

LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Developing Healthy Churches and Church Leaders in Latin America and Beyond

Mission and Ministry Newsletter

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www.bobyongresources.com



A personal note....

Jan and I are grateful to the many mission partners who have made 2023 a stellar year in the work of Latin American Leadership Development. By the end of 2023, I will have made five mission trips. (The number would be higher, but Jan and I avoided scheduling travel from February to May as we renewed our passports for another 10 years—until 2033! We had heard horror stories about the time was required to renew a passport. Fortunately, the process was easy and quick—we had our new passports in hand by late March.)

October: Another trip to the Dominican Republic

With the completion of the new church building at La Descubierta (*picture, right*), the Dominican brothers wanted to inaugurate the building with an evangelistic campaign. The original plan was that Jerry Keeley, elder at Fort Gibson, would accompany me but last-minute medical problems made it necessary for him to bow out. (Jerry plans to go on a future trip.)

A mission trip to the Dominican Republic begins with a very long travel day! Departing from Tulsa at 6:00 AM, it is possible to arrive in Santo Domingo by early afternoon. After immigration and customs, the overland trip to Neyba requires another 5-6 hours—longer than the air time!



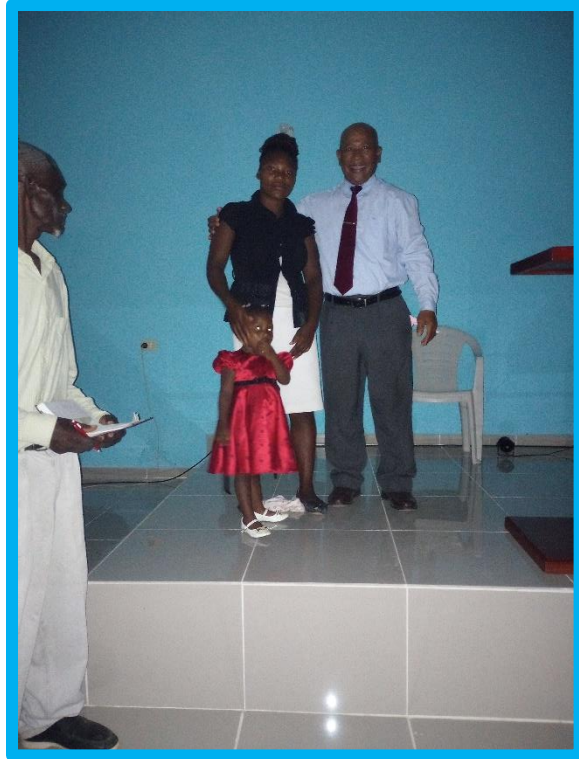
The three days of the campaign were intense! The theme was “Now Is the Time!” The sermons were focused on Romans 1-6. Attendance was excellent. The presence of brothers and sisters from regional churches was an indication of the excitement generated by this giant step forward. (*Three brothers from an area congregation leading congregational singing, picture below right.*)

On Saturday night, the activities had barely begun when the electricity went out! Multiple cell phone flashlights came on almost immediately and the singing, praying, and preaching continued uninterrupted! The result was four responses for baptism and one response for prayers (*pictures next page*).



Dominicans like bright colors! The exterior accent color on the building was also used as the backdrop for the pulpit area. Christian Peguero, a denominational preacher from La Descubierta, made and donated the pulpit. He also constructed all the benches for the building! (Pictures at right, your servant bringing the Good News; **Fernando Cuevas**, elder of the church in Neyba, reading Scripture).

(Below, the four who responded requesting baptism and the sister who responded for prayer [with her small daughter], are pictured with **Manuel Aquino**, elder of the church in Neyba.



On Saturday, I was able to visit the project of Christian Relief Fund at the Vista al Lago church in Neyba. I preached at Vista al Lago on Sunday morning. A new Haitian congregation has begun in Neyba, with the blessing that both groups can use the same location for worship and outreach.



LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT – Please Pray for these Projects

- Dominican Republic: outreach and church planting in the network of new churches
- Dominican Republic: continued project support when required
- Colombia: partial support for an evangelist working among seven churches
- Colombia: funding to help advance the new church plant in La Hormiga



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 89th East Ave, Tulsa, OK 74133).**

Dios les bendiga (God bless you),
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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.