

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



Update on the Pandemic in Latin America

This report shares good news about the progress of the churches across Latin America, but a primary focus is to provide an update on the pandemic in Latin America, and the possibilities for future mission work.

Space does not allow me to report on all of the campaigns, baptisms, evangelism efforts, church plants, leadership changes, and other projects. In this report you will read of expanded possibilities at Interamerican Bible Institute in Peru, elder selection in Chile, and evangelistic outreach in the Dominican Republic and Peru.

MISSION WORK AND THE PANDEMIC

If we were listening, we have heard God sending his church a message during the pandemic. When we look beyond our own difficulties and restrictions, the challenges and frustrations faced by our own country, we have been impressed anew with the great need and challenge of taking the gospel to a dying world, a world lost and without hope apart from Jesus.

The pandemic shouts loud and clear, **it is time to double down on evangelistic mission work!** It is time to accelerate outreach. It is time to invest in mission work that reaches the multitudes with eternal salvation through Jesus.

The past 18 months have been quite challenging for most Latin Americans. Where life was already difficult, the pandemic has made life more difficult. Most U.S. Christians have heard little about the impact of COVID-19 in Latin American countries. In Latin America, severe illnesses and deaths have been daily realities. In addition, church meetings are prohibited, borders are closed, many are experiencing economic crises, food shortages, and social and political unrest.

Rex Morgan 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 population until 2022 or 2023."

The need for the Good News of Jesus has never been greater. The need for hope has never been more acute. Possibly, the receptivity has not been higher in recent years. The pandemic has not stopped population growth. In the past year, Latin America has grown by almost 6 million people, to almost two-thirds of a billion.

Now that the pandemic has opened new tools, new methods, and new opportunities, especially with technology and media tools, it is time to seize the day. We are helping churches with outreach resources. We are facilitating the ministry and outreach of dozens of national workers. We are training Christians for evangelism and discipleship. We are supporting leadership development.

The gospel continues to sound forth, churches are being established and strengthened, growth is occurring, and the Good News is encouraging many who have struggled with isolation and scarce resources.

What can you do? Will you pray daily for outreach and evangelism in Latin America? Will you pray for your brothers and sisters in Christ who are actively reaching out with the gospel? Will you pray for those who have become discouraged? Thank you!

InterAmerican Bible Institute, Lima Peru

The number of students beginning the new academic year is stable despite the pandemic. A \$10,000 matching grant has made possible the expansion of online offerings, making it possible to reach students in remote regions and to provide training for Christians and leaders across Peru, and across the Spanish-speaking world. Your generosity helped complete the matching grant, providing \$20,000 for technology and expanded service.

ELDER INSTALLATION IN NOGALES, SANTIAGO, CHILE

The Nogales congregation in Santiago, Chile recently installed a fourth elder. Brother Luis Marte joins the three existing elders—Raul Hernandez, Pedro Sanchez, and Sebastian Solis.

This church has more than doubled since the appointment of the first elders a dozen years ago. Elders committed to shepherding the flock and empowering members have led the church forward in incredible ways. Before the pandemic, attendance was near 200. The church is actively involved in planting and strengthening congregations all across Chile.

I have met periodically (virtually) with the elder selection committee over several months, and was blessed to attend the installation (also virtually) on Sunday, August 22, 2021.

Coincidentally, on that same day, the church was allowed to resume limited meetings in person after 18 months, with social distancing and masking required, with a maximum attendance of 30.



Mission Minute

A recent report from Barna group revealed that only 29% of Christians in the United States think it is urgent to share the gospel with the lost!

NEWS FROM THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

The following is summarized from a report received August 11. Manuel Aquino, one of the three elders in Neyba, reports on the Dominican-Haitian churches, and the new congregation at Vista al Lago in Neyba.

“All our churches are breathing a fresh air of hope with the recent visit of two brothers who came from Santo Domingo and did a great work taking photos and videos that will be used for a summary report outlining our greatest need—the construction of the houses of worship among the Creole-speaking churches.

“Here is the current situation in the churches, the numbers of members, and the name of the evangelist.

-1- Jimaní, 25 members, Juan Mericien was serving as the preacher until his recent death. We are maintaining the work with various leaders within the church and the help of the church in Neyba.

-2- Ángel Feliz, 80 members, Eliu Pierilu.

-3- La Descubierta, 22 members, Macho Josef (Mache).

-4- Poster Rio, 8 members, Bene Montero

-5- Higo de la Cruz, 80 members, brother Simon

-6- Guayabal, 70 members, brother Basico

-7- Clavellinas, 45 members, brother Ticoco

-8- Vista al Lago, Neyba, 15 members, Manuel Aquino

“By the will of God, we had five baptisms last Sunday in Vista al Lago, four adults and one teen. The new brothers and sisters are Joel Mendez, Yiranda Diaz, Yesica Cuevas, Mercedes Acosta, and Lorgia Amador.

“Thank you for your help. God bless.”



MISSION MINUTES

The “Mission Minute” boxes included in this report share bite-sized nuggets to help inform Christians and leaders in the churches of the United States. Do you inspire your members to care about international missions? Is your church developing young adults who will care about and become involved in life-long missions?

Let me come to your church and introduce your members and young people to missionaries who are making a difference for the gospel. I love to tell of the impact that national workers are having. I can introduce you to national

mission workers you would otherwise never know. Consider the impact when Christians know a specific missionary (excerpted from a Barna report).

Christians who know a missionary compared to those who do not know a missionary

20% more likely to give to mission work

20% more likely to pray for mission works

33% more likely to consider a short-term mission trip

150% more likely to consider long-term mission work

Church Planting and Strengthening in Cajamarca, Peru Advances!



Yexon and Bettzy have been in Cajamarca since February 1. Let us celebrate with them the work being done in the two congregations—a small congregation that previously existed and the newly-planted congregation.

Thank you!

Contact me directly if you would like to receive updated information on the works described in this report, or about any of the many works of Latin American Leadership Development. 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.bobyong@yahoo.com



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