

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.bobyounresources.com**Five months and counting....**

What an unusual year 2020 has been! My normal newsletter schedule has been completely rewritten! The first mission newsletter of the year (March, Vol. 1) went out on schedule, but shortly after Jan and I returned from the Dominican Republic in mid-March, COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic. After writing an “out of season” mission update in late March, I published a newsletter in mid-April (April-May, Vol. 2). I wanted to report on the Dominican Republic trip and to share good news about how the work of the national churches and workers was continuing despite the pandemic.

The June (Vol. 3) newsletter reported on the continuing evangelistic and discipleship work being done by the national churches! God had prepared us for just such a time as this. These reports (and all past reports) are available on the website: <http://www.bobyounresources.com/missions/mission-reports.htm>.

Last month, Tim Maxcey, elder from my host church in McAlester, Okla., and I recorded a video mission update which is available on YouTube: <https://youtu.be/Yi2FaXiPrdU>.

“For such a time as this”

The pandemic has changed the shape of mission work around the world. We have had to rethink -- how we do missions, how we do ministry, how we do church, how we do life! The last five months have brought new opportunities, open doors, new methods of reaching unbelievers and the unchurched, and increased activity and interest in many places. Unbelievers are searching; people want to know. A recent US poll showed that almost one-fourth of those currently disengaged in church would welcome a faith conversation with a Christian. Opportunities to proclaim the gospel abound. This is the time to seize the moment.

I appreciate the “Love Notes” I receive and your continued encouragement of this work.

The importance of your faithful work and encouragement of national mission workers and national churches has been brought into focus during the pandemic. The pandemic has highlighted weaknesses in the mission approach of many churches, making clear the need for mission work more closely aligned with the New Testament definition of church. The weakness of many ministry and mission models has been made evident. The distractions and capital drain of institutional Christianity can be overcome only by shifting resources to the New Testament model for developing and deploying disciples.

**Please Continue Praying!**

The impact of the COVID-19 virus in the churches across Latin America is incredible. Many church members have been infected with the virus, most have recovered, many have died. Please pray for the sick and for the bereaved. Pray that the churches will continue to sound forth the Good News in a world where many are seeking the stability and security that our Savior, Jesus Christ, wants to provide!

While the gospel continues to advance, I also know of churches where members are discouraged because the churches cannot meet and where some members are becoming disconnected. Please pray for our brothers and sisters who struggle in circumstances much more severe than we are experiencing in the US.



Where does your money go when you give to Latin American Leadership Development?

[picture left, ten people request baptism after the morning sermon, Dominican Republic, March 2020]

The Latin American Leadership Development mission project is committed to good stewardship and transparency. When you give to LALD, none of your gifts are used for administrative salaries. I am a self-supported volunteer and work without remuneration. Three churches (Fort Gibson, Northside-Mena, and my host church at Main and Oklahoma in McAlester) contribute regularly to the travel-work fund, providing funds for my travel. That allows all gifts to go directly to the work of advancing the Gospel.

The annual budget of LALD is near \$25,000. The church in McAlester maintains a mission account for the work and the elders receive financial statements and reports. We marvel that God does so much with a small amount!

To maximize stewardship of the donations and resources that God provides, LALD focuses on helping develop strong national churches that can serve as models, the development of national workers and leaders, and church planting done by national workers and churches. God continues to open doors. The goal is to focus on the works that will have the greatest impact. Here is a list of some of the things accomplished thus far in 2020, along with continuing prayer needs. The list includes church planting efforts in 23 new churches planted by national workers, evangelism and discipleship in new and existing churches, and leadership development. The church planting works resulted in over 1000 baptisms in 2019. In addition, the churches receiving evangelism and discipleship training have several hundred baptisms each year.

- *Dominican Republic, eight Haitian churches have been planted, a work overseen by the elders in Neyba. These new churches already have several hundred members, but they are isolated and the members lack employment. LALD helps provide benevolent resources during this time.*
- *A church re-plant in southern Colombia has attracted some previous members and had several baptisms. The church planters are not physically on-site at the present time, but via technology they provide classes and sermons. The church has continued to meet and to grow through baptisms during the pandemic.*
- *An evangelist in southern Colombia is working with a network of churches to provide stability and spiritual growth. Pray for him – he has had difficulties with his vocal cords. Pray for the churches and national workers in the churches where the pandemic has had a great impact (partnering with Bella Vista, AR church)*
- *Pray for the church planting and strengthening efforts in northern Ecuador. The support provided by inter-church visits has been greatly curtailed during the pandemic.*
- *In Peru, the church planting travels to the new churches cannot occur at this time. The new churches continue to meet as they are permitted to do so. Outreach continues through the efforts of new Christians, but others are discouraged and distanced from the churches.*
- *In Venezuela, evangelism and benevolence needs are supported with funds distributed through local churches and national workers.*
- *In Nicaragua, partial support is provided for an elder/evangelist (partnering with Lapeer, MI church)*
- *In Colombia, partial support is provided for an evangelist (partnering with Fort Gibson church)*
- *In Honduras, training for national workers continues at Baxter Institute*

Summary of Summer 2020 Activities

- 23 remote presentations – conferences, sermons, classes, seminars, and various speaking appointments in Latin America
- Weekend seminar with Spanish-speaking church in US
- Taught Cornerstone Bible class, series on 2 Corinthians
- Completed six evangelism videos
- 46 video lessons completed and posted to YouTube
- Video mission update
- 39 videos in English for “bits” and “W.O.W”



[this is what much of my work looks like during the pandemic]

Sharing the “Good News” in English

Three times each week I share God’s Word in English, using both the written page and videos. Effective teaching combines multiple communication tools. Brief Bible studies are posted each weekend. Under the title, “bits from bob....”, on Monday mornings I share thoughts to help get the week off to a great start. On Wednesdays, I share a “Word Of the Week” (W.O.W). The goals are always the same – the gospel will sound forth and God’s people will be encouraged to share their faith!

Scheduling update

All International seminars and conferences for the rest of 2020 are being presented remotely with the use of technology. I pray for the resumption of international travel in 2021, so that trips that were cancelled by the pandemic in 2020 can be rescheduled. Trips are already scheduled for the Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Colombia.

You can help

Doors continue to open. Funding commitments to facilitate the evangelistic efforts of national Christians are being sent on schedule. I am grateful to the donors who continue to give in times of uncertainty. Decreased travel has made it possible to use some travel-work funds to help with special projects.

Thank you for your interest in this mission work. 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 I am responsible for 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

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[An elder in the Dominican Republic teaches a small group Bible study in the backyard of a member. Plans call for a church plant in this sector. There were about 30 members, friends, and neighbors present for the study.]

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.

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!

When you support Latin America Leadership Development, you are part of a network of Christians committed to taking 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 goal is training those who will train others (2 Tim. 2:2), recognizing that the most effective kingdom workers are national Christians who understand the culture and language, are known and trusted, and easily develop friendships and relationships that carry the gospel to their own nations.