

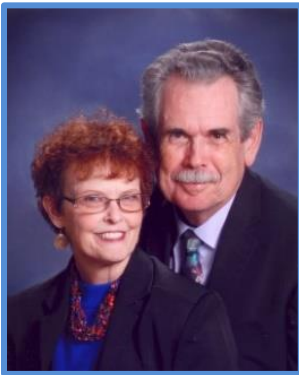
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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.bobyounresources.com



Update on the Pandemic in Latin America

The past year has been challenging for Christians in Latin America. The pandemic has made more difficult a life that was already filled with challenges and struggles.

While we seem to be making progress in the U.S., that is not the case in others parts of the world. The impact of COVID-19 continues, with more and more infections, hospitalizations, and deaths. Curfews and restrictions on assembling are common. In areas that are most affected, life is basically shut down, churches cannot meet, borders are closed, there are food shortages, the economy remains weak, and there is increasing social and political unrest.

Rex Morgan, with Christian Productions International and *La Voz Alegre*, recently shared a report from a Latin American researcher: “The pandemic will remain in Latin America and the Caribbean for a long time. Many nations in the region are not expected to vaccinate substantial parts of their populations until 2022 to 2023.”

In such troubled times, multitudes are seeking the source of true hope. By the way, in one year the population of Latin America grew by about 1%, to almost two-thirds billion (600,000,000+)!

In this newsletter, I share brief reports from the field and a couple of articles focused on mission philosophy and the mission methods of the New Testament.

Reporting What God Is Doing

“They gathered the church together and reported all that God had done through them and how he had opened the door of faith.” (Acts 14:27)

While my international travel has been restricted, our God is not restricted! God continues to empower the spread of the gospel in extraordinary ways.

Dominican Republic. Earlier this year I published two reports from Manuel Aquino, outlining the progress of the churches and the church planting efforts in the southwestern Dominican Republic (*picture right, another baptism in the mountains of western D.R.*).

[2104-Apr mission-report special-1.pdf \(bobyounresources.com\)](#)

[2106-Jun mission-report special-2.pdf \(bobyounresources.com\)](#)



The July issue of *The Christian Chronicle* had a feature article focused on the many dimensions of the work being done by Dominican brothers and sisters on the western frontier (*picture left, elder Manuel Aquino delivers basic food supplies to those in need*).

Cajamarca, Peru. Yexon and Bettzy Manríquez have been in Cajamarca since early February 2021. They have already been a source of encouragement and strength for the

Christians in the congregation that existed before their arrival and they are working to stabilize the new church plant. They are working with a total of about 40 Christians, a number which will increase post-pandemic. Peru has not yet escaped the ravages of the pandemic which makes the work more difficult, both in the assembling of the Christians and in evangelism (*picture right, a home Bible study*).

Fotos
Bautismo en la montaña de Apolinar Perdomo





Managua, Nicaragua. The most recent report news from Nueva Libia included both a positive and a negative. The positive is that 312 were in attendance on a recent Sunday. This represents the continued growth and evangelistic outreach in this church. There were over 40 baptisms last year, even during the pandemic. Evangelism is built into the DNA of this precious church and its elders. The downside is that the economy is still very weak and there are still members who needs help with basic necessities, primarily food. The local church is generously assisting with these needs.

Tijuana School of Preaching. Tijuana Escuela de Predicación (TEP) is an online program which is training students for vocational ministry. The students have jobs and families to manage, but they still invest twelve hours each week in Bible studies to prepare for vocational, unpaid ministry. I was honored to accept the invitation to serve in the rotation of teachers. In June, I presented a workshop focused on evangelism in the local congregation (*picture right*).

Taller de evangelismo

- Sábado 12 (8:00 a.m. pacífico 10:00 a.m. centro)
- Sábado 19 (8:00 a.m. pacífico 10:00 a.m. centro)
- Sábado 26 (8:00 a.m. pacífico 10:00 a.m. centro)



Hno. Bob Young



What Is Your Mission Philosophy?

In these newsletters, I report on the labors, challenges, and successes of Christians and churches across Latin America. Over almost 30 years, connections have been established with numerous churches, national workers, and national leaders. Some contacts are graduates of Baxter; some are graduates of other Bible Institutes with whom I work. Some are the result of my partnership with other mission efforts and missionaries, brothers such as Dan Coker (now deceased), Bob Brown, and Bob Miranda. Conferences and seminars are a continual source of new contacts in the Latin American churches.

