

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT*Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond***Mission and Ministry Newsletter**Bob and Jan Young, 10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133www.bobyoungrsources.com

Greetings in the name of our Lord! I am blessed to participate in and see firsthand how God is active in His world today! *“Hot off the press!”* This newsletter reports on our July mission trip to Colombia and Ecuador. Every time I travel, I am impressed with the ways in which **God is at work among and through his people! Souls are being won and churches are being planted in ways that are almost unheard of, beyond what we have asked or imagined! National churches building their own buildings, planting new churches, evangelizing—often without a local preacher and without a North American presence.**

Every year, I work with leaders and members from 100+ local churches in Latin America. I visit multiple churches on each trip; I participate in regional and national conferences. I cannot keep up with what God is doing – some churches have 40, 50, or 60 baptisms yearly and significant numerical growth. Many of the churches are planting new churches.

In this report you will read of our visits to seven churches. The seminars and regional events were attended by leaders and members from six additional churches. In total, thirteen congregations were visited and encouraged on this trip. (Plus, the churches we visited are working in several additional church planting efforts.) Funds were provided to put a second story on the building in Cumbal, Colombia. Church planting efforts in Colombia and Ecuador are being helped with funds for transportation so that there are evangelists present on a regular basis. Consider that the churches average 20-25 baptisms each year and you can calculate the results for eternity.

This is typical of almost all of the mission trips I make!

Words and pictures cannot tell all that is happening – baptisms, new Christians, evangelism efforts, leadership development, new church plants.

After accompanying me on a mission trip, Clark Lineback said, “You write excellent reports, but there is no way to put into words and pictures what the mission of Latin American Leadership Development is about and what is being done.”

Colombia

In Bogota, Colombia...

- I presented a family seminar to strengthen families
- The local church is looking forward to establishing formal leaders.
- The church had 13 baptisms during the week before we arrived.
- I taught in the Foundation where 10 were recently baptized.
- I shared a Bible study with a new Christian, helping him establish firm faith foundations (*picture, right*).
- I taught a Bible study with a group of Venezuelans, some of whom are not yet Christians.
- I taught a Bible study with the husband and teen children of a new member; the family attended on Sunday after the Friday night study; arrangements are in place to continue the Bible study with members from the local church.
- I met with local church leaders about how best to finalize the church planting effort in Puerto Gaitan.



- The local church has grown in attendance to 60-70 and is slowly progressing toward the purchase of a building; they currently meet in a community center.

In Pasto Colombia...

- The visit was designed to strengthen a church that previously had two elders. One elder resigned due to ill health, there is a need to renew the commitment of all the members—the seminar lessons focused on discipleship (*picture, right*).
- Jan and I shared a premarital counseling session for a couple who can be an important part of the future of the church in Pasto.
- The church continues in a rented location in the commercial section of town where they have a good location with sufficient space for now.



In Tuquerres, Colombia....

→Jan and I presented a seminar for couples (*picture, left*)

→We met with the local evangelist and his wife to discuss how best to encourage and advance the evangelistic efforts in La Hormiga where there have been 14 baptisms in the last five months. The church has been reestablished with an attendance of 26, including those who were restored to provide a foundation for the church to begin meeting again. The area is quite remote. One brother has to travel 2 hours by motorcycle and then 1½ hours walking to get to his house. He had spent 2 years trying to find someone to baptize him. Many young adults are being baptized in La Hormiga. Transportation funds are provided so that an evangelist can be present regularly.

→The church in Tuquerres is developing leaders so that church work goes on with little interruption when the evangelist is working in other locations.

→The evangelist travels extensively and is involved with building up the work in seven churches.

→The field in southern Colombia is difficult but there are consistent reports of

baptisms as the churches slowly grow in number.

In Cumbal, Colombia....

- This church is not large but continues with a good spirit. My teaching and preaching are always well received.
- I chaired a meeting that represented the first steps in an effort to reconcile two churches — a small church with some “anti” tendencies was willing to meet and talk about Bible topics. The Colombian churches that were founded by US “antis” do not always hold the unique doctrines strongly.
- As mentioned previously, funds were provided to put the second story on the meeting place in order to have classes for the children.

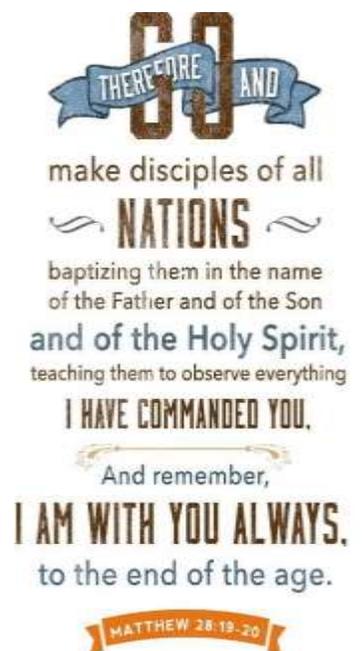
Ipiales, Colombia....

- The church rents a building, but has recently moved to a better location. The church members assemble faithfully (we had almost 100% attendance on Monday night). The church is self-sustaining, continuing with little or no outside support. I was very encouraged by the opportunity to visit this church again.

Ecuador

Tulcan, Ecuador....

