

Latin American Leadership Development: Reviewing 2019 – Setting Goals for the Future
Looking ahead to the next five years: 2020-2024
What is possible? What can we expect? What should we do?
by Bob Young



A big question as we begin 2020 and look ahead five years (2020-2024) is this: **Do we want these years to be like previous years?**

Are we ready for God to do something new, better, different? I believe 2020 and the next five years will be a time of new highs, new successes, and new victories. It will be a launching point to go to the next level of spiritual health and growth in the churches, fulfilling what we have been praying for. Let me tell you why I am so hopeful.

God answers prayer and has given Christians access to power – his power. Therefore, each of us holds the power to make 2020, and every year, a banner year. We hold the power to move forward aggressively. God has only begun to show us what is possible. When I listen to God and hear his Word, here is his message: **“Nothing is too hard for God, nothing is impossible!”** God faithfully provides. Our part is to discern God’s plan, line up our goals with his goals, and actively fulfill his purpose for us in this world. Serving a big God who does big things means that we have to set new goals, goals that can only be accomplished with God’s power, goals that are beyond our finite capacity. We must make our plans expecting God’s help and power. We must plan and act with faith. Only convicted, confident faith can please God (Heb. 11:1-6).

Contemplating how God has carried us thus far will cause us to set audacious goals. Over ten years ago, before I began full-time involvement in this ministry, I outlined some goals.

My goal is to work closely with 25-30 local churches across Latin America. These churches will provide the infrastructure for a network of 100-150 churches. The mission will focus on evangelism with two big goals: the churches collectively make at least 2000 new disciples each year, and discipleship training will develop the new Christians into faithful disciples. These two goals come from Matthew 28 where Jesus said disciple-making involves baptism and continued teaching for discipleship – making more and better disciples.

These spiritually maturing Christians will be part of stable, effective healthy mission churches that become self-sustaining, self-governing, self-edifying, and self-duplicating.

The mission will be to help local churches develop and identify biblical leaders so that churches are biblically organized and spiritually healthy, capable of functioning with a minimum of outside support.

These churches will become missionary churches and will be involved in church planting. They will support and encourage church planting, resulting in new church plants each year.

The 10-year results will be at least 20,000 new disciples who are active, faithful Christians and dozens of new churches.

After 10 years, I rejoice to say that those original goals have been exceeded as God has demonstrated his desire to empower and bless our prayers and the work of faithful Christians. As I review the past ten years and look to the future, I am motivated to pray more and make bigger plans. God does not desire our failure, God desires that we dream ever bigger dreams.

When I wrote the goals above, I committed myself to spending 10 years in the work. My good friend and mentor, Don Vinzant, told me that he thought I had at least 15 good years to invest in the work. Not a few people thought I was crazy to retire early so I could devote fulltime to this mission. Others thought I was crazy to want to spend my retirement in this mission.

As 2020 begins and I look back over the last 10 years, it is time to evaluate and think anew about God’s plan. God is not done with his mission. God has opened doors; he will continue to open doors. God’s eternal purpose to save the world through Jesus will continue even after I leave this earth. As I look at the next five years, I believe God is calling me to raise up the next generation, to pass the baton. This will require an aggressive development of leaders with mature, unwavering faith. This is a great need in this moment. Each generation stands on the shoulders of previous generations, reaching ever higher. The logo at right is one I have used periodically to represent the work of Latin American Leadership Development. It is a good reminder that the spread of the gospel depends on new generations of disciples, new churches, and new leaders.





Specific Goals for 2020: Laying Foundations for the Future

At the beginning of the new year, many people make resolutions. I set goals! I see a new beginning. I believe it is a time to pray about what God wants to do in this ministry in coming years. Will you join me in these prayers? God will bless our combined prayers to have an even greater impact on our world for Jesus.

- As already mentioned, pray for additional workers and church leaders
- Pray for evangelism, to find those interested in the gospel so they can respond to Jesus
- Pray for the new Christians in their walk toward devoted, disciplined discipleship
- Pray for the development of healthy national churches – self-sustaining, -directed, -edified, -duplicating
- Pray for the local churches in their desire to be missionary churches, planting more churches

Pray also for these specific objectives.

- Increase the technological outreach of this mission.
- Write and produce new video and audio materials for Latin America.
- Write and publish more written materials, books, lessons, classes.
- Investigate and initiate distance teaching opportunities.
- Increase partnering relationships for effective follow-up.

Looking back ten years – what has God accomplished?

With the beginning of a new year and a new decade, it is natural to look back briefly. A decade – 2010-2019, 10+ years of full-time mission work since my retirement. Here is a quick summary of what God has done through this work in the last 10 years. By the numbers!

| | |
|---------|--|
| 108+ | Number of churches worked with, seeking to become independent, self-sustaining, self-replicating |
| 15+ | Churches I work with that have named elders and other leaders to become biblically organized |
| 6145 | Minimum number of distinct persons who attended and been trained in classes and seminars |
| 5 | Number of Bible institutes where I have taught classes |
| 20000+ | Number of baptisms in the churches |
| 40 | Minimum number of new churches planted |
| 6-10 | Number of international trips each year |
| 96-155 | Number of days spent internationally each year |
| 60000+ | Number of evangelism lessons printed and distributed |
| 482,530 | Total number of annual visits to my website (2019) |

Your gifts make it possible to continue to build on the firm foundation that has been laid in churches across Latin America. With God's help, even more will be accomplished in coming years! I receive no personal support and give back honoraria – every dollar you give goes specifically for the work of spreading the gospel and developing the national churches!

Looking Ahead to 2020



I have seven international trips scheduled for 2020 plus an increased amount of US travel. Three “participating churches” fund almost all of my travel expense. This means that your gifts can be used for the various special projects I mention in the newsletters. Your generous gifts help us say “yes” to those requests that rapidly advance the gospel.

We (I and a group of national leaders who share this vision) help national churches meet spiritual needs and physical needs. Jesus came teaching, preaching, and healing (Matt. 4:23; 9:35). Jesus knew why he came. We care about both the spiritual and the physical wellbeing of people. We believe that spiritual outreach and physical needs are connected. This is reflected in our focus on spiritual outreach as we simultaneously facilitate the work of national churches who recognize that benevolent opportunities open doors for spiritual healing. The result is that we are seeing hundreds of people coming to Christ each year.

The focus on biblical training, spiritual growth, evangelism, discipleship, leader development, and prayer, equips the national churches for their ministry. When needy people contact the churches in Latin America, the first point of contact is with a national Christian who is carrying the message of Jesus.

At the beginning of 2020, I say "Thank You" for your support and encouragement of the mission that has effectively spread the gospel and developed strong national churches for the past ten years. You can continue to help advance this work.

First, lift a prayer of thanksgiving for God's blessings for 10 years.

Second, pray for wisdom and vision for 2020, with new challenges and new opportunities.

Third, pray for the resources needed to respond to opportunities that are yet unseen and unknown.

Fourth, share this report with others. Simply send the link below, adding your word of support and encouragement: (www.bobyongresources.com/missions/LALD_2019-summary_jan-2020.pdf).

Again, I am grateful for your partnership as we together meet needs all across Latin America. Thank you for your financial support. Thank you to the three participating churches that support this work-- McAlester (OK), Fort Gibson (OK), and Mena (AR). I praise and thank God for the individual Christians who help make the work possible. You know who you are, and God knows your works, your prayers and your patient perseverance!

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

918.470.0421 (cell)

bro.bobyong@yahoo.com

