

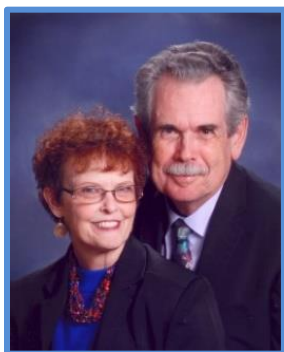
## **LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT**

*Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond*

### **Mission and Ministry Newsletter**

**Bob and Jan Young, 10704 S 89<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133**

[www.bobyongresources.com](http://www.bobyongresources.com)



#### **Finding A New Rhythm...**

As Jan and I seek a new rhythm in our lives, we enjoy spending time looking back and counting God's blessings. We married in 1969 and soon finished our undergraduate degrees. Jan graduated with a B.S. degree in elementary education (1969); I graduated with a B.A. degree in Bible and a minor in biblical languages (1970). As we began our life journey together, we had each spent 21 years in what I call "getting ready."

Together we spent the next 26 years in ministry, almost 12 years at Holmes Road in Lansing (MI) and 8 years at Fort Gibson (OK). Along the way I completed graduate degrees, culminating with my doctorate. We marvel at how God blessed our ministries and our lives.

We spent the next 15 years balancing work in the universities with ministry and mission opportunities. We retired and have spent the past 15 years devoted to mission work in Latin America. God has been good to us, blessing the mission endeavors with thousands of baptisms, dozens of new churches planted, and biblical leaders named in about 30 local mission churches.

Pardon our continued reminiscing! How have three-fourths of a century passed by so quickly! Fifty-seven years of preaching and teaching, over 40 years of mission involvement.

#### **Bridge-Building**

I recently spoke at a men's breakfast. A book that has impacted my ministry, preaching, and mission work is John's Stott's *Between Two Worlds*. I spoke about bridge-building. When I teach evangelism in local churches, I playfully refer to the studies as "Bridge-Building 101." Discipleship classes are "Bridge-Building 102." Leadership depends on bridge-building. Effective preaching requires bridge-building. At times, effective ministry depends on maintenance or repair. Ministry is about modeling and facilitating bridge-building. But not just any bridges—bridges strong enough to carry the gospel and God's call to discipleship!

#### **Dominican Republic Update: Mission Need Met**

In the last mission letter, I presented the need for a vehicle to facilitate the work in the Dominican Republic. Thanks to two generous donors and the Fort Gibson elders, the need has been met.



#### **Tulcán, Ecuador Update**

As previously reported, LALD covers travel expenses for a weekly ministry and outreach seminar in Tulcán, Ecuador. Henry Yanez, a vibrant young leader in the Pilanqui church (Ibarra, Ecuador) travels each week to lead the Friday night studies. Henry runs his own business; his willingness to make the 2+-hour drive (each way) each week to assist with the work in Tulcán is representative of the sacrificial spirit of brothers and sisters in many mission fields. You can see the results in the picture (in a church where Sunday attendance was sometimes only around a dozen). We rejoice in the news of baptisms in addition to excellent attendance.



### Cajamarca, Peru Update

Following up on the previous report, the work in Cajamarca (Peru) is advancing! LALD provides support for the evangelist, with the help of a generous family in Oklahoma. Since the last report, this family has begun helping also with the working fund. A storefront has been rented (pictures, exterior and interior), less than half a block from a major intersection in the city. This location will be accessible for those who use public transportation to come to church activities. Pray that many of the dozen members who were attending previously will become active again, providing a good nucleus for continued growth.



### Venezuela Update

For the past several years, LALD and LALD donors have participated in funding for evangelistic and benevolent work in Venezuela. A recent report mentioned that there are at least 144 congregations in Venezuela, with 720 baptisms reported last year. Bob Brown reports that there are regularly over 1000 baptisms annually in the nation. Pray for our Venezuelan brothers and sisters who seek to share the Good News in very difficult circumstances.

### Update on the "Who Is Jesus?" Video Series

Sometimes the wheels turn slowly! Video production of the ten-video series "Knowing Jesus" has been completed. Next steps involve detailed plans for the release of the series, including the construction of social media platforms.

With this update you are getting the "scoop." Public announcements with promotional and introductory video segments are planned for this summer. Thank you for your continued prayers for the success of this project in building faith and helping many comes to know Jesus (picture, Larry Bowles and I during a recording session).



Specifics should be available for the next issue of this newsletter.



### Summary of LALD projects in 2024

→Monthly ministry and mission trips to the church replant in Putumayo, Colombia. A church in Michigan provides much of the funding to provide support to the new church in La Hormiga. LALD does the rest.

→Two couples provide about three-fourths of the support for a Colombian evangelist. LALD does the rest.

→In the Dominican Republic, a small group of Christians provide a stipend for preachers in the eight church plants. LALD helps with other needs, transportation, benevolence, and increased demands due to difficulties in Haiti.

→As reported above, in Venezuela, in Ecuador, in Peru, and in many other countries, LALD provides resources to facilitate and advance God's kingdom work.

→Travel is continually more expensive, yet so much can be done through personal visits and support. LALD helps meet important needs in the places visited.

## 2024 Mission and Ministry Travels

I covet your prayers for my travels and for Jan during my absence from the home. In addition to the trip to the **Dominican Republic** in February (see previous newsletter), 2024 plans include **Ecuador and Colombia** in May, a return to the **Dominican Republic** in June, **Chile** in September-October, speaking at the **Ibero-Americano International Conference** in Nashville (TN) in October, **Florida** in October, and **Honduras** in December.

Jan usually accompanies me on stateside travels for mission reports, Mission and Outreach Sundays, and other special campaigns and events. In 2024, we hope to personally renew contacts with many partners and donors.

## Thank You!

I am grateful for the opportunity to share what God is doing. God continually gives the increase! His goodness excites my spirit and sends me forth with the Good News of the Kingdom. I never tire of saying it: God is faithfully at work through his faithful people. Thank you for your prayers, your partnership, and your encouragement.

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" [or LALD]. **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).

*Dios les bendiga (God bless you),*

**Bob and Jan Young**

**918.470.0421 (cell)**

[bro.bobyoung@yahoo.com](mailto:bro.bobyoung@yahoo.com)



*My title for this picture is "Urgent!" I took the picture in La Serena, Chile. Is it a sunrise or a sunset?*

*In our world, many are seeking the Son. When will their sunrise come? Multitudes are receptive to the gospel. People hunger and thirst for the word of God. God's people are seeking encouragement and training in evangelism, discipleship, and effective church leadership. When the gospel is preached and received, a new day is made possible in the lives of believers. Thank you for helping make that happen as we fulfill God's purpose in this world – to save as many as possible!*

*Urgent! Because in our world, sunset comes to thousands every day. The gospel springs forth as an eternal sunrise, even as the sun sets every day in the lives of countless souls without Jesus. (The picture is a sunset.)*



**Latin America Leadership Development works within 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.**