit, I will continue the work with minimal interruption or changes, although with a reduced travel schedule.

## HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you for your interest in this mission work. I am grateful for your generosity. I am amazed at what God makes possible with a few funds! 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 89<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133) since I take care of all deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting.

May our all-powerful God continue to bless you in every way in the coming year. 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 1½ miles above Ibarra, Ecuador (7300 feet). Spending six days in Ibarra, looking every day at Imbabura, suggested to me what it means for me to every day contemplate God's great presence.

Only God's grace can change the direction of a person's life. Will you pray for the churches in Latin America that they can communicate the greatness and grandeur 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. Thank you for helping us make that happen as we seek to fulfill God's purpose in this world.



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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.***