

The Work of Latin American Leadership Development

“What’s Missing is Making Disciples Who Make Disciples”



In churches all across North America, week after week faithful sermons are preached, yet the same issues of spiritual inertia and spiritual immaturity persist. The church fails to grow exponentially as the first century church did. Why is the New Testament full of unlikely conversions and radical transformations while our own congregations seem to stagnate?

“What we're missing is disciple-making!”

The core of Jesus' ministry was making and developing disciples who make other disciples. Jesus' last words of his earthly ministry were instructions for his disciples to make more disciples. The process Jesus used works.

For two decades Bob Young worked hand-in-hand evangelistically with two churches to develop a process for making disciples who make disciples. God gave the results! Over eleven years, one church tripled in attendance and the other church more than doubled in eight years.

During the years Bob spent in Christian higher education, he sharpened his understandings of disciple-making as he trained students, developed a model for helping churches refocus on evangelism, and applied the concepts of disciple-making to the mission field.

Bob loves the church and wants to guide God's people in living out the Great Commission in their lives. He served as a translator of *“En Pos de la Verdad”* (“Following the Truth”), a series of evangelistic disciple-making lessons, and is the author of *Evangelismo: Energizando y Equipando a la Iglesia (Evangelism: Energizing and Equipping the Church)*. He trains church members in evangelism in both Spanish and English.

For the last ten years, his focus during his retirement has been on helping mission churches create a culture of disciple-making to build a movement of multiplication, encouraging God's people to follow the example of Jesus. Currently Bob travels extensively in Latin America as he works with a network of churches across Latin America in which thousands of people are being brought to Jesus every year in baptism, making disciples by baptizing and discipling. Bob also works in churches in the United States to encourage mission work, evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development, both with Hispanic churches and with English-speaking churches.

A significant part of the work of Latin America Leadership Development focuses on developing and partnering with national workers who have been trained and are doing the same work in evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development. In this way, the chain of multiplying churches is ever-expanding. In 2019, the partnerships of Latin America Leadership Development include the following:

- Support for church planting efforts in 25+ locations in **Chile, Colombia, Dominican Republic, Bolivia,** and **Peru**. All of the church planting work is being done by nationals who are evaluating the best locations to expand the church planting work.
- Support for an evangelist who is working with a group of seven churches in **southern Colombia**.
- Support for an evangelist-elder who works with a rapidly-growing church in **Nicaragua**.
- Support for **Baxter Institute in Honduras** in the training of additional national workers.
- Support for the work in **Venezuela**—relief work, evangelism in the churches, worker training
- Support to print and distribute evangelism materials in Spanish, through Spanish Literature Ministry
- Support for two national workers in a growing church in **Chile**, both working to expand the work of evangelism, discipleship, and leadership development.
- Training for national workers in **Ecuador** who are training others, working with an expanding chain of churches (six churches where there were none just six years ago).

In Latin America, a little can do a lot in partnership with fully committed disciples! In 2019, total funding for these partnerships, reaching into nine Latin American countries, is barely over half of the average annual per capita income in the United States.