

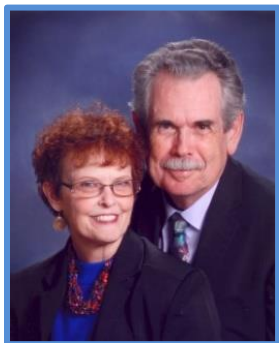
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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As I write these words, I am reminded that exactly two years ago this week Jan and I returned from a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. Within days, the pandemic was officially declared and life changed dramatically. While we see some return to normalcy in the US, pandemic-related problems continue in many parts of Latin America.

While international travel restrictions are easing, the entry quarantine requirement (still in place in many countries in Latin America) limits the work that can be done in evangelism, seminars, and conferences. I am constantly monitoring requirements and hope to resume traveling later this year.

Although I am not currently traveling internationally, I am heavily involved in Latin American mission work. Online teaching and preaching make it possible to be present (virtually) and to work in many locations simultaneously. The result is that more churches are involved and more Christians are receiving teaching and training.

At the bottom of this page, I share a bulleted summary of some of my current activities and projects. I share a letter received from a brother in Christ (pg. 2), and on pages 3-5 you will find reports and updates of some of the works we partner with in Latin America. Please pray for these works.

Effective spiritual leadership begins with a clear understanding of God's plan and purpose. It is impossible for spiritual leaders to please God without honoring and pursuing God's purpose. Spiritual leadership is simply helping people participate in God's eternal plan.

January-March Mission Activities

I begin by noting some of my "English-speaking" ministry and mission activities.

- I currently teach the Wednesday Early Bird Bible class at the Park Church of Christ, leading a study of the Gospel of Mark.
- I have begun work of the "Life of Jesus" recording project. I continue to write, but the recording sessions have been put on hold until my co-host, Larry Bowles, returns from a mission trip to Greece.
- Each week, I continue to write, record, and post to my YouTube channel a WOW (Word of the Week) and a Bible study. In the weekly editions of the Bible studies series, I am working through studies that focus on God, Jesus Christ, and Holy Spirit. Those series will extend through at least the first half of 2022.
- I have regularly scheduled Bible studies with several individuals.
- I recently presented a mission report and a sermon at Main and Oklahoma Church of Christ, in McAlester (OK). This church serves as the host congregation of this ministry and mission.

On the "Spanish-speaking" side of my ministry and mission activities—

- I continue to attend and present lessons for the online Night of Prayers and Praise.
- I answer invitations to teach and preach online in locations all across Latin America.
- I currently post at least one new Spanish video to my YouTube channel each week.
- Each Saturday morning, I teach in the Tijuana School of Preaching online. I am currently teaching First Corinthians.
- The last weekend in March, I will preach an online evangelism series hosted by a Bogota church – Evangelizing the World: God's Purpose to Redeem.
- I communicate and stay in touch with many different mission points by Messenger, WhatsApp, and Zoom, encouraging, answering questions, and receiving regular reports and updates.

Mission Minute

This brief summary or quotation is designed to help inform and inspire Christians and leaders in the U.S. churches.

Mission Minute

The U.S. missionaries that are being sent by the North American churches do not seek souls, so God's "soul-work" of mission and evangelism falls to us! – a Haitian missionary working in Colombia, speaking at a national conference of church leaders



Latin American Leadership Development By Pete Shaw

I want to tell you about the best missionary I have ever known. I do not say this lightly, nor does this mean that I am an expert on missionaries. I have served as a deacon over missions in St. Louis, served on several mission committees over the last 50 years (currently on Central America Missions), done several short-term mission trips focusing the last eight years on Central America, and now lead the World Bible School program at the Park Church of Christ. In all that time I have personally known several missionaries.

Bob Young is a special kind of missionary, with a Jeremiah fire in his bones for saving souls. Without hyperbole, I can tell you that Bob is a "Pauline" missionary; and that, according to the New Testament, is the best kind. What do I mean by Pauline? It means that he is doing the work of Paul the Apostle, to North, Central and South America, in this 21st century. His emphasis is the Hispanic World, that comprises about 650,000,000 souls.

Almost twenty years ago, when Bob was asked to speak to a Spanish conference, but he had to use a translator. He fell in love with the Spanish people and decided he needed to learn Spanish to reach their hearts. He has basically learned fluent Spanish out of a book, and by immersing himself in their culture. Try that in your 60s, if you think it sounds easy.

