

EVO (Entrenamiento Vocacional de Obreros; Vocational Training for Workers)

By Bob Young

EVO is a seminar program which provides teaching and training for churches throughout Latin America and for Spanish-speaking churches in the U.S. EVO has about two dozen workers and volunteers, and more than 200 churches receive regular training. EVO has a proven record of edifying churches, facilitating leader development, and strengthening the ministries of local mission churches. The success of EVO is built on three elements: helping Christians become aware of their calling to serve in the kingdom, developing in Christians the desire to become committed kingdom workers, and providing training to facilitate personal and congregational development.

What are the goals and results of EVO seminars?

First, EVO training **increases the personal commitment** of Christians who receive the training. It does this by focusing on spiritual growth and maturity.

We Christians face common problems—at work, at home, at church, in our personal lives and our spiritual lives. These problems are not new to the 21st century. They are the same kind of problems that God’s people faced in the Old Testament and in the first century. EVO training provides a model for hearing the Word of God, understanding and exploring problems, and developing action plans that provide accountability within the body of Christ and support for effective follow through.

Second, EVO training **helps Christians integrate their lives**. Every Christian has to balance living in this world with living for the world to come. The alignment and balance of these two (often opposing) dynamics is no easy task.

How should Christians live? EVO integrates everyday life and church life. God’s will in my life is consistent with my unique set of abilities, talents, and gifts. My sense of calling motivates my service. A great spiritual life without a sense of God’s calling and purpose is of little value to God or the church.

Third, EVO training **transforms lives** (Rom. 12:1-2) by focusing on spiritual growth and maturity.

I like the way one observer described EVO: “The seminars are an excuse to get involved with people and to help them deal with life, understand God’s will, and connect their lives with God’s purpose.” Teaching the seminars lets the instructors spend time with people and facilitate the spiritual journey. Instructors are able to help others listen to God, think through the challenges, and rejoice in the constant provision of God. When people are transformed spiritually, they become more and more like Christ.

Finally, the training **increases the effectiveness of the ministry of the local church**.

Especially on the mission field, people become overwhelmed with the daily burden of the church when mature workers are few and “in development.” Sometimes the church is not all that spiritual and feels more like secular business or organization. EVO encourages the involvement of more workers by developing a spiritual passion for the mission among the members.

EVO is a great asset to the kingdom of God. It strengthens the local church by edifying the members, encouraging members to develop spiritually and to commit fully, and to participate in the ministry of the local church. EVO helps form missionary churches and transforms lives.

EVO is overseen by the Memorial Church in Houston. For more information about the work of EVO among Hispanic churches in the U.S. or in Latin America, go to www.misionevo.com.