

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

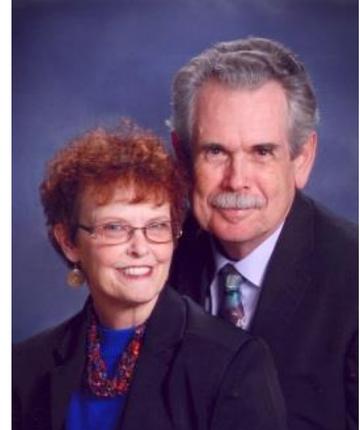
Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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In this report, you will read about expanding opportunities for the work of *Latin American Leadership Development*, reports of my stateside travels and activities, a report on the mission trip to El Salvador and Honduras, exciting news about progress on video production and website statistics, and an update on the special projects God has put before us.



Expanding the Focus of the Work

In the work of *Latin American Leadership Development*, I have always had in mind not only the Latin American churches across South America, Central America, and the Caribbean region, but also the Spanish-speaking churches in the U.S. I am grateful that the continued expansion of the resources and studies available by Internet, written materials, and especially the increased production of audio and video resources is meeting a need.

As I become increasingly aware that I cannot answer every invitation to “come over and help us,” these additional resources—along with the identification, training, and mentoring of additional, younger workers across Latin America—is making possible the expansion of the work. Walking through open doors includes being aware of the opportunities God provides and using every resource available to answer the call.

Another adjustment in the focus of the work is that I am putting more emphasis on evangelism training. Projects include working to equip every member of the church to share the gospel, emphasizing campaigns and crusades, providing evangelism materials, and providing training resources for local churches. A new book

focused on evangelism training (about 100 pages) will be available by late summer in Spanish, and I continue writing new evangelism lessons and studies. Yesterday (the day before this report was published and distributed), I received this letter from the Dominican Republic: “When will you be in the Dominican Republic again? I was at your evangelism seminar last year, and we need more encouragement and training.”

***Unexplained activities, regardless of how benevolent, necessary or helpful, will not by themselves expand the kingdom. Evangelism is always intentional—seldom a serendipity that “just happens.”
The Gospel requires words!***

How encouraging it is to receive reports of new church plants undertaken by the local churches! Over the past three months, the new church in Puerto Gaitán, Colombia has had at least 4 baptisms and is beginning to take hold with an attendance of around 10-12 people each Sunday. The new church in San Lorenzo in Ecuador has just started and has had 9 baptisms recently.

How encouraging it is to receive reports of baptisms in local churches where the indigenous workers are laboring with no North American presence—20, 8, 9, 13, 1... My inboxes bring such reports every week! “To God be the glory! Great things He has done!”

The mission on which God sent us is to bring people under the rule and reign of the Lordship of Jesus. If what we are doing in the name of missions is not bringing multitudes of people to Jesus, we must ask ourselves "Why?" The gospel has not lost its power. Perhaps it is because sharing the Good News does not have first priority in our activities?

Activities in the U.S.



Recent visits to **Hispanic churches** include...

a mini-seminar focused on leadership at **Edmond (OK) Iglesia de Cristo** (picture left, above)

a weekend seminar with the **Fort Smith (AR) Iglesia de Cristo** (picture above, right)

a 3-day seminar with the **Crieve Hall Iglesia de Cristo in Nashville (TN)**, attended by Christians from six congregations in the greater Nashville area

time spent with the **Park Plaza Iglesia de Cristo** and **First and Lewis Iglesia de Cristo** in Tulsa (OK) as part of my work with Pedro Sanchez, elder from Santiago, Chile, during his preaching-teaching visit to Oklahoma.

Some of my activities with **English-speaking churches**...

I am teaching a Wednesday night adult Bible class at the **Park Plaza church of Christ** (Tulsa, OK), "Hebrews as Seen through Jewish Eyes"

I preached and gave a mission report as part of a mission emphasis month at the **Fort Gibson (OK) church of Christ**. I am extremely grateful to this church, because they are a constant supporter financially and in words of encouragement, and because they help oversee the Special Projects part of the ministry.

