

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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Here’s What You Will Find in This Newsletter

Time for another newsletter—not because the calendar says so but because of what God is doing through and among his people around the world! Several have asked about seminars in U.S. churches; others have asked about on-site seminars for their own mission points. Yet others have asked about how they can help make a difference in the spread of the gospel around the world. Two articles, both of which begin on this page, help answer such questions.

On page 2, you will find a report on the Perú mission trip; on page 3 is a brief description of recent U.S. travels.

Blessed to Bless Others

One of the great blessings of my life is the opportunity to work with God’s people in a variety of local church settings, both in the U.S. and in various parts of Latin America. I am amazed at how God allows me to use my education and my experience in ministry, missions, and consulting to bless others.

If your church or mission points would like help in analyzing and moving forward in any of the following areas—these are the primary areas of my experience and studies. I have prepared and presented various workshops and seminars related to these themes (available in both English and Spanish).

MISSION WORK. Subjects include how to develop effective and productive mission works; how to plan, execute, and evaluate; how to develop an “exit strategy” that will leave effective missionary churches that are capable of functioning; and how to repeat the process

SMALL GROUPS and CELL GROUPS. Themes include how to integrate and coordinate church assembly, classes, and cell groups; how to involve every member in the group structures; effective coaching strategies; twelve types of groups; developing effective group curriculum; and using groups to reach out and to evangelize

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT. Learning to think spiritually; biblical studies of spirituality; steps toward spiritual growth for every Christian

EVANGELISM. Developing a church with effective every-member evangelism

HEALTHY CHURCH DYNAMICS. What are the characteristics and activities of a healthy church?

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT, DEVELOPING EFFECTIVE TEAMS. Numerous seminars are available to help in the development of effective leaders and teams.

SPANISH CHURCHES. Help with the development of healthy, evangelistic local works and mission works

Networking is the key!

When I first became involved in Latin American mission work 25 years ago, I was blessed to get to know workers who were networked with one another. In the early years, Jan and I met and became acquainted with Calvin and Linda Henry, Dan Coker, Kent Marcum and the Quito school, Jerry Lawlis and Operation Ecuador, Bob Brown, Howard Norton, Don Vinzant, Baxter Institute, Escuela Biblia Honduras, and many other persons and groups. I listened and I learned. I saw the connections of those who had pioneered in Latin

The North American churches are not sending missionaries who seek souls, so the work of missions and evangelism falls to us! -- Haitian missionary in Colombia

American mission work. These were involved in different locations, but they shared common goals and were committed to expanding the kingdom through evangelism and establishing new churches.

I connected with that vision and dream because a similar dream had compelled us in Michigan through the annual Michigan Missions Forum. During the dozen years that Jan and I spent in Michigan, many churches were planted and strengthened, especially in the northern regions of the state away from major population centers. Evangelism, church planting, and church development and growth were priorities.

As my involvement in Latin America increased, I met and networked with other people who were focused on evangelism, church planting, and church development. I learned a lot from leading short-term-mission efforts during my OVU years—how to do short-term mission work and how not to do it. I became involved with and networked with regional Bible institutes in El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Perú. As chairman of the Baxter board, I met with representatives from Great Cities as we partnered in church planting. I was blessed to spend time with Bob Brown (LAMB) and Roberto Miranda (EVO). I was privileged to work with Phil and Donna Waldron in Mission UpReach. Expanding networks have led to more contacts.

Now I am privileged to network, support, train, encourage, and help with Misión Chile (a network of Chilean churches that are organized to reach Chile); Interamerican Bible Institute in Lima, Perú (where the dream of taking the gospel to Perú is alive and well), and in church planting efforts being done by national churches in Ecuador and Colombia. Opportunities to present regional and national seminars promise more evangelism, church planting, healthy church development, spiritually mature members, and missionary churches that share the dream of planting churches. The goal is self-directed, self-sustaining, and self-duplicating churches. My primary focus is working with local churches that want to become missionary churches -- “If they have a dream, I want to help advance the dream.” I am convinced that our mission churches must catch the vision for mission work. I mention frequently that the newly-established Philippian church helped Paul with his mission work in Thessalonica almost immediately after Paul planted the church.

The gospel has not lost its power to save! Mission works that have God’s eternal purpose as the primary motivation are experiencing incredible growth numerically and spiritually. I am blessed to be a part of the network and team of those who share the vision!

Perú Mission Trip

The trip to Perú was shorter than usual but provided lots of opportunities to advance the gospel of Jesus Christ. Mission work is interesting—meeting needs that cannot be met locally. A Venezuelan brother who has immigrated to Lima is tall—about 6’4”! He wears 32x36 jeans; they cost at least \$30-35 each at the tailor’s shop in Lima—plus the cost of the fabric. “Can you bring some pants?” Sure--\$13.99 each at Walmart! I took three pairs (picture right).



I taught eight hours each day for two days to finish the seminar over Colossians at IBI (Interamerican Bible Institute) in Lima (picture left). I also met with the brothers to discuss their church planting project—the local church is involved in four locations in Perú. The result? – we are sending funds to help in that church planting project.

In Trujillo, I worked with the brothers in the daily leadership school (which they use as an effective outreach tool) and in a Saturday seminar. On Saturday evening I presented the gospel in Porvenir at a youth gathering and birthday party. The party was attended by numerous guests from the community—for many of them they were hearing the Good News for the first time! On Sunday I preached in the morning in Trujillo (picture right) and in the evening in Virú. The Trujillo church recently had nine baptisms. A new church was recently begun by the church in Virú.





I enjoy visiting Trujillo—I especially enjoy the Peruvian coastline (picture left), and I am honored to work with growing churches that are planting more churches.

U.S. Travels

Immediately before I left for Perú, I was with the iglesia de Cristo in Madill. An encouraging part of the weekend was a meeting with the elders and leaders to develop plans for more evangelism within the Hispanic community. I am thankful for elders who keep their eyes fixed on the harvest!

In early September, I was in Wichita Falls for a meeting with Spanish Literature Ministry to discuss future plans for the evangelism lessons I have translated and edited, *En Pos de la Verdad*. We developed a workable plan for expanding the distribution of the lessons. Approximately 50000 lessons have been printed and distributed; many other copies have been downloaded and printed locally in Latin America. I receive regular reports of baptisms resulting from the use of the lessons. As one brother in Bogota commented, “These lessons teach themselves!”

Finishing 2018 Strong, Working to Make 2019 Even Stronger

In this newsletter are reports of the work in Perú and of my U.S. travels. I will finish my international commitments in 2018 with a trip to Honduras (for Baxter graduation and the annual board meeting) and a trip to Guatemala where I will keynote a men’s seminar.

In 2019, plans include international trips to Costa Rica (January), the Dominican Republic (March); Colombia, for a hermeneutics seminar and training for leaders (date To Be Determined); southern Colombia and northern Ecuador (July-August); Ibarra, Ecuador for a seminar over Hebrews (August); Perú (September), Colombia (September-October), and Honduras (December). Depending on other scheduling, I hope to attend the Ibero-American Conference in Honduras in October.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

Thank you for your interest in this mission ministry – whether through prayer or financial support. I am always looking for those who want to be part of the team—financially, traveling with me, helping in various ways. Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), we accept tax-deductible gifts (checks payable to “Church of Christ,” memo line “Latin American Missions” or the specific project being funded). **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133), since I handle deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting.

Dios lo bendiga (God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

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Overview of Ibarra, a city in Ecuador where the gospel is sounding forth. The world is in darkness without the gospel! Who will bring the light of the gospel? All across 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, discipleship, healthy church development and effective church leadership.