- The building project continues -- soon the church will go from seating 40 comfortably to seating 200+. The additional space will provide room for growth and also for area events. This church has a good spirit with plans to resume more aggressive evangelism efforts when the building is completed.
- I used 1-2 Corinthians as my text for the two days, seeking to establish guidelines to overcome some of the problems the church has experienced.



Ibarra, Ecuador....

- I presented a four-day seminar over the book of Hebrews for churches in the region (*picture, right*).
- The Pilanqui, Ibarra church continues with a great spirit; they have baptisms continually; they had another baptism the week before we arrived, and three baptisms the night we left. After six years the church has an attendance of about 160 -- 120 adults and 40+ children.
- The first floor of their new building is complete, the second-floor roof has provisional space for children's classes. A great need is to finish the second story.
- On Sunday afternoon, I presented a short devotional talk to a group of young adults: "Choosing what is Best!" (*picture, right*)
- The church will pay off the loan on the first-floor construction in three more years but would like to advance that schedule. A gift of \$600 will cut a month off the repayment schedule; \$400 will buy one of the 15 columns that are needed to finish the second-floor construction.
- The church wants to finish the work on the building to facilitate the church planting effort they have begun. They actively support and encourage six churches, and have plans to plant a new church in Cotacachi.



Summary

Jan and I had a good trip to Colombia and Ecuador in July, 2019.

→The seven churches we visited are working diligently in evangelism. The seven churches have a combined attendance of about 350, with approximately 60 baptisms so far this year. We made personal contact with twelve of those recently baptized to continue studies.

→In general, the church is growing in the areas we visited. The focus on evangelism, even in the midst of difficult circumstances and low receptivity, helps keep the churches growing. Some congregations have only slight growth while others are growing significantly. All are eager to learn how to set up Bible studies and share the gospel more effectively.

→The number of churches contacted on this trip (including the multiple church planting efforts), includes 17 churches.

JAN'S REFLECTIONS

I could not believe the love that the churches have for the Word, how they want to share their faith with others. This desire is part of their everyday life.

Bob was constantly answering questions. They wanted to understand the Bible so they could share it with others.

Many times, we sat down to talk about the Lord's work. They want to do more. We constantly talked about their dreams for advancing the kingdom.

The sisters had as many questions as the brothers.

Everyone made me feel comfortable and included me as much as possible, considering my "poquito" Spanish.

Thank You! "Honor to Whom Honor Is Due"

This work is made possible through partnerships with various individuals, foundations, and mission organizations. I will not list the individuals and foundations here, but please be assured that I am thankful for all who participate financially in the work. I am especially grateful for the four participating churches who partner with and support this work through regular contributions.

- Main and Oklahoma Church of Christ, McAlester, Oklahoma (host church)
- Fort Gibson Church of Christ, Fort Gibson, Oklahoma (special projects)
- North Side Church of Christ, Mena, Arkansas (work and travel funds)
- Holmes Road Church of Christ, Lansing, Michigan (church planting)

Upcoming 2019 Activities

I appreciate your prayer support as Jan and I seek to answer invitations and walk through the doors God opens.

- **September**, Colombia. Visits with local churches for teaching and leadership training.
- **October**, speaker at Global Mission Conference, Austin, Texas.

UPDATE ON WRITING PROJECTS

The project to edit and update all of the books currently in print is completed! All volumes are available on Amazon and in bookstores both in paperback and in Kindle: *Early Letters*, *Prison Letters*, *Pastoral Letters*, *Hebrews*, *General Letters*, and in Spanish, *Evangelismo: Equipando y Energizando a la Iglesia*.

Work continues on Bible Study guides over 2 Corinthians and Revelation. My *New Testament Reading and Devotional Guide* will cover the entire New Testament in a year. Due to demand, I will also publish the evangelism book in English.

HOW YOU CAN HELP

A special need has arisen in El Salvador—a sister in Christ needs immediate surgery. This link will take you to a letter with more information: www.bobyongresources.com/missions/miramonte-need-for-help-nicolasa.pdf.

Thank you for your interest in this mission work. I am always looking for those who want to be part of the team — financially, traveling with me, and in other 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 Leadership Development” [LALD]; or use the memo line to specify the project being funded). **ALL CONTRIBUTIONS SHOULD BE MAILED TO MY ADDRESS** (10704 S 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133) since I am responsible for deposits, acknowledgements, and accounting.

May our all-powerful God continue to bless you in every way. Thank you for your support, love, involvement and especially, your prayers. This work would not be possible without your partnership.

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),

Bob and Jan Young

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Imbabura Volcano (15190 feet) towers over Ibarra, Ecuador (7300 feet). Spending six days in Ibarra, looking every day at Imbabura, suggested to me an illustration of what it should mean for us to every day contemplate God.

Only God's grace can change the direction of a person's life. Will you pray for the churches in Latin America that the Christians there can communicate the greatness of the Son into their world.

All across Latin America, multitudes are receptive to the gospel of Jesus Christ. In addition, Christians hunger and thirst for the word of God and encouragement and training in evangelism, discipleship, healthy church development and effective church leadership.



Latin America Leadership Development is part of a network of Christians working together to take 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 focus of the work is training those who will train others (2 Tim. 2:2), recognizing that the most effective kingdom workers are those national Christians who understand culture and language and are capable of developing friendships and relationships to bring the gospel to their own nations.