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LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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Recalibrate

You may recall that for over 20 years, I have identified a word of the year. My proposed word of the year for 2026 is "recalibrate." This word suggests that Jan and I are in the process of finding a new normal.

Our new normal is beginning to take shape. I continue to **teach online** regularly. I will teach a weekly online class, 1-2 Corinthians, at the **Tijuana School of Preaching** in April-May-June, three hours every Saturday morning.

A new project is underway, a joint effort with Henry Yanez in Ecuador. We plan a series of interviews (in Spanish) that will focus on **sharing basic Bible teachings**. The video interviews will be made available on his channel, **Estudiemos la Biblia (Let Us Study the Bible),** as well as through my web and social media resources.

I am currently teaching the book of Isaiah on Sunday morning in the auditorium Bible class at church. I was honored to preach recently as we prepare for our annual Mission Sunday in April.

The year is beginning with too many funerals. Last month, I officiated at the funeral of a dear sister in northwest Arkansas. Jan and I had known her and her family since 1974 in Michigan. Unfortunately, we were not able to attend the funeral of Roberto Miranda in Houston. Roberto and I had known one another since 2006 and had worked together periodically for the past fifteen years. In April, we will travel to Michigan to officiate at the funeral of another dear friend. We will also have an opportunity to give mission reports and updates along with preaching and teaching. We are saddened by the death of Linda Henry. We have known Linda and Calvin for about 30 years and worked together closely at Baxter Institute in Honduras. More recently, we simply enjoyed time together as friends.

Recalibrating means dreaming about new projects, both in English and Spanish. I continue to record and share a weekly WOW, Word of the Week.

Recalibrating also means adjusting to an increasing number of doctor appointments and health concerns. May God guide us as we reflect calm, joyful faith in every circumstance of life!

Website Problems Resolved

Around the first of the year, I began to experience frequent problems with my website being offline. I discovered that my hosting service had gone out of business. The challenge of recovering my domain name, reregistering it, and transferring my backup files to a new host were time-consuming and stressful. I am grateful to **Tim Priebe at Backslash Creative** for helping me through the process. Tim had helped in the development of my site about 20 years ago. It appears that the website problems are now resolved.

The website problems were a reminder that the future is uncertain. I continue to develop specific plans for stepping back and eventually ending my digital presence. Right now, conversations center on a target date near the end of 2027 or early 2028. I encourage those who use the site to consider downloading materials of interest for future reference.

Unhesitatingly: Memories of Faith, Family, Ministry and Missions

The publisher has completed the proof draft of the book (front cover, picture right). Once the proof copies arrive and are reviewed, edited, and corrected, the book should be ready for release. We are excited about sharing our story. Those who have read and reviewed the book as part of the publishing process have responded with kind words! The book should be released not later than April 1.

Mission and Ministry Updates

The weekend retreat in **Curahuasi, Peru** went on without my physical presence. I sent a brief video to encourage the church, being present in spirit. When national workers are prepared and capable of stepping up and standing in the gaps, we are reminded of the value decades of training, mentoring, and working with national churches, leaders, and workers.

The reports from **Raul Chumbile**, serving in **Chimbote, Peru** are encouraging. Thank you again to **Main and Oklahoma** for their support of this work.

The work of **Jairo and Andrea** in southern Colombia continues to move forward. Thank you to **Holmes Road** and **Springbrook Hills** for partnering, and to **Fort Gibson** for facilitating this work (pictures left, more baptisms in the church planting effort in Putumayo).

The work in the **Dominican Republic** advances. I am continually grateful to be partnering with **Liberte Ministries** to seize opportunities near the Dominican-Haitian border. A survey trip in March will seek to identify specific works to be completed by the October build teams. The survey team will travel without me. I hope to make a trip to the Dominican Republic later this year so I can spend extended time teaching and preaching in the new churches.

PRAY ALWAYS FOR THE ADVANCE OF THE GOSPEL AROUND THE WORLD

Here's How You Can Partner. Thank You!

God is 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.

As the works being supported are passed on to local churches, donors supporting those works are notified. Your financial partnership supports our mission travels, digital and online mission opportunities, and publishing resource materials.

Through our 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 TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).

Dios le bendiga (God bless you),
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The picture at right was taken during our recent visit with the church in Pasto, Colombia. In many of the churches we visit during our international mission trips, our brothers and sisters are hungering for the Word of God. Approximately 80% of the church was present for a two-day conference on Monday and Tuesday nights.

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 that carry the gospel to their own nations.