

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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God is at Work in our World!

I am continually amazed when I consider the many ways God is at work in our world among his people, advancing the Good News of Jesus, touching souls to bring them to salvation in Jesus. And I only get to see a small portion of God's world-wide work!

I see God at work in Bible institutes and preaching schools that are organized and maintained by local mission congregations with minimal outside assistance. I see God at work in the lives of men and women committed to vocational ministry, investing themselves in the study of God's Word with no expectation of future remuneration. They prepare themselves for service only for the love of the Lord and the work of the gospel.

I see God at work in local churches that host evangelism seminars in order to train the local members for reaching out to their families, neighbors, and other acquaintances. In recent weeks, I have been blessed to see how God is blessing the work of his people in

Chile, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Venezuela, the Dominican Republic, Mexico, and other countries across Latin America.

God is at work among his people, in the efforts of national Christians across Latin America, in part because US churches and Christians serve as partners to help brothers and sisters in other countries do what they cannot do only with their own 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 Christians who have become discouraged during the restrictions imposed during the pandemic? Thank you!

My Recent Activities

- Taught a weekly class on the Thessalonian correspondence, Tijuana School of Preaching
- Taught a four-week evangelism seminar for the local church in Mazatlán, Mexico
- Recorded a series of "Cultural Comments" for the weekly program of the churches in the Dominican Republic
- Presented a two-night evangelism conference for the Los Ángeles congregation in Bogotá
- Finished recording a series of studies on the book of Exodus, in Spanish
- Presented mission reports at Fort Gibson (OK), Northside, Mena (AR), and Holmes Road, Lansing (MI)
- Personal contacts with mission partners across the US
- Continued online presentations, classes, and conferences

MISSION MINUTES

A new feature of these newsletters is "Mission Minutes," brief tidbits designed 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 Christians who will become life-long financial supporters of mission work? Let me come to your church and introduce your members to missionaries and missionary efforts that are making a difference for the gospel. I love to tell the story!

MISSION GOALS FOR 2022

The end of the year is near, now less than two months away. In many churches, much of the mission planning for 2022 has already been done. But it is never too late to begin to make adjustments that will reap long-term and eternal results. Imagine how much the mission efforts in your church could be strengthened and enlarged with a few simple steps!

- Begin to develop a “mission culture” in the local church that focuses on measurable results, with clearly defined expectations that will guide future mission planning
- Manage the mission funding wisely, seeking to increase the mission outreach with the available funding
- Simplify the structure and systems needed to support a thriving mission effort
- Explore different mission models, discover what mission strategies are working, commit to doing those things that are most effective
- Develop plans that address the changing opportunities in missions after COVID-19
- Incorporate accountability into every mission effort
- Develop effective mission exit strategies that encourage mission maturity

I share two important questions about the future of mission work at your church.

First: Where do you want your church’s global mission ministry to be in five years? Supporting more missionaries? Sharing the gospel with more people in more regions? Inspiring more congregational involvement in missions? Engaging in global missions in a smart and sustainable way for your church?

Second: Do you have a plan for clarifying that vision and making it a reality? If not, you are not alone. A recent Barna survey found that international mission is an area where many church leaders are looking for guidance.

(The goal-setting strategies mentioned above are those that are used for mission planning in Latin American Leadership Development.)

Mission Minute

What motivates mission involvement? According to Barna research, the top reason for involvement in a cause is the sense that one can make a difference. For a mission work to be “owned” by a congregation, the work must produce measurable results. The second reason for involvement: church leaders consistently cast a vision!

Church Planting in Cajamarca, Peru

Yexon and Bettzy have been in Cajamarca only since early 2021. The new church plant has grown to the point of needing to rent a location. What a blessing it was to be able to say “yes” immediately when an appropriate location became available (*picture right, picture below*)! Thank you for your generosity.



Will you join us in prayer as we anxiously anticipate what God has in store as the work expands?

The new church plant in Baños del Inca and the previously existing congregation in Santa Úrsula continue



to work together to advance the gospel of Jesus in Cajamarca, a city of over 200,000 residents!

(Picture left, praying together about the new work and the doors God is opening!)



More reports received....

The Pilanquí congregation in Ibarra, Ecuador has begun meeting in their new auditorium (picture right).

Funding that will allow construction to begin on a permanent church building in La Descubierta, Dominican Republic, has been raised and sent. (I hope to have pictures available in the next report.)

Thank you!

You can use the information in the signature block below to contact me directly if you would like to receive updated information on any of the works to which Latin American Leadership Development is connected. 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),

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The picture to the right is unique—it is difficult to tell whether I was photographing a sunrise or a sunset! In the picture, I am looking west as the sun sets over the Chilean city of La Serena. I am reminded that Jesus calls us to work while it is day. May we never forget 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.

The picture also reminds me that when the gospel is preached, the light of the gospel enters hearts and a new day is made possible in the lives of believers. 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.