

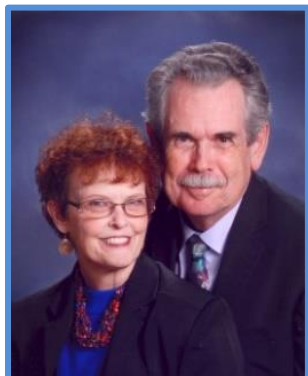
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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As we near the midpoint of 2022, God continues his work through his faithful servants in many places across Latin America and around the world. God is faithful. He gives a bountiful increase to faithful planting and watering (1 Cor. 3:4-8).

On page 3, I describe two major faith undertakings, projects undertaken in faith, believing that God will richly supply what is needed. Will you join me in prayer?

Seeking Your Feedback—A Short Survey

While we would like to have a crystal ball so that we could predict the future and shape our mission efforts in advance to meet future challenges, such is not possible. We seek wisdom, we seek to understand and fulfill God's "sending" purpose. And then, we depend on God to give the increase.

If you would be willing to share insights that could help shape future mission outreach efforts, I would love to hear your answers to the following questions. You can write me at: bro.bobyoungr@yahoo.com.

- *What do you see as the biggest **mission challenge** before the churches right now?*
- *What are the **greatest barriers** that you see in mission work?*
- *What is your biggest **mission challenge** personally?*

I will share responses anonymously in a future newsletter. I will use your answers to pray for you and your mission outreach and to understand how to help the churches move forward more effectively.

Mission Minute—Measuring Mission Work

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

Mission Minute: Barna Research Highlights

25% of church members are not sure if their church measures the success of mission work.

11% of church members respond that their church does not measure mission results.

Barna summary—many churches are not clear on the best ways to measure and communicate success.

The Barna research was summarized in The Great Disconnect, through a partnership with Mission India

A few additional reflections...

→The success of God's mission as he sends forth his people to share the gospel of Jesus must ultimately be measured by the reception and results of the message.

→Examples of easily measured mission results are the number of new Christians, the number of new churches (new Christians become part of new churches), and growth in church membership and attendance.

→Spiritual growth and maturity can be measured by the number of leaders developed, the number of churches with elders, and church attendance and involvement.

→Such "on the field" measurements are more accurate indicators of success than the amount of money spent.



My March-May Mission and Ministry Activities

Larry Bowles and I, along with the recording team of **Kenny Taylor** and **Barrett VanLandingham**, continue to work on the “**Life of Jesus**” recording project. The projected completion date is early fall 2022 so that the videos and study materials can be available before Christmas, leading up to Easter 2023.

I continue to write, record, and share studies and videos in English and Spanish.... I finished teaching First Corinthians online at the **Tijuana School of Preaching**. I will teach Second Corinthians in June and July.... The last weekend in May I will preach an **online evangelism series** for a Bogota church.



Mission Work in the Churches by the Churches

Encouraging reports constantly cross my desk (or computer screen) from the Dominican Republic, Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Chile, and Uruguay.

A recent update on 2021 baptisms in Venezuela confirmed over 900 conversions last year.

Calendar year 2022 is underway with many baptisms reported across Latin America. Regional conferences for men, women, and church workers have resumed. Combined regional worship assemblies have returned. Evangelistic studies have been renewed, campaigns are underway. New churches are being planted.

Walking by Faith, Not by Sight

Many of you know the history of this work. The work began as an effort to provide teaching and training resources for Latin American churches with a focus on leadership development: **Latin American Leadership Development**. The only financial need was a small travel-work fund.

When the need to assist churches with temporary “bridging” needs became apparent, a “special projects” fund was added. This additional funding allowed us to assist with one-time or short-term special needs. In recent years, short-term and one-time funding has been provided for various works and projects in the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, Venezuela, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Chile, propelling the gospel forward!

For the past dozen years, primary funding for this mission work has been provided by four churches (**Main and Oklahoma, McAlester, OK; Fort Gibson, OK; North Side, Mena, AR; and Holmes Road, Lansing, MI**) plus a few individuals and foundations. Through those partnerships, God has accomplished incredible things—thousands of baptisms and new Christians, numerous new churches, and dozens of churches organized with biblical leadership. Churches have matured spiritually and developed a missionary thrust to plant more churches in their own nations.

This work continues in numerous locations, encouraging and resourcing national workers.



Now two major opportunities have arisen, requiring funding beyond what has been done previously.

→One of the projects is in the **Dominican Republic** where we have an opportunity to build a building for the largest of the new Haitian congregations. The location is somewhat central to the eight new congregations and will provide an adequate regional conference site. The work on this project has begun—the land has been purchased, the initial improvements including a cistern have been completed, and construction has begun. **The funding needed to finish the project is about \$20,000**, but the cost of materials goes up with every purchase. Funding to complete this project is the immediate need and opportunity--Priority #1!

→The second opportunity—a future need—is to extend the commitment to the **new church planting effort in Peru**. This work has been underway for about 15 months with good results. There are now two churches in the region, both of which are increasingly active. The possibility of another church plant in a nearby town has recently surfaced. **The annual commitment for this work is just over \$9000**. Funding for 2022 is in place, but I would like to commit for 2023, and if possible, 2024. In church planting, a four-year commitment is minimal as we partner with God to stabilize the new church.

Below, I provide brief updates on these works, trusting that God will provide. If you or your church could assist with a one-time gift or a longer commitment to help meet these needs, you will be making a difference for eternity. In the Dominican Republic, there are nine churches and 350-400 Christians where there were none about five years ago. In Peru, 50-60 Christians are meeting weekly where there were only about 10 a year ago.

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC UPDATE

Construction continues on the new church building in La Descubierta, with some walls near full height. The nine church plants are progressing. The kingdom is expanding as disciples are added in baptism. These church plants are overseen by the elders of the church in Neyba, D.R. (Pictures, some of the members who assembled at the new building to meet with an elder, **Manuel Aquino**.)



CAJAMARCA, PERU UPDATE

Yexon and Bettzy have been in Cajamarca about 15 months. Recent events include an evangelistic meeting and evangelism training for members and new members. The new church in Baños del Inca now meets in a rented facility (picture, 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 make it possible to add a third church to the network.

[Pictures are taken from the April 2022 report.]



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

Please keep praying for these works and for us. We appreciate your prayers, encouragement, and support. On a personal note, we were blessed to be able to attend the Celebration of Life for Jan's Uncle Bill. Regarding our health, we function with limitations, and we are slowly recovering from our recent "tumble."

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),

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The full moon rising reminds me of the brilliance of the sun. The moon has no light of its own; it reflects the light 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. We are that light only when we 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 together 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.