

Peru Mission Trip, May 2013 By Bob Young

In the month of May, I was asked to speak at a national preacher's retreat for the preachers of the gospel and other church leaders in Cusco, Peru. The three congregations in Cusco jointly hosted the event which was attended by over 100 Christians. Preachers and church leaders came from various parts of the nation of Peru and also from Ecuador, Chile, and Bolivia. The formal program extended from 7:00 AM breakfast until the conclusion of the evening session at about 9:00 PM. I taught on biblical leadership and the importance of understanding languages



for accurate Bible interpretation. Various preachers from Peru (along with some from the U.S. with ties to Peru) were invited to make presentations. Eight Baxter graduates were among those who presented lessons during the three days. On Saturday evening a young couple was baptized into Christ. Pedro Flores, a Baxter graduate who is part of a team in Trujillo, Peru, was instrumental in the study and baptisms.



I was privileged to be part of a reunion of Baxter graduates during the conference. Six graduates were

present for a late evening gathering that lasted until midnight. We shared a great time of telling stories and remembering Baxter experiences. Jacobo Chalco shared stories from the days when Baxter was in Mexico, while the others who were present represented more recent generations with graduates from 1996 to 2009. We were blessed to have Manuel and Julie Magos also present during the reunion.



Lots of opportunities to talk about practical ministry and to deal with questions are always part of such meetings. In addition to the three days spent in large sessions, informal studies provide an opportunity to

address specific questions and needs in the context of the healthy development of the churches. I am always amazed by the hunger and thirst for information and instruction.



In addition to my involvement in the national preachers' retreat, I was also able to spend three days in Lima. I spent one day teaching at the Inter-American Bible Institute; another day was used for learning more about the history of the work in Lima and Peru and for teaching at the Santo Domingo

congregation; on Sunday I taught and preached at Santo Domingo and spent time with church leaders discussing the future of the work in Peru.

Almost always, one result of these activities is invitations to visit more locations and churches where Christians are open and receptive, ready to receive biblical instruction to help in the development of the church with well-prepared teachers and leaders. One invitation I received I had to decline due to a scheduling conflict, but new doors are opened as invitations are received to help in new places.



In October I will travel to Chile to present seminars, to teach and preach, and to help churches in their work. One option I have discussed with some of the Peru brothers is that I could schedule some additional time in Peru as part of that trip with very little additional cost, simply by adding a stop to the flight schedule.

I am grateful for those who read these reports and support the work, whether financially or in prayer. The work we are called to do in Latin America is possible only by God's grace, and God is the one who calls us and places us for service according to our gifts, opening and closing doors as we strive to make his purpose our purpose.

The work of strengthening and edifying local churches with the goal of developing healthy model churches, the work of developing biblical leadership with the churches, and the goal of equipping the local church for ministry, evangelism and missional church planting—these things God has laid on my heart, and we endeavor with all our might to do his will to his glory. My prayer is that God will bless all of us richly as we seek his will.

During the trip, I preached and taught in four different congregations and also taught at the national preachers' conference for the churches of Christ in Peru. About 100 church leaders from 20 different congregations were present for the seminar. Those present were from six different nations. While I spent only about 10 hours in formal teaching and preaching during the trip, but there were many more opportunities for informal conversations, teaching, mentoring, coaching, Bible study, and answering questions about ministry. There were two baptisms during the trip.

I am grateful for the opportunity to serve and appreciate those who help make this work it possible. I would be pleased to visit your congregation and share firsthand what God is doing through this ministry. Please contact me at bro.bobyounq@yahoo.com or by phone at 918.470.0421.

Que Dios le bendiga (may God bless you),
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