

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



Welcome to 2022! Another year has come, another year of opportunities for sharing the Good News of Jesus Christ, opportunities for expanding and building up the Kingdom of our King! What will this new year, 2022, hold?

We number our years and thus mark the times of our lives.

→I preached my first “official” sermons in 1965 in my home church and at area youth rallies—the turning of the calendar marks 57 years since those first sermons.

→I began preaching weekly at Penalosa, KS in the fall of 1967—this fall the calendar will mark 55 years! (For almost all of those 2,860 weeks, I have preached somewhere on Sunday—often two sermons and a class—most recently by using technology!)

→2022 will mark 29 years of working in Latin American missions, 17 years of mission reports, and 15 years of mission involvement after my retirement from the university.

→Perhaps 2022 will be a time of slowing down as Jan and I reach our #75 AND #74, perhaps not! Anyway, we will quietly celebrate that God continues to give us strength and energy and opportunities to be involved in facilitating kingdom work that is bringing multitudes to Christ!

In this first newsletter of 2022, you will not find much news! You will find a brief summary of recent mission activities along with a new “Mission Minute.” I encourage you to read the article (p. 2) that explains and reaffirms the importance of connecting mission work, evangelism, and disciple-making. Finally, I overview of a few of the many projects that find their genesis and culmination in my home office (p. 2), and look ahead to 2022 and beyond (p. 3).

November-December Mission Activities

After an enjoyable October-November visit to Michigan to visit friends and share mission reports with brothers and sisters who support this ministry, the last two months of 2021 filled with teaching the weekly “Wednesday Early Bird Bible Class” at Park; and various teaching and preaching opportunities, including time with the La Villa church in Chile, teaching in the US, preaching in Montevideo (Uruguay), a follow-up evangelism seminar in Mazatlán (Mexico), teaching and preaching in international online groups, and weekly personal Bible studies. I also attended the United Worship of the churches in Chile.

Mission Minute

This brief summary is designed to help inform Christians and leaders in the U.S. churches.

Mission Minute

How is your church preparing for the future in ministry and mission work?

An essential element of being prepared is establishing a culture of giving across all generations!

A Barna report compared generational likelihood of giving 10% or more to a church or mission work.

→The generation born before 1945 is twice as likely as Boomers to give 10% or more.

→ Boomers are three times as likely as Millennials to give 10% or more.

Many churches depend largely on older members to fund current ministry and mission work.

Is your church identifying ways to encourage greater generosity among younger generations?

Is your church involved in identifying effective mission efforts that require less funding?

Mission Work Should Focus on Disciple Making

I believe mission work should focus on making disciples. I believe that staying focused on spiritual outreach to the multitudes of unbelievers around us is essential to fulfilling God's mission. I believe that the task of making disciples is best done naturally, by disciples who daily go forth living transformed lives and representing Jesus—disciples making disciples. In mission work, facilitating that process involves helping local mission churches experience spiritual transformation to focus on fulfilling God's eternal purpose. Mission work is finally measured by whether the multitudes are touched with the gospel, churches are established, church leaders are trained and transformed, and spiritually strong Christians are helped to share the good news with others.

Latin American Leadership Development (LALD) exists to resource God's mission in Latin America. The vision is a grand vision. Doing God's work requires having a grand vision and tenaciously pursuing that vision! The goal is unchanging, even though the content of sermons, classes, seminars, and conferences varies. The goal is to equip the churches for the work of ministry, through evangelism and discipleship training, leadership training, Bible seminars, and encouraging spiritual growth in local churches. The message is that God's purpose for his people is to make disciples who make disciples. Taking this message and commitment into Latin America is transforming lives and transforming churches.

The last two years have been challenging, but the pandemic has also brought blessings. Now there are hopeful signs that the coming year will bring positive changes with increased opportunities for open doors and international travel. I am anxiously praying that the churches will resume more intense evangelistic efforts. Many preachers have easily adapted to online teaching and preaching, but the online efforts have largely failed to reach receptive souls that are hungering and thirsting after righteousness. Much of our online preaching finds us talking mostly to ourselves.

Because LALD specifically focuses on evangelism, discipleship, and developing missionary churches that will plant more churches in their own countries, some have described this ministry as exclusive. I admit that I at times become impatient with efforts that are minimally evangelistic. LALD is focused on the grand vision of establishing missionary churches all across Latin America. When you give financially to LALD, your gift supports a grand vision—making disciples who make disciples, developing model missionary churches, training national leaders and national Christians in Scripture, spiritual growth, evangelism, and discipleship.

This work is made possible by Christians and churches who share the dream. I receive no financial remuneration as we pursue this great vision together. I travel to give reports but fund-raising is minimal. Funding is used to provide on-the-ground resources for ministry and mission work, facilitating the evangelistic efforts of national workers. Written and AV materials are provided, and technology allows me to share Bible teaching all across Latin America. Thank you for your partnership and prayers as we pursue the grand vision of taking the gospel into all the world.

Let us reach our world with the gospel of Jesus Christ, beginning in the Spanish-speaking world of 2/3 billion souls!



Around the Office

NEW BOOK PUBLISHED. Another major project was completed in early December with the publication of the next volume in the Bible Study Guide series, *Second Corinthians*. The new format for this volume includes a translation that makes the book easier to use in personal Bible study and in the preparation of classes. The digital version can be translated online, making the resource available worldwide in multiple languages.

