

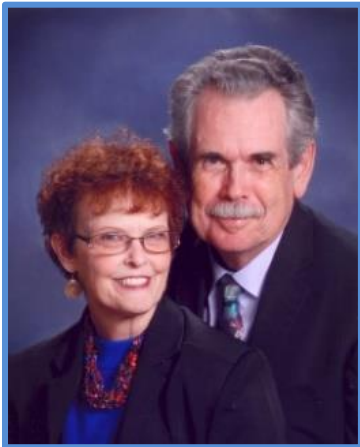
LATIN AMERICAN LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

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 74133

www.bobyoungrsources.com



A Personal Note: And on we go....

2024! Volume 19! The first couple of months of slowing down and stepping back have been filled and overflowing. The goal has not yet become reality!

Late in 2023, I accepted an invitation to teach on online class on preaching. The class was scheduled to meet for three hours each week during January and February. I took time off from teaching the class for the mission trip to the Dominican Republic in early February (see report below). Teaching the class has involved numerous online meetings for study, help, and suggestions. Preachers from across Latin America have attended the class.

I continue to teach a Wednesday afternoon Bible class at Fort Gibson, and have accepted a few online teaching and preaching appointments as well. These commitments require a time investment, but those who know me well know also that these are things that I enjoy doing!

On a positive note, the selection of **Robby Walkingstick** as the deacon responsible for missions at Fort Gibson will allow me to step aside as mission point person and assume different roles at Fort Gibson. I will continue to serve as a consultant to the elders regarding mission questions and as a mentor to Robby as he steps more fully into his new role. Keeping up with the mission work of this church is a challenge. With an average attendance of about 300, this church maintains an impressive mission program that supports fourteen different works in Latin America, Europe, and the U.S.

Dominican Republic Mission Trip Report

In February, **Jerry Keeley**, an elder at Fort Gibson, and **Mike Fontenot**, a deacon at Fort Gibson, accompanied me on a mission trip to the Dominican Republic. This was Jerry's first trip to the DR; it was Mike's second trip.

The mission trip focused on eight relatively new churches around Lake Enriquillo, in the southwestern Dominican Republic, near the border with Haiti. On the first day, churches visited included **Jimaní** to evaluate the land owned by the church at a major intersection in the town, and at **La**

Descubierta where we met with a small group of Christians in the new building (picture right).

Sunday morning, we were at **Higo de la Cruz**; we were in Neyba at **Vista al Lago** Sunday evening (picture left).

Other churches we visited were **Guayabal** and **Poster Rio**. Unfortunately, we were unable to schedule a visit to **Las Clavellinas** during our brief visit (Friday to Monday, with Thursday and Tuesday for travel).



A highlight of the visit was our visit to **Angel Felix**, a trip of 2+ hours. About 300 people assembled under a tarp to hear God's word proclaimed, in an area perhaps 40 x 60 feet (picture right).

We were three hours late due to having to get the generator repaired before leaving Neyba (to provide electricity for the speaker system) and then having to get a flat tire repaired.

The entire crowd was still present, and the first agenda item was the baptisms of those who had accepted the gospel message of salvation.



There were 18 baptisms (pictured left, after the baptisms).

We walked to the small water tank that is used as a baptistry, perhaps half a kilometer down the road (and then back up again!).



I rejoice to see the way in which God continues to give the increase in this area and among these churches, composed largely of Haitians. At Angel Felix, the words of greeting shared by Jerry I translated from English to Spanish, followed by translation from Spanish to Haitian Creole. Attendance for the conference was impressive—around 75 at Guayabal, over 100 at Higo de la Cruz (where they have lost their building because the donation of land to the church is being contested legally), and 300 at Angel Felix. There are 600+ Christians in these new churches where six years ago there were only a few.

All these churches meet in temporary buildings except for the church building in La Descubierta and the church in Neyba at Vista al Lago (where Christian Relief Fund has helped with building construction). With the growth of the churches, the need for improved facilities is an obvious challenge.

Continue to pray for the Dominican congregation in Neyba and the elders as they oversee this church planting work. And pray for the growth of the Dominican churches in the region. ***The fields are indeed white unto harvest, and receptivity is high.***

A Special Request for Prayer

Please pray for **Manuel and Ondina Aquino**. Manuel is a major part of the elders' oversight of the church planting effort. Manuel is only about two years away from retirement from the educational system, and is looking forward to having more time for the Lord's work. In the meantime, he tries to maintain contact with the churches without a personal vehicle (four of the eight are at least two hours away from his home in Neyba).



Ondina has health problems after two back surgeries. She also suffers from fibromyalgia, and is thus in a lot of pain and on many days is bedridden and cannot function. Trips to the doctor mean going to Santo Domingo, a trip of at least 4-5 hours each way. *(Picture left, Ondina, Jan, and Fátima, a sister in Christ who provides daily support and help in the house).*

Facilitating access to the churches, along with the ability to carry benevolent supplies and other needs, is a pressing need. **If you have an interest in helping with this need for transportation to support the church planting mission effort, contact me for more information.**

Looking ahead to 2024 — opportunities!

The work in Cajamarca (Peru) is being revitalized with the arrival of a new evangelist and church planter. Raúl Chumbile is moving to Cajamarca to establish the work in Cajamarca. With the assistance of a family who describe themselves as “involved givers,” LALD is providing the entirety of Raúl's \$600/month support. He is still in need of help with working funds.

A new opportunity recently arose to provide weekly support for leadership and church growth seminars in Tulcán, Ecuador. LALD is funding the cost of weekly travel for a young church leader from northern Ecuador.

Already the results are visible in increased interest, good attendance at the weekend teaching seminars, and several baptisms.



Thank You!

I would be remiss if I did not conclude with a sincere word of gratitude to the mission partners who have faithfully supported this work financially during the past 15+ years. Jan and I are also grateful for our many mission prayer partners. I think we must be among the most “prayed for” people in the world. Thank you!

I look forward to continuing to share what God is doing. God's work continues and increases—only my travel schedule is decreasing.

I continually call our attention to our role in fulfilling God's eternal purpose for the salvation of souls through Jesus Christ. Dreaming and praying about what God has done, is doing, and will do continues to excite my spirit! God is faithfully at work through his faithful people. May we never tire of the harvest, praying for the harvest, identifying and sending harvest workers, facilitating the harvest! Ultimately, mission work must be focused on eternal results. We do good to all, because we are on the side of Jesus who “went about doing good.” But we never forget that the Son of Man came “to seek and to save the lost.”

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),
Bob and Jan Young
918.470.0421 (cell)
bro.bobyounq@yahoo.com



(Picture, La Serena, Chile)

This picture reminds me that the task is urgent! Is the picture a sunrise or a sunset? 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 received, a new day is made possible in the lives of believers. Thank you for helping make that happen as we seek to fulfill God's purpose in this world – to save as many as possible!

The gospel springs forth as an eternal sunrise, even as the sun sets every day in the lives of countless souls without Jesus. (The picture is a sunset.)



Latin America Leadership Development works within 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.