The workers are Latin Americans. The majority are working in their own countries. Most serve as unpaid volunteers as they evangelize, minister, and provide leadership in local churches. Latin American Leadership Development periodically provides funding for costs related to their work, evangelism, and training.

The focus is evangelism, church planting, church growth, spiritual maturity and stability, and the development of local leaders in the local churches. The focus is on presenting Bible-based messages to spread the gospel. As disciples make more disciples (Matt. 28:18-20), God's plan for a multi-generational chain of believers is fulfilled (2 Tim. 2:2). Each spiritual generation must tell and mature the next generation, preparing the way for future generations.

Priorities include evangelizing, starting new churches, and strengthening new Christians so they can assume more responsibility for the local work. New churches grow rapidly and effectively reach out to bring more people to Jesus.

Because the work is done by national workers, many of the churches have continued to grow even during the pandemic. Many people are receptive, longing to hear the word of God. On behalf of these workers and churches, I say thank you for your prayers and your help in facilitating their ministry and work in the kingdom.

The New Testament Model of Mission Work

I am continually studying, contemplating, and praying about New Testament mission work. We should never tire of studying and applying what Scripture teaches. We who have focused on the importance of following Bible examples should also be interested in the methods of New Testament missions.

After the Day of Pentecost, the gospel spread among the Jews when those present on Pentecost returned to their home countries. The message went into Judea, Samaria, Galilee (and even to Egypt). The Bible mentions churches in Judea, Samaria, and Galilee, and eventually in Antioch and further northward.

When Paul began his missionary work, he founded churches in Galatia. After a brief break in which he attended a meeting in Jerusalem and helped forge an agreement for taking the gospel to the Gentiles, he continued the missionary work. Over a space of about a year, he revisited the churches of Galatia and planted churches at Philippi, Thessalonica, Berea, and Athens. In Corinth he spent a year and a half, founding the church in Corinth and seeing the development of churches in Achaia. When he arrived at Ephesus to begin a three-year stay, he had planted churches in at least ten cities and the gospel had spread into surrounding areas, all in approximately five years. His three years in Ephesus was a short

stay in comparison to modern practices in church planting. Establishing multiple churches rapidly with the expectation that they will grow and prosper with periodic visits from the missionary team and with communication is not the most common model today!

Some would say that Paul's model will not work today. That claim is true unless we also recommit to using Paul's methods. The key to Paul's work was in multiplying disciples and quickly establishing leaders who would guide the infant churches. Paul had confidence in the new disciples, Paul had confidence in the Word of God, Paul had confidence in the work of the Holy Spirit. A recommitment of the contemporary church to these three truths would revolutionize modern-day missions.

Paul did not develop a years-long process of spiritual maturation for leadership. He did not believe the new Christians could only share their faith with unbelievers after an intense study of the Word so they would be able to answer any possible questions. Paul did not have doubts about the presence of God in his ministry and in the new churches.

- After I interact with Venezuelan elders who are planting at least one new church each year,
- When I sit in the office of a Peruvian preacher who has a map on his wall marking the proposed church plants in the department capitals of his country, and I hear reports of the seven plants now underway,
- When I talk to an evangelist in Bogotá who seeks to establish churches in the department capitals of Colombia,
- When I receive reports of church planting in Chile that is being done by the national churches—

I wonder if our brothers and sisters in other nations have a better understanding than we do of God's plan for missionary expansion of the kingdom. They are already doing it—mission efforts that produce new Christians, church planting, periodic visits, leadership training, and continual communication. And, they are mostly doing it with minimal U.S. funding.

Brothers and sisters, look at what we are doing, how we are doing it, and the rate at which the kingdom is expanding. How long will it take us to reach the world for Jesus? **I do not have all of the answers. But if your heart is touched by the plight of millions and billions who are lost, would you join me in prayer for wisdom as we seek effective ways of sounding forth the gospel—unto the ends of the earth!**

Thank you!

Thank you for your heart for taking the gospel to the world! 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 handle all deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting.

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),
Bob and Jan Young
918.470.0421 (cell)
bro.bobyounq@yahoo.com



The sun is setting over the Chilean city of La Serena. Jesus calls us to work while it is still day. The pandemic, still raging in many parts of Latin America, reminds us of the urgency of the task.

Multitudes are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ. Many people hunger and thirst for the word of God. God's people want encouragement and training in evangelism, discipleship, 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.