YOUTUBE CLOSED CAPTIONING. Videos published to YouTube are now being corrected for closed captioning so they can be read in Spanish and also in other languages. Video series completed in 2021 include Romans, Galatians, and Second Corinthians.

LIFE OF CHRIST SERIES. Larry Bowles and I have begun collaborating on the possibilities for a 10-lesson video series designed to tell the story of Jesus in a fresh way to develop and strengthen faith. The dream is that the series would be made available in multiple languages, and would eventually include versions for youth and teens.

ARTICLES, BLOGS, A-V MATERIALS. In 2021, approximately 250 videos were recorded. These are being added to the available video library as quickly as possible. The Wednesday WOW series (*Word of the Week*) has been well received. Several have encouraged me to investigate the possibility of beginning a podcast in 2022.

TEACHING AND PREACHING. Most weeks I teach and preach three or four times so a significant part of office time involves preparation of new lessons.

LOOKING AHEAD TO 2022

I am now well into my eighth decade; as I look back on my life, I can see God's providence and guidance. I see the world about us and marvel at the wonders of God. I see multitudes that are longing for hope and I see the urgency of sharing God's loving purpose in Christ Jesus. When I consider our calling to reach the lost, **I pray we will see the challenge, the urgency, the possibilities.**

The church has often missed the point that evangelism is the work of the entire body, all of the members. When the churches I worked with grew, doubling and tripling, it was the work of God within the faith community. Today, I am empowered to facilitate evangelism, disciples making disciples across Latin America, because of Christians who provide support, prayer, and resources. This partnership is important, but let us never forget that it is God who works through us.

Thank you to all who have generously supported this mission and ministry in 2021! I am grateful for the work God is doing through you. You are reaching people who praise the Lord and are grateful for your generosity. I am reminded of Paul's words to the Corinthians.

"This work...is the cause of much praise to God; for through this work of giving...they give glory to God for the way you give for the Good News of Christ... Their hearts go out to you in love and prayer for the generosity which is in you. Praise be to God for what he has given." (--from 2 Cor. 9:12-15)

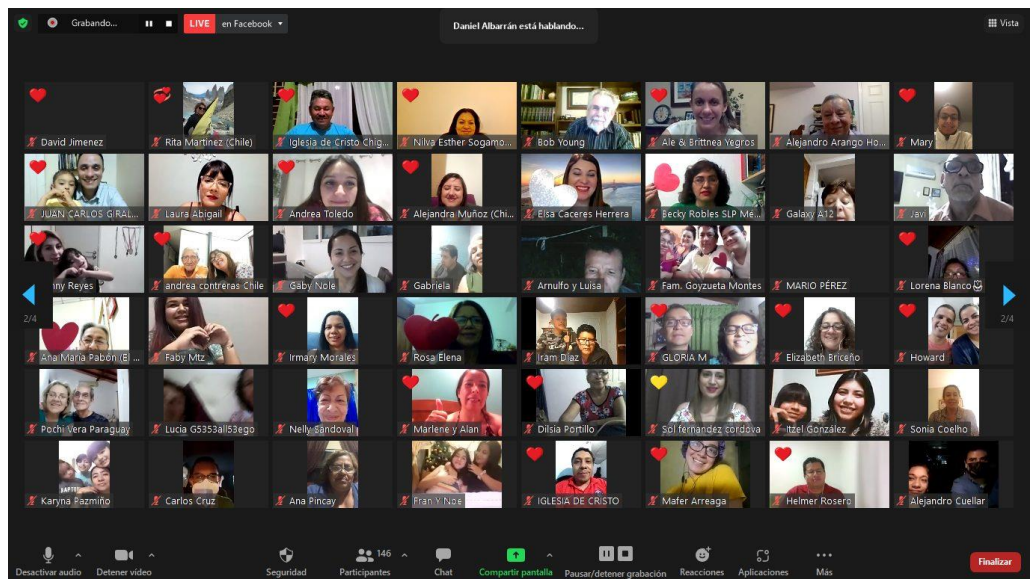
Here is a quick overview of what you are helping make happen.

→ Resources are provided to encourage evangelism, discipleship, spiritual growth, leadership development, Bible study, and the development of missionary churches that plant more churches. Online evangelism resources are used in countries I have never visited personally. For example, the evangelism materials we have made available online have been used to bring dozens to Christ in Cuba.

→ Conferences, seminars, and classes are presented all across Latin America, and materials are available for translation into other languages (*picture right, some of the participants in a recent Zoom meeting, with a total of 146 devices connected*). Classes are taught at Bible institutes and schools of preaching in various countries.

→ An online presence is maintained through the web, social media, and digital resources, with several hundred thousand contacts each year. The online presence also points contacts to additional resources for Bible study such as WBS.

→ The spread of the gospel through the efforts of national Christians is being facilitated in Chile, Colombia, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Uruguay, and Venezuela. National churches that have 30, 50, or 100+ baptisms each year are common.



What are the Mission Goals in Your Local Church?

Research reveals that developing an effective mission culture in the local church, a mission focus that results in fruitful mission work that produces kingdom fruit, requires **measurable goals, clear expectations with accountability, simple structures, effective models and strategies, the ability to seize opportunities, and exit strategies that encourage maturity in the mission works.**

Thank you!

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!



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),

Bob and Jan Young

918.470.0421 (cell)

bro.bobyoun@yaho.com

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.