I visited at the Main and Oklahoma church (McAlester, OK) to share a mission focus Sunday. I spent time with Travis Scroggins, recent AIM graduate, who plans to continue working in Mexico City. Jan and I have helped with some aspects of Travis's work and we eagerly await what God is going to do through this young man.

We are grateful for the Main and Oklahoma church because they also serve as the "host congregation" for *Latin American Leadership Development*.

A few other matters....

Another section of this report has an update and report on my book writing projects. Here I only note that writing and publishing a book involves lots of meetings, lots of work in writing, lots of work in editing, time spent with the publisher working on templates, format, and a host of other details.

The video recording project is underway. A report on the project is included below. This is another work that requires a lot of time. I have scheduled recording sessions three times a week, but the "take off" has been slower than I had anticipated due to other scheduled obligations.

Personal notes....

I do not customarily say much about my personal life, but it seems appropriate as part of an explanation of how God is working in our lives to develop this ministry.

First, I am grateful because I have the freedom to schedule “family time” when I am in the U.S. Jan is very patient with my frequent absences, and we relish the opportunity to celebrate our time together.

Second, sometimes I miss special events and family gatherings as I work within the scheduling needs of the churches. When I miss celebrations, family holidays, and general holidays, I understand better the experience of mission workers who live outside the U.S.

I am grateful that I am able to accompany Jan on most of her visits to her mother. She tries to visit at least once a month. Thankfully, I was stateside and was able to preach the funeral of Jan’s sister-in-law in late March. Also in March, Jan and I visited her uncle and aunt in Texas, and a few weeks later went back to attend her aunt’s funeral. How glad we were that we had been able to visit her aunt before she died.

I especially enjoy time with our youngest grandkids. I try to work my schedule to be home when they come to visit, although it is not always possible. They are growing up, and growing in the Lord (picture right).



El Salvador-Honduras Report

In late May, I was able to spend a few days on the El Salvador-Honduras border almost due north of San Salvador (the capital of El Salvador). The major cities in the area are La Palma (El Salvador) and Ocotepeque (Honduras). Border Bible Institute has two campuses in the region. I preached at La Palma the evening we arrived (picture right), then spent three days teaching and interacting with the students from 8 AM – 3 PM (picture left). On Wednesday, I spoke to the men at Ocotepeque for a couple of hours in the afternoon, and then preached to the church that night.



I was impressed by the students at the Institute. I have visited the major Bible institutes in Central and South America. Many local churches have smaller institutes. Border Bible Institute has excellent students—capable, alert, interested, and serious. It was a joy to teach them, to interact with their questions, and to spend time with them.



Website update

I am constantly amazed at what God makes possible through our meager efforts! Someone recently asked me about the statistics for my website so I went online to Alexa to answer the question. I was surprised at what I found. Measured traffic on the site includes **1303 unique visitors every day; 39,090 unique visitors each month, and 475,595 yearly unique visitors.**

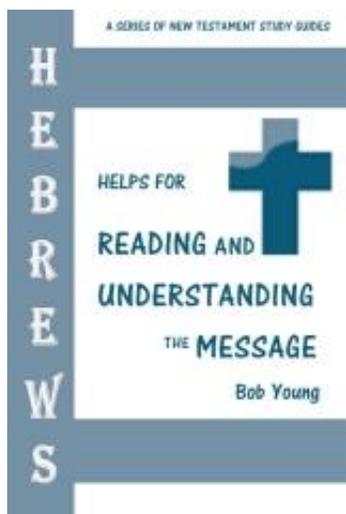
Wow!! One little effort by one person, doing what I can in my spare moments. I can only say “thank you” to the Lord, grateful that I can serve, that others are interested, and that the Good News is being spread.

