

LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE & TRAINING CENTER



*Serving educational ministries
in the Spanish-speaking
Latin America - Caribbean region
by enabling leadership,
training educators and
providing resources*

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**A VISION FOR STRENGTHENING
EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY**



Rod and Sherry Boyd were appointed as missionaries to Panama in 1993 after sixteen years of pastoral ministry and district Christian education leadership.

Rod and Sherry direct the Latin America Resource & Training Center that serves the 1,000 Bible Schools, extension schools and ministerial training centers in the 19 Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. Rod is Coordinator for Latin America Christian Education Services, the international Assemblies of God education organization and serves as Advisor to Latin America's Bible Schools.

Rod and Sherry are coordinators for Latin America ChildCare in Panama since 1995. They are part of the LACC Executive Leadership Team