

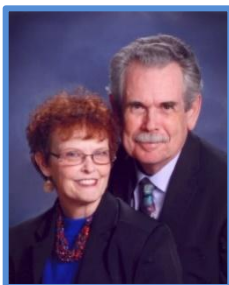
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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A Personal Note

Kingdom work continues to advance in marvelous ways with God's power and blessings. Jan and I will travel to Ecuador and Colombia in August, Bogota in October, Honduras in November, and Peru in January, Lord willing! I want to return to the Dominican Republic to work on strengthening the churches, but that trip is not yet scheduled on a calendar that is already full. Plus, fall will bring mission reporting season.

I am committed going forward to Jan's need to travel with me. That will increase travel costs slightly—thank you for your faithful partnership. We are looking forward to what God will do in the next two years—and beyond!

Pray always for the advance of the gospel around the world.

TRANSFORMING OUR WORLD THROUGH MISSIONS

There are two primary ways mission resources are used to help people in other countries accomplish God's mission—send regular support and donations which often result in dependence on American donors; or invest in teaching nationals with the expectation that they sustain themselves as they do God's work. Some situations can only be resolved by helping with immediate needs. But the better long-term goal is to develop renewable, sustainable mission efforts that empower national vocational workers.

In taking the gospel to new regions and strengthening infant churches, LALD has been committed to providing bridging funds and support for those who serve as evangelists (not merely as ministers in a local church).

Working with local churches that are already established, LALD has focused on the goal of developing self-sustaining, vocational workers and biblical leaders.

God has used LALD to help develop churches that are self-sustaining, self-governing, self-edifying, and self-duplicating.

CHIMBOTE, PERU UPDATE

Early in 2025, Raul Chumbile and his wife moved to Chimbote with the goal of establishing a new church. The Lord led them to work with a church revitalization, working with a small already-established congregation in Villa Atahualpa, Nuevo Chimbote. The neighborhood is poor with basic services—water is purchased from large trucks and there is no sanitary or waste plumbing. Plans for the future include beginning another work in the urban area.

In Villa Atahualpa, changes in organization of the worship have resulted in more visitors. They have initiated a study of "Knowing Jesus" with a special focus on the visitors. Children's classes now have role-playing, songs, Bible study, and arts and crafts. Raul is working with the parents of each child, especially those that are not



Christians. A medical campaign coupled with an evangelistic campaign is planned for July, a women's conference for October, and an end-of-year activity for the whole congregation and visitors.

Raul reports that his arrival has been a blessing for the church and brother Victor who was working with the church in the midst of other responsibilities.

[Pictures: Bible study; worship; Victoria—a young girl in the church--helps prepare the communion each week.]



SOUTHERN COLOMBIA UPDATE

Jairo's most recent report included a picture (right) of the church in Túquerres, with some visitors from Samaniego.

Jairo and Andrea just got home from spending a week with the church plant in La Hormiga, Putumayo. Getting to Putumayo is always an adventure. The road is called "The Trampoline of Death" – you may have seen pictures or videos online (picture below). The road was blocked by an accident on the return trip, resulting in a six-hour delay!



The building which the La Hormiga church has rented is filled to overflowing on Sundays (picture right).



There is a little more room (picture immediately above) when the children are dismissed to class. The recent visit gave Andrea an opportunity to train additional sisters to teach the children's classes (picture right). Notice that the children's class meets in the kitchen area!

This church would be helped forward toward more growth with financial assistance toward renting a larger space! I should have an approximate cost soon!



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UPDATE

The previous Mission Newsletter focused on the Dominican Republic—I do not have new pictures to share. However, the lack of pictures does not mean lack of progress!

Here are updates and prayer requests.

- Eliú, who is the evangelist in Ángel Felix, will begin working with Maché in La Descubierta one week each month. This will strengthen outreach in La Descubierta where we have a very nice building, will increase the security of the building, and will provide much-needed outreach at minimal cost. The annual cost will be about \$2500. Your generous year-end gifts in 2024 made it possible to say "yes" to this opportunity. Effectiveness will be evaluated at the end of 2026.
- Plans also call for additional perimeter security at La Descubierta since the building is somewhat remote and sits unoccupied some days of the week.
- A primary need is to purchase a moto for Básico to use in evangelism among the churches. Básico is perfectly bilingual (Spanish and Haitian Creole) and is especially suited for this work. Básico also brings spiritual maturity and experience to the task. The initial cost is projected at \$4200, with annual costs thereafter around \$1500. Básico will be able to serve as an additional resource at La Descubierta. Básico's greater involvement will take pressure off Manuel.

- The build projects for the October build teams are defined and preliminary arrangements are underway (at Villa Jaragua and Las Clavellinas).
- A small monthly stipend is now being provided for each of two widows of preachers. These funds are in addition to the eight evangelists that were already being supported.
- Two projects that deserve prayer are (1) the need for more training for evangelists and leaders, whether by my increased presence or by finding other resource people to assist (especially those fluent in Haitian Creole), and (2) the possibility of increased outreach in Spanish to the Dominicans since we already have buildings in many locations.
- Finally, pray for wisdom as we seek to move forward with the work in Jimaní (the mango tree church). The best way to meet present and future needs is being evaluated.

Here's How You Can Partner. Thank You!



God has always been at work to accomplish his eternal purpose. That mission, while it is often beyond our dreams and imaginations, excites and energizes us, sending us forth with the Good News of the Kingdom. Thank you for your prayers, partnership, and encouragement. Jan and I see already that our slowing down will occur slowly!

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 OFFICE ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).

Dios le bendiga (God bless you),
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Pictured at right is part of the attendance at a congregation in the Dominican Republic. Often there are more people outside the building than there are inside!

Multitudes are receptive to the gospel. People hunger and thirst for the word of God. God's people need training in evangelism, discipleship, and effective church leadership. When the gospel is preached and received, a new day dawns 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!



Latin America Leadership Development works within an international 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 to carry the gospel to their own nations.