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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—Take Two!

I begin with a personal note for those who may not have frequent communication with us.

In the first mission and ministry newsletter of 2026, I shared thoughts focused on my 2026 Word of the Year – recalibrate! Jan and I began the year anticipating the challenge of finding new life rhythms. How prophetic! For 56 days we enjoyed exploring shared spiritual routines, reading, conversing, dreaming, planning, praying.

Then on February 26, Jan fell and broke her left femur just below the hip. As I write, we are about 2½ months post-surgery. We spent most of a week in the hospital, followed by two weeks of inpatient rehab. Coming home was a victory. We were able to resume attending worship. Home health provided physical therapy for about a month before Jan progressed enough to be discharged from home health services. Now we are in week two of outpatient physical therapy. Jan has progressed from a wheelchair, to a standard walker with two smaller front wheels, to a rolling four-wheel walker, to a cane. At home, she is becoming less and less dependent on the cane. We celebrate her progress. However, her pain level is still challenging. Please continue to pray for her healing and mobility; and for the pain to subside.

For the next few months, our "new normal" will focus on one thing – rehabbing Jan's hip as she regains the most mobility possible, hopefully enough for us to resume our work and travels together on the "slowed down" basis we were anticipating.

We have been blessed by the prayers offered by thousands (literally) of brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. Thank you!

We believe that this stage in our lives is only a parenthesis inserted for a brief time. Our goal is to follow a normal rehab schedule with benchmarks at three months (coming up soon!) and six months (end of August). August mobility would be a birthday gift for Jan and an anniversary gift for us! Getting back to our normal will be a spectacular Christmas gift!

This "bump in the road" has required changes in our plans. I asked to be relieved of my commitment to teach weekly at the **Tijuana School of Preaching** during April-May-June. The **recording project with Henry Yanez in Ecuador** was delayed. We began work on the project last week. My plans to **teach the book of Isaiah** at Fort Gibson January to April and to prepare an online video study were short-circuited. I am grateful that Chris Wilson ably stepped in and completed the study. The materials I prepared and presented are available on the Fort Gibson YouTube channel (https://www.youtube.com/@fortgibsonchurchofchrist362). You can also find them via my website on the video index page (https://bobyoungresources.com/video.php). We could not travel to Michigan as planned—the wonders of technology made possible my participation via a digital memorial tribute video. We hope to be able to travel to Michigan to share mission reports and renew friendships in Christ later this year.

Our focus remains firm even as we recalibrate. We dream of new projects. I continue sharing a weekly WOW, Word of the Week. We work around multiplied medical appointments as we do what God makes possible. He constantly opens doors. We see God guiding us through a calm, joyful faith in every circumstance of life!

Website Update

The website problems that I described in the last newsletter are a reminder that the future is uncertain. I continue to develop plans for stepping back from my digital presence. Recently, my three sons expressed an interest in helping maintain the website. That was an encouragement to their mother and me. I believe that providing digital resources and materials (via the website and YouTube) is a ministry that I could continue for several more years. Nonetheless, I still encourage those who use the site to consider downloading materials of interest for future reference.

Unhesitatingly: Memories of Faith, Family, Ministry and Missions

Our book of memoirs was released in late March, slightly ahead of schedule. Because our primary purpose is to share our story and encourage others on their spiritual journey, the cost is low, both in paper and digitally. The book is available on Amazon and through major book retailers.

If you need help getting the book, let us know. We have several on hand for immediate delivery. Contact the publisher for bulk orders (www.jameskaypublishing.com). **Amazon reviews are appreciated!**

Mission Updates and Prayer Needs

While the last two months have focused on family needs with Jan's surgery and rehab, the mission work continues. Continue to pray! Pray for workers, pray for those who are ready to hear. Pray for open doors and connections.

The advance team (**Liberte Ministries and Joel Boone**) went to the **Dominican Republic** in March. Land was identified and has been purchased in Jimaní. Land has also been purchased in Barrera for a church building. Plans were made for **summer 2026 visits** and for the work of the **October construction teams**. **Jan and I hope to be ready to travel to the Dominican Republic** later this year or early next year so I can spend some extended time teaching and preaching in the new churches.

The need for an **additional worker in the Dominican Republic** has been acute. The worker has been available (trilingual) but funding was lacking. Thankfully, the generosity of several donors has made possible a two-year commitment to bring Julio onboard to assist Manuel. The work of the **vocational evangelists in the new churches** is supported with a $50/month stipend. Only six of the ten monthly stipends are funded. If you or your church would like to support a preacher for $50/month, $600 per year, please contact me! This preacher support project is overseen by the **Fort Gibson church**.

The work of **Raúl Chumbile in Chimbote, Peru** continues with the partnership of the **Main and Oklahoma church in McAlester.** Please pray for Raúl and his family; his mother deceased in mid-May.

The work in **southern Colombia** is constantly fresh and spiritually invigorating. Thank you to the **Springbrook Hills church in Dewitt, Michigan** for helping with **Jairo and Andrea's** support. Thank you to **Holmes Road in Lansing** for helping with the **church planting effort in La Hormiga, Putumayo**. Thank you to **Fort Gibson** for facilitating these works.

I am aware of an opportunity in **Ecuador**—very evangelistic and planting churches! Contact me!

Jan and I are scheduling travels in the last half of 2026 for mission reports, mission Sundays, preaching, and teaching opportunities. We have to work around outpatient physical therapy schedules, but our weekends are fairly open. Our fall schedule is beginning to fill.

PRAY 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 most 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.