So now, Bob is highly sought after as a Spanish (and English) speaker, teacher, preacher, and missionary throughout the Americas. He has so many requests that he could be traveling between Hispanic countries almost full-time. Like Paul the Apostle did. He is humble, and would not want me to over-stress that, but it is true. And, the Covid pandemic has not slowed down the work of LALD. Through the internet, zoom and other technology he is reaching more souls than ever before!

Bob refers to his ministry and mission work as LALD (Latin American Leadership Development). One key verse for LALD is 2 Tim 2:2. "The things which you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses, entrust these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also." (Paul to Timothy)

This verse tells us that we should train others how to train others how to train others. God, through Paul, means for us to keep this process going until the Judgment Day. God told the Israelites the same thing in Deut 6:7-9.

Bob's continued ministry through LALD encourages planting national missionary churches, and focuses on evangelists who are baptizing many souls and planting-nurturing new congregations. That sounds like the first century to me. And no wars or pandemics are going to stop it!

--Pete Shaw, January, 2022

From Guatemala

Brother Bob, God bless you. I am working with my wife in evangelism. We are using the lessons, En Pos de la Verdad. The studies have been very useful in this work. I met you a couple of years ago in Ezell Clinic in Montellanos (Guatemala) in the seminar over the letter of Paul to the Corinthians. My wife and I grew up in the church in Quetzaltenango. Now we are evangelizing and God is helping us meet many people who desire the Word of God. It is a pleasure to send you greetings.



DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UPDATE

I rejoice every time I receive an update on this exciting work. Construction continues on the new church building in La Descubierta. All of the church plants are progressing well. The kingdom is continually expanding as disciples are added in baptism.



COLOMBIA UPDATE

The work in the seven churches is picking up momentum as some of the severest restrictions are lifted. More home Bible studies are possible. The monthly trips by mission teams to help the small church in La Hormiga will resume in April. Each team spends about a week in La Hormiga.



NICARAGUA UPDATE

These two pictures tell a story—the first from 2020, the second from 2022. This church continues to grow in amazing ways (40+ baptisms last year) and is involved in missions. The church has three services on Sunday—filling the building each time. The elders continue to lead the church forward in evangelism and discipleship. (LALD assists with the support of an elder-evangelist.)



ECUADOR UPDATE

The story of the Ibarra church continues. This church is just over 10 years old, has elders, and is well-positioned with deacons, evangelists, and missionaries who go out to support new works. The work on the new building in Ibarra is virtually complete, much of the work done by the members during the pandemic (left). A brand-new work was begun in Cuesaca in February (right). The church plant in San Lorenzo has constructed their own building (below).



CAJAMARCA, PERU UPDATE

Yexon and Bettzy have been in Cajamarca about 14 months. An evangelistic meeting was held outside in cold, misty weather. New members were trained for evangelism; visitors heard the gospel proclaimed. The church in Baños del Inca is now in a rented facility (lower left). Area-wide gatherings of the two congregations draw 60-70 persons. Please join me in prayer that a new contact in Namora will soon add a third church to the network.



Thank you for your passion, your prayers, and your partnership!

Contact me directly to receive updated information on any of the works with which Latin American Leadership Development is involved. Through my host congregation (Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK), you can make tax-deductible gifts (payable to "Church of Christ," memo line "Latin American Leadership Development" [LALD]). **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE TULSA ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

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The full moon, rising and reflecting light from the sun, reminds me of the brilliance of the sun. I marvel that the moonlight is brighter than the multiplied city lights below it.

Jesus is the light of the world; he describes his followers as the light of the world. I am reminded that we can be light only when we clearly reflect his light. May we never forget the urgency of the task. Multitudes are receptive to the gospel. Many people hunger and thirst for the word of God. God's people want encouragement and training in evangelism, discipleship, and effective church leadership.

When the gospel is preached, the light of the gospel enters hearts and a new day is made possible in the lives of believers. Thank you for helping us make that happen as we seek to fulfill God's purpose in this world – to save as many as possible!



When you support Latin America Leadership Development, you are part of a network of Christians committed to taking the gospel to Latin America. Through evangelism, discipleship, and leadership training, spiritually healthy and mature Christians and churches are developed, capable of reproducing themselves. A primary goal is training those who will train others (2 Tim. 2:2), recognizing that the most effective kingdom workers are national Christians who understand the culture and language, are known and trusted, and easily develop friendships and relationships that carry the gospel to their own nations.