

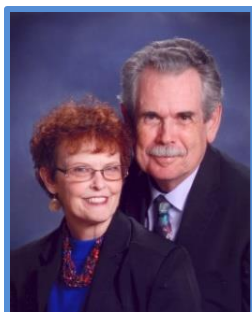
## ***LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT***

*Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond*

### ***Mission and Ministry Newsletter***

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#### **An “Out-of-Season” Late Spring Update**

Change is in the air; we are blessed to celebrate healthy transitions; unexpected needs arise; what God is doing behind the scenes becomes known. Periodically, an unscheduled mission report is needed to keep you up-to-date! An advantage of more frequent communication is that your prayers can be more specific concerning mission needs.

**Healthy transitions are a part of effective ministry and mission works.** One of the goals of Latin American Leadership Development is to provide temporary bridging funds to help mission works move forward in times of great challenge. In this newsletter, you will read about two transitions where the value of this part of the work of LALD has been clearly demonstrated.

Cajamarca, Peru. Near the beginning of the pandemic, travel was restricted in many parts of the world. LALD accepted the challenge of placing a worker in Cajamarca where a church plant had recently begun. The work had begun through the efforts of the Interamerican Bible Institute (IBI) in Lima. A Venezuelan brother who had been working with IBI moved to Cajamarca and has worked there for the past 2 ½ years. With the passing of time, many things have changed and it is time for another transition. The work to which LALD was committed has concluded and IBI will continue overseeing the church plant. The story continues below—with confidence that God is faithfully overseeing the rest of the story. See page 2 →

Managua, Nicaragua. Before the pandemic began, LALD began assisting with the support of an elder-evangelist with a church in Managua. The original agreement with the elders called for decreasing the support little by little. The pandemic and severe economic problems in Nicaragua put the original plan on hold. Thankfully, during the pandemic the church in Lapeer, Michigan began to provide some support. The support provided by LALD will end at mid-year 2023. You can read the rest of the story on page 2 →

**Needs surface unexpectedly.** Surging inflation in the US has been even more severe in the Dominican Republic (DR) over the past two years. US economic woes mean that the dollar is trading lower. Increasing and uncertain fuel costs have a major impact on the delivery of materials to rural, more remote areas.



The cost of the church building construction project in the DR has escalated 40-50% over the past two years. The best option is to finish construction as soon as possible. **If you can help with a special one-time gift, any amount will be helpful. And always, prayers are appreciated.** Contact me directly for more information or details. (Picture right above, the church is using the partially finished building; picture left, the installation of doors and windows with security protection has been completed, thus securing the building)



This project is a continuation of the evangelistic effort of the past 5-6 years. Eight new churches have been established. All have purchased a building site. Provisional buildings are being replaced with more permanent structures. Average total adult attendance is 492 adults. These are relatively new Christians. In addition, about 380 children are being taught, giving access to parents and families. Receptivity in the DR is exceptional. The 24 baptisms I saw during my January visit are not unusual. Reports continually tell of baptisms into Christ.



**God is always at work.** I share a translation of a letter I received.

"Hello, good evening, brother Bob, I do not know if you remember me. I attended the Church of Christ here in the city of Ipiales...and I collaborated in preaching. Now I am working in a Christian school, teaching material about Christian formation. I am using the brochures that you left me, 'In Pursuit of Truth,' with grades 10 and 11 and they have been of great help to me. If you ever travel here to the city of Ipiales to pay us a visit, my students and I, and...the rector would be happy for you to guest teach. Grateful to God and to you, Uriel Acosta. Congratulations!"

Around the world, the evangelistic Bible studies, **"En Pos de la Verdad" (In Pursuit of Truth)**, are being used to share the gospel – in Bogota, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, Guatemala, Peru, also in Ipiales, Colombia. Tens of thousands of lessons have been printed by Spanish Literature Ministry; the number of lessons that have been downloaded and shared is immeasurable. The evangelism lessons are available on video. An evangelism training seminar is available online and on YouTube. May God bless every effort to share the Good News of Jesus!

### **A Mission Transition in Peru**

Healthy transitions are a part of effective mission works. Although our desire and prayers were that Yexon and his family could stay in Cajamarca, Peru to continue building on the foundation laid during the past two years, that was not possible. Since their immigration status in Peru could not be renewed, Yexon decided to resign the work in Cajamarca and move to Curitiba, Brazil where he and his family can have legal status as Venezuelans.

As a result, the Cajamarca work has been returned to the oversight of the Interamerican Bible Institute (IBI) in Lima. IBI will oversee the work and send workers to continue to strengthen and establish the work. The church is now meeting in the home of one of the members. Please pray that these relatively new Christians will not become weary in doing good and that the church will continue to grow. I praise God for the efforts of Yexon and Bettzy as they have strengthened the Santa Úrsula church and have worked to plant and strengthen the Los Baños church. In addition to the continued commitment and efforts by IBI, other congregations in the region will be supportive as they have opportunity.

We will continue to pray for this work, believing that God will keep on fulfilling his eternal purpose for the salvation of souls through the efforts of the Peruvian Christians, both at IBI and in the regional churches.



### **Another Mission Transition—in Nicaragua**

Ending temporary support is difficult. Compassion demands that others, especially kingdom workers, not be left in need. The challenge is felt, both by the donors and by the recipients. The decision that the original agreement with the elders had been fulfilled led to moments of uncertainty.

God has richly supplied the need. The elders accepted responsibility and developed a plan. As a result, a US church is going to step into the gap. When the local church in Nicaragua had nowhere else to turn, LALD was there. Now the temporary funding has fulfilled its purpose, and the work will continue as national Christians in Nicaragua evangelize friends and neighbors at a rate that far exceeds most US churches.

### **Welcome to New Partners**

With the opportunities that were presented in the April newsletter, new partners have joined the work of LALD. A Christian couple committed to meet the need in southern Colombia, two other Christian couples have begun supporting the Dominican church planting efforts, and a third Christian couple made a generous one-time gift.

The generosity of these and many others helps fulfill the purposes of LALD: (1) to provide leadership, evangelism, and discipleship training and resources to Latin American churches, (2) to encourage and facilitate the work of national Christians, (3) to help national Christians do what they cannot do by themselves, and (4) to provide temporary funds that make possible the continuation of God's work through the national churches.

## Ongoing Ministry Projects Being Funded--UPDATED

The following works are currently being funded.

- Dominican Republic, funding for the eight new churches, additional outreach, and church planting
- Dominican Republic, finalizing a building construction for one of the new churches
- Colombia, partial support for an evangelist working among seven churches
- Colombia, funding to help advance the infant church in La Hormiga
- Venezuela, funding for evangelism and benevolence

In addition, the travel-work account is again being funded for 2023 travels. As you may have heard in the news, travel costs have increased significantly. In July-August, I will make my second international trip of 2023 to visit churches in Ecuador and Colombia and speak at a national retreat in Colombia. Other travel needs and invitations are being evaluated carefully since I am committed to traveling less than I did pre-pandemic. Trips to the Dominican Republic and to Chile are already planned for 2024.

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" [or LALD]. **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO THE TULSA ADDRESS (10704 S 89<sup>th</sup> East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).**

*Dios les bendiga (God bless you),*

**Bob and Jan Young**

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*Understanding history and culture is a step toward understanding how to share the life-changing Gospel. (Picture, examining a historical marker in Ecuador.)*

*The task is urgent. Multitudes are receptive to the gospel. 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 and enters hearts, 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.***