

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

First Newsletter of 2020!

Is it already time for another newsletter? The last three months have been filled with a variety of tasks and projects, but much of what happens in ministry goes on behind the scenes and is hardly memorable or reportable (an unusual word!). This report is short, at least as my reports go! I am grateful for the opportunity to update several prayer items -- we desire and are always appreciative of your continued prayers.



Recent Activities

In early December I was at **Main and Oklahoma in McAlester (OK)** to preach and report on what God has done during the past year. I mention my visit to McAlester again because I want to include a special word of thanksgiving for this church and its leaders in their service as host congregation for this mission work. This church sacrifices so they can continue to contribute generously to the expenses and working fund part of this mission. They believed in this work when it was still a dream floating in my head! We share God's victory together, and going back to a church I have worked with and love is always special!

The last weekend of December I made a quick trip to **Lansing (MI)** to conduct a funeral. I have been preparing for this funeral for 32 years. In 1987 as Jan and I were leaving the work in Lansing, Gilbert Holmes asked me to preach his funeral. He was 70 then; he lived to be 102. A special thank you to **Bob and Margaret Pollard** for providing ground transportation and lodging. Bob and Margaret are special to Jan and me. We share many years of service in the kingdom, encouraging one another, and seeking ways to do more kingdom work. I am appreciative of such relationships.

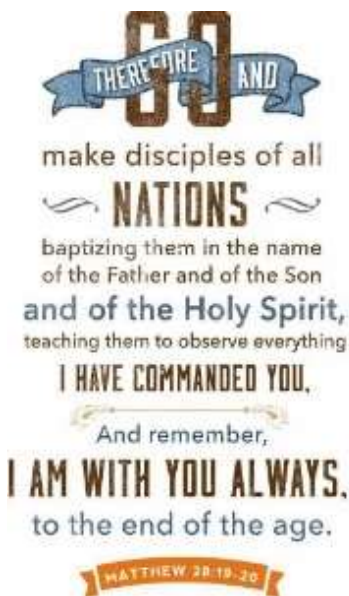
Down time from traveling has helped me focus on my **publishing projects**. Having time for writing, meetings, and planning for future volumes has helped clarify my goals for 2020. I am working diligently on the #1 project. I have not finalized the title, but it will be a devotional guide to reading the New Testament. I hope to have the manuscript to the publisher this summer with the book ready for Christmas giving and the start of 2021. The book will have some unique features to help us understand the New Testament.

In January and February, I began work on a new **video production project** which will update my YouTube channel and make dozens more videos available, both English and Spanish. I am working on a **virtual classroom project** that will establish and equip virtual learning classrooms across Latin America. This equipment and technology will allow local churches to invite more speakers more frequently, and to take advantage of more resources while significantly lessening travel costs for those of us who work to mentor and facilitate the work in those churches.

The sabbatical time has allowed me to work on website development, to focus on needs at Baxter Institute, to attend seminars, to go to more doctor's appointments (see report on p. 2), and to share family time. Jan and I were able to attend my aunt's funeral in Arkansas, to spend a few days with her Uncle Bill in Texas, to attend our grandson's cello concert, to enjoy a family weekend, and to share a weekend getaway for Valentine's Day.

Continuing and Extending the Sabbatical

In my last report of 2019, I announced that after 10+ years of continual involvement in Latin American mission work, I would take a sabbatical in early 2020. While Jan and I will fulfill my appointments in the Dominican Republic in March, I have extended the sabbatical through April. This will give time to work on the projects outlined above, and to evaluate the most effective ways to use the next five to ten years. We appreciate your prayers as Jan and I answer invitations and walk through the doors God opens.



Looking Ahead to 2020 – and 2021

I include this updated schedule will help you pray more specifically.

- 2020, International – plans are in place for trips to the **Dominican Republic** (March), **Peru** (May-June and July-August), **Ecuador** and **Colombia** (September), and **Honduras** (December). Still tentative for the fall is a trip to **Greece** and a second trip to **Colombia**.
- 2020, USA – stateside trips include mission reports and mission focus in various congregations, plus Tennessee (July), Montana (August), and Illinois and Michigan (September-October).
- 2021, International – trips to the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Colombia are already scheduled. In the fall of 2021, Jan and I plan to make another trip to the Holy Land. If you would like to travel with us, mark your calendar for fall 2021 and contact me for details as the time approaches.

Eye Surgery and Health Update, Personal Note

My eye surgery in December has helped, but has not resolved, the problem with double images. I still limit night driving since I cannot see well due to glare and starburst effect. At an appointment in early February, my medical doctor said I am in good health. The problems I have are manageable—I just have to obey the doctor. I am happy to say that my cane is a less frequent companion. One negative, in early February I visited my ophthalmologist because of an increase in the number of floaters and he diagnosed a vitreous detachment in my right eye. We pray as we wait and see what happens!

I continue to think and pray about the future. With God as my helper, after a time of rest to recover physical energy and refresh my spirit, I believe the work can continue with only a few changes, but with a reduced travel schedule for me.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you for your interest in this mission. In this work, God does much with little. Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), you can make tax-deductible gifts (checks payable to “Church of Christ,” memo line “Latin American Leadership Development” [LALD]). **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133) since the elders ask that I take care of all deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting.

Thank you for your support, love, involvement and prayers. This work would not be possible without your partnership.

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

918.470.0421 (cell)

bro.bobyong@yahoo.com



On the left side of the picture, Imbabura Volcano (15190 feet) towers a mile and a half above Ibarra, Ecuador (7300 feet). Night is falling, a reminder that the night is coming when no one can work. Nightfall is also a reminder that the entire world is in darkness without Jesus.

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 effectively share the glorious gospel of the Son of God who is the light of the world.

In Latin America, multitudes are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Christians hunger and thirst for the word of God and want 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 – to save as many as possible! [photo credit: Bob Young]



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.