

Latin America Calling

By Bob Young

In Acts 16, Paul received what is commonly called the “Macedonian call” when he had a vision about a man of Macedonia who said, “Come over and help us.” As a result, Paul went to Macedonia where God opened many doors and new churches were established. Several of the Macedonian churches became bulwarks of the faith and still serve as examples to us today through the letters Paul wrote to them.

The call I have heard and tried to respond for at least the last decade is a similar call. The churches and the Christians in Latin America are calling, “Come over and help us.” Five years ago, I retired from my work in the university and full-time ministry so I would have more time available to answer the call.

The call that echoes from Christians and churches in Latin America is a call the North American churches need to hear. The Latin American call is a call for help that I wish all North American Christians could clearly hear and grasp so that our response could be multiplied. The Latin American call is important and worthy of response for several reasons.

First, many of the Latin American churches are trying to do the work God has placed before them. The call to which I refer does not come from churches that are lazy and unmotivated. The call comes from churches and Christians that are committed, evangelistic, and wanting to do God’s will.

Second, they cannot do it by themselves. The fields are white and the laborers are few. Resources are often limited. Many of the churches are relatively new; many of the Christians are new Christians. They do not have the long history shared by the churches in North America. They need help to mature and grow spiritually; they need help to develop churches and leaders.

Third, although they need help, the help they need most is for guidance in developing healthy churches, establishing healthy dynamics, motivating spiritual growth, developing healthy families, developing leaders and teachers, practical training in “how to” accomplish the work, and sound relevant Bible studies that model effective Bible teaching.

One way to answer the call that resounds from Latin America is through seminars, training, preaching and teaching, and modeling. This is the primary purpose of the multiplied trips I make to Latin America each year.

If you would like more information about how you can help answer the Latin American call, contact me. There is a need for more people to go. There is a need for more churches to see and connect with this mission need. There is always a need for more resources that can be channeled to those things that contribute to healthy, independent churches.