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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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How are you doing? What have you been doing?

Jan and I have been asked those questions repeatedly in recent months. "What have you been doing?" was the first question my barber asked me as I sat down in her chair last week.

What have we been doing? How much detail do you want? We take care of things around the house as best we can with some slowly increasing level of independence… we continue rehab and recovery with home exercises, walking, and outpatient physical therapy… we have more than our fair share of doctors' visits… we are trying to get back to the gym regularly… the list is much longer—almost endless!

I have described 2026 as a year of recalibrating. Our ultimate focus remains solid. We dream of new projects. We do what God makes possible as he opens doors. We see God guiding us toward a calm, joyful faith in this season of our life.

"What have you been doing?" My barber was asking about mission work, writing projects, and travels. She wanted to know what is happening on the ground in the Dominican Republic and Haiti and Peru and Colombia and Venezuela. She wanted an update on the video project I am working on with a brother in Ecuador. She has a special interest in Hispaniola because of her son's work in Haiti. She shared with me a few of her reactions to our book of memories. As she cut my hair we talked. I answered her questions. After she finished, she and Jan and I prayed together.

In this newsletter update, I will mention some of the things I shared with her. **What have we been doing?** Here is a short answer with limited details. But first, a brief update on Jan's progress.

Update on Jan's Journey to Recovery

Jan's continuing rehab and recovery is progressing—exercises, gym time, physical therapy, and increased activity. We pray that God will see us through to our new normal, whatever He provides, as we pray about resuming some level of work and travel even as we slow down.

We must say again how grateful and blessed we are by the prayers of brothers and sisters in Christ around the world. Thank you!

Ministry and Mission Updates

Every day finds me spending time in my office – usually several hours daily, seven days each week. The time fills with numerous projects which are not always exciting to mention. Nonetheless, a short list of activities helps answer the question, **"What have you been doing?"** Website updates and posts, writing projects, WOW production, extensive textual and topical studies as I contemplate future projects. Add working with the churches who are assuming LALD projects, making preparations to step back at end of 2026, and arranging future mission reports and travels.

I am working with Henry Yanez in Ecuador on a project focused on **developing a valid methodology for Bible study**. Topics in the Spanish podcasts will include the nature and importance of the Bible, exegesis, hermeneutics, homiletics, and rhetoric. Three podcasts are now available with three more in production. Only one episode of the series remains to be recorded.

Although our newest book, ***Unhesitatingly*,** was released at the end of March, the activities of the last few months have distracted us from working diligently on PR and distribution. Jan and I are grateful that several hundred copies have been purchased. We pray for increased opportunities to share our story as an encouragement and inspiration to others.

The book is now available digitally on Amazon. The cost is low both in paper and digitally. If you need help getting a copy of the book, let us know. We have several on hand for immediate delivery. Contact the publisher for bulk orders (www.jameskaypublishing.com).

Mission Updates and Prayer Needs

The mission work continues. Continue to pray! Pray for workers, pray for those who are ready to hear. Pray for open doors and connections. Here are a few highlights and prayer needs!

Dominican Republic. Planning and preliminary work are underway for the work of the **October construction team**. **Jan and I hope to be ready to travel to the Dominican Republic** early next year to spend extended time teaching and preaching in the new churches.

I am grateful to **Liberté Ministries (liberteministries.org)** for their partnership in the work.

The need for an **additional worker in the Dominican Republic** has been met through 2027. With your generous donations, Julio began working with the team in June.

Several responded to the 2027 funding need for the **vocational evangelists in the newer churches.** If you or your church would like to support the preaching of the gospel for $50/month, contact me! This preacher support project is overseen by the **Fort Gibson church**.

[pictures are of VBS efforts in La Descubierta, Los Cocos, and Vista al Lago]

South America. Please pray for **Raúl Chumbile in Chimbote, Peru** and his family. His mother deceased in mid-May; his wife is experiencing some health problems. **Jairo and Andrea in Túquerres, Colombia** provide an important support system to a network of churches near the Colombia-Ecuador border. They recently traveled to help with the **church planting effort in La Hormiga, Putumayo**. Pray for the **churches in Venezuela** as they work together to serve others after the earthquakes which devastated parts of that country.

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 special bridging requests, 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 2025 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.