Video production update

As I travel and observe the ways in which Christians in other countries receive information, I am more and more convinced of the value of recordings—both audio and video. I am grateful to the **Park Plaza church** for allowing me access and use of an assembly area especially suited for producing teaching and preaching videos. With sound amplification, PowerPoint projection, and the ability to capture both the speaker and the screen in a single view, the “studio” is functioning superbly. Thus far, I have completed two special recording projects for a men’s retreat in the Dominican Republic (Spanish), two projects for congregational teaching and television in

South America (Spanish), seven videos over the book of Hebrews (English), a video study of “Principles for Strong Marriages” based on Genesis 2-4 (English), and the first three videos of a series over the book of Hebrews (Spanish). All of these are available on my YouTube Channel: search for “Bob Young Ministry and Missions.”

The next projects that are scheduled (all in Spanish) include finishing the study of Hebrews, recording an evangelism workshop with all of the lessons fully explained, and a series of lessons focused on the message and theological teaching of each of the Gospels.



Writing projects update

My weekly Wednesday night teaching commitment each spring has two advantages. I have some weekends available for U.S. seminars, teaching and preaching, and fund-raising trips and reports; and I have time to continue writing and producing studies and materials.

The first volume in the New Testament Bible Study guides has now been published and is available on Amazon. I have three more volumes almost ready to send to the publisher (hopefully, within the next couple of months), and I am working on the fifth volume. These five volumes will cover eleven books of the New Testament. Go to my website to check out the books that are now available.

Special projects update

In the last newsletter, I mentioned four 2017 special projects that are being funded: an evangelist in Nicaragua, an indigenous church plant in Colombia, support for the churches and for evangelism in Venezuela, and a Honduras/El Salvador church planting effort. New opportunities that have come and are being funded include bridging support for two church planting and evangelism workers in Chile for the remainder of year, and increased funding for the Colombia church plant—transportation and rental (\$300/month combined). Thank you for caring! You can be assured that every special project funded represents an open door, the gospel is preached, new churches are established and strengthened, and souls are being reached.

Pray for this work—pray for the churches in Latin America

Here is a condensed list of 2017 international travels. Your prayers make a difference.

- Guatemala: Zone 11 church in Guatemala City, leadership; Chichicastenango; Santa Clara; Sololá
- Honduras: the church in colonia Pastor Zelaya; churches around San Pedro Sula; Baxter Institute
- El Salvador/Honduras: churches in the area; Frontier Bible Institute; the church plant in El Rosario
- Dominican Republic: the church in Neyba, new elders and deacons, evangelism seminar, campaign
- Peru: Bible Institute; Trujillo; evangelism in the churches around Huamachuco
- Ecuador-Colombia: churches in northern Ecuador; Los Angeles-Bogota, leadership; the church plant in Puerto Gaitán; churches in southern Colombia
- El Salvador: seminar, campaign, and evangelism in San Salvador
- Dominican Republic: seminars; evangelistic campaign in Santo Domingo area
- Chile-Peru: churches in Chile, evangelism, church health, leadership; pray for me as I prepare my lesson for the international conference of leaders and preachers in Latin America, in Cusco, Peru
- Honduras-Baxter: 2017 graduating class at Baxter Institute; Marriage and Family Program, the work at the Baxter clinic
- Dominican Republic: teaching and preaching in Santiago area churches



HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you for your help—prayers, work funds, and special needs. Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), we accept tax-deductible gifts (checks payable to “Church of Christ,” memo line indicating “Latin American Leadership” or the specific project being funded).

ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY ADDRESS (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133), so I can handle deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting. If funds are for a specific need or project, please include that information with your gift.

Que Dios me lo bendiga (may God bless you),
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[Photo: early morning view of Guatemala City from the air. In the photo, the city seems to extend forever into the distance. Capital of the country of Guatemala, the population of 3.3 million makes it the largest metropolitan area in Central America. In the great cities of Latin America people are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ and Christians hunger and thirst for the word of God and encouragement and training in evangelism, healthy church development and effective church leadership.]



[Image by Kayak.com]