

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

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

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

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[www.bobyoungrsources.com](http://www.bobyoungrsources.com)



#### **God Works in a Mysterious Way...**

Late July and early August found me working with churches in northern Ecuador with plans to speak at the National Men's Retreat in Colombia the first weekend of August. During the first week in Ecuador (weekend conference, new church plant, and many Bible studies and conversations), I developed a stubborn respiratory infection. A round of antibiotics had no noticeable impact on the infection. Rather than traveling to Colombia to an even colder region, I decided to cancel the second weekend of the trip. The brothers were quite understanding, although I know that my last-minute cancellation required some adjustments since my absence left some empty speaking slots.

I arrived home on Thursday about noon, eager for rest and medication. On Friday, we received word of the death of our granddaughter in a car accident. (Thank you to those of you who have shared condolences as you received the news. I share here for those who are more distant and may not know about the accident.)

The point I wish to make is that God works in mysterious ways. What wonderful providence that I was already at home and that I was not in the mountains several hours away from my departure airport.

This newsletter will briefly overview May to August activities but focuses primarily on the August mission and mentoring trip to Ecuador.

#### **May to August Activities**

During the spring, I had three local teaching obligations. I taught the **Wednesday Early Bird class at Park**, a **Sunday morning adult class at Fort Gibson**, and a **Spanish class at Fort Gibson**. Those concluded by the end of May.

June flew by quickly. I was sick the first week of June. Then the youngest grands visited for a week, and we were without electricity for a week! Along the way, I presented six hours of teaching online about the role and work of the Holy Spirit in the book of Acts (in Spanish, to an online group), and made a mission-focused trip to Arkansas.

The online series of classes on the Holy Spirit concluded in July. Online teaching is a continuing part of the rhythms of my life with about 60 hours of online teaching completed thus far in 2023.

In addition, I continually write, record, and post online teachings in Spanish on Facebook and YouTube. The number of Facebook users in Latin America is incredible! With a total population of about 665 million, about 55% of Latin Americans use Facebook! The potential is great.

#### **Social Network Users in Latin America, by Platform**

**2021-2025**

millions

Facebook



2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
362.4	367.4	372.1	375.9	380.3

**Total**

Instagram



2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
217.0	226.3	234.4	241.1	246.7

## Ecuador, July-August 2023



The day I arrived in Ecuador, I began a conference on “the resurrection and eternal life” at the church in Pílanquí. I continued the conference theme in my Sunday morning teaching. Attendance was excellent (pictures above).

A special blessing of this trip was the opportunity to spend some time with the Muenala family (pictures below, Herman and their son Jason; Herman and Aida visiting an elderly member). I was privileged to stay in their home about ten years ago on one of my first trips to this region of Ecuador. That visit and the studies shared resulted in the entire family becoming Christians. When I was a guest in their home, Jason was a baby. Now he is actively involved and leading singing.



And now for the rest of the story!

Sunday afternoon, we conducted a special service for the new church plant in Urcuquí. I preached, taking my text from the book of Acts and the description of churches planted on Paul’s second missionary journey (picture right).

One of the leaders in the new church planting effort is Herman and his family! Many times, especially in international mission efforts, one does not have the blessing of seeing the results of one’s efforts!


**IGLESIA DE CRISTO PILANQUÍ**



**28-29 JUL / 7PM**

**LA RESURRECCIÓN  
Y LA VIDA ETERNA**


**HNO. BOB YOUNG**

 **LIVE**
 **zoom**

**Transmisión en vivo**  
 @iglesiaenibarra

PASAJE A 2-43 Y AV CAMILO PONCE  
 DIAGONAL AL ECU911





During my visit, many informal teaching opportunities arose, including a home Bible study which I taught.



#### **LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Projects Currently Funded**

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



In addition, the travel-work account is again being funded. Upcoming trips include El Salvador, the Dominican Republic, and Chile, with a possible trip to Honduras.

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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*(Picture, an overview of the city of Ibarra, Ecuador with Imbabura in the background)*

*The task is urgent. Multitudes are receptive to the gospel. People hunger and thirst for the word of God. God’s people are seeking 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.***

