

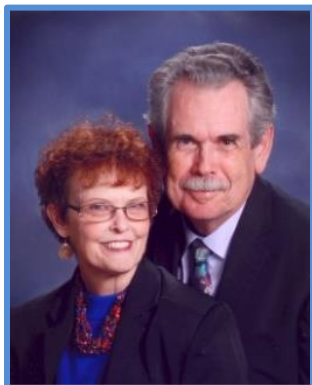
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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



In the United States, summer is often thought of as “mission season.” Summer means that young people are out of school, families take vacations, and many STM (short-term-mission) trips are scheduled. Church attendance often plateaus or decreases. In Latin America, for the national workers with whom we work, the normal rhythms of life continue uninterrupted. For many national churches, “mission season” is 365 days each year. Bible studies, evangelistic activities, campaigns, seminars, and the need to nurture newer less mature churches is constant.

A healthy view of mission work depends on a clear view of our faithful God. God is faithful; his promises are secure; his word does not return void. God’s mission proclaims Jesus to bring the multitudes to Him for salvation. The word proclaimed, with faithful planting and watering, always gives the increase (1 Cor. 3:4-8).

SOME OF MISSION WORK LALD HELPS FACILITATE: Will you join us in prayer?

In 2022, financial assistance for the work of national Christians has been provided in five countries.

- **Venezuela.** I have not personally traveled to Venezuela for several years, but we support evangelistic and benevolence works through LAMB (Bob Brown) and the Northwest church in Houston. Since North Americans cannot enter Venezuela even as visitors, facilitating the work of national leaders is imperative. A recent LAMB report said “we hope to once again have over 1000 people converted this year.”
- **Peru.** The church planting effort in Peru is in its second year. It is part of a more extensive national church planting effort springing from the work of IBI, a Bible Institute in Lima, Peru.
- **Nicaragua.** The Nueva Libia church in Managua is in many ways a model congregation. The elders continually encourage and facilitate specific evangelistic outreach efforts, resulting in a growing church. This church should increasingly become self-sustaining.
- **Southern Colombia.** Church planting and renewal are underway in two more churches. The resumption of more frequent interactions within the network of churches will accelerate evangelism and discipleship.
- **Dominican Republic.** I regularly receive reports of more baptisms, the church plants are being strengthened, and the building project is progressing (see update on p. 3).

In 2022, teaching and preaching assistance has extended to many (most?) Latin American countries.

- **Mexico.** This year I have taught two classes, First Corinthians and Second Corinthians, online at the Tijuana School of Preaching.
- **Chile.** I participate and teach regularly in the online group, “United in Prayer and Praise.” The Christians who organize the online meetings live in Chile, but participants come from all parts of South and Central America, and also from the Caribbean.
- **Peru.** The church planting work is supplemented with regular online contacts to help advance the work.
- **Ecuador.** I am honored to share teaching regularly with the Pilanqui church in Ibarra, Ecuador.
- **Bogota, Colombia.** I teach and preach frequently in the online evangelism efforts, training, and campaigns.
- I will teach in an online preachers’ seminar in August with participants from various countries. My assigned topics include “what happens when we die, a new heavens and new earth, and what will heaven be like.”
- Online resources are continually added. “En Pos de la Verdad” evangelism training and materials are being used by God to bring people to Jesus in **Cuba, Peru, Colombia, and the Dominican Republic.**

My May-July Activities

The “Life of Jesus” video recording and production project recording is nearing the halfway point. I am blessed to share time regularly with **Larry Bowles** (co-host), **Kenny Taylor** (videographer) and **Barrett VanLandingham** (sound). The projected completion date is fall 2022 so that the videos and study materials can be available by late 2022 or early 2023, leading up to Easter.

I continue to write, record, and post studies and videos in both English and Spanish, including my weekly W.O.W. – “Word of the Week.”

Other teaching and preaching activities are described in the prayer list on the front page.



Mission Musings

These reflections are designed to inform and inspire Christians and leaders in the U.S. churches.

MISSION MUSINGS

Evangelism connects people with God, developing faith in Jesus Christ, culminating in baptism.

Evangelism “makes disciples”

Discipleship is the process by which believers come to imitate Jesus, becoming like him, accepting his teachings, participating in his mission.

Discipleship “matures disciples”

Many U.S. churches do not have a well-defined process for sharing the Good News of Jesus.

Even fewer U.S. churches have an effective discipleship process.

When U.S. churches do not focus on evangelism and discipleship at home, they struggle to focus on evangelism and discipleship in mission work.

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT is committed to both evangelism and discipleship!

Mission Minute

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

MISSION MINUTE: BARNA RESEARCH RESULTS

**If we want to help more people toward discipleship,
we need Christians who are ready and willing to disciple other believers.**

Among Christians who aren’t helping someone else grow in their faith and discipleship...

37% say they do not feel qualified or equipped

24% say they are disconnected from discipleship efforts and have not been asked to help

22% say they have never thought about it

JUST THINKING....

Since more than a third of Christians do not feel adequately equipped, churches must provide training in evangelism and discipleship.

Since one-fourth of members are disconnected and unrecruited, churches should talk regularly about their discipleship and evangelism efforts and encourage member involvement.

Since almost one-fourth of members are not even thinking about the need for discipleship, churches need to make discipleship more visible in sermons and classes and publications.

What is your church doing to equip Christians for evangelism and discipleship?

FEATURE ARTICLE: We Must Train Christians in Other Nations

In the mission field, one point of agreement in almost all of the places I visit is that the leaders and the active members want to know how to empower more members to serve more effectively.

A mission post from a group outside my usual church circles says, "Training for Christian workers is an urgent need." The post goes on to note that the continued life and health of the local church depends on developing leaders, teachers, evangelists, and church planters. Campaigns and large gatherings may help new believers come to Jesus, but there are too few opportunities for developing Christian disciples.

Only a few churches and church leaders clearly see the urgent need for Christian discipleship. Many churches focus on the Sunday assembly, but few churches have plans in place for personally maturing people and personally reaching out to new people.

The work of LALD focuses on training Christians in other nations for spiritual maturity, faithful discipleship, leadership, Bible teaching, and evangelism. Many of the local churches do not have a designated, paid "minister." The result of pushing church ministry to the grassroots level is the involvement of more members in evangelism and discipleship, resulting in hundreds of baptisms, growing churches, and national church planting efforts.

Dominican Project Update

Last time I shared a need in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to various **individuals**, the **Crieve Hall church in Nashville**, and the generous participation of the **Fort Gibson church**, funding for this project is now in place.

Peru Project Update

Through the generosity of **individuals** who give regularly, the church planting in Peru continues. We have committed to three years for the church planting project, anticipating stabilization and systematic withdrawal and transfer of the work to the local church – self-sustaining, self-governing, self-duplicating.

Thank you for your passion, your prayers, and your partnership!

Please keep praying for these works and for us. We appreciate your prayers, encouragement, and support. Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), you can make tax-deductible gifts (payable to "Church of Christ," memo line "Latin American Leadership Development" [LALD]). **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE LALD OFFICE ADDRESS (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).**

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



The full moon rising reminds me of the brilliance of the sun, even when its light. I marvel that the moonlight is brighter than the multiplied city lights below it.

Jesus is the light of the world; he describes his followers as the light of the world. I can only think that we can be light only when we clearly reflect his light. 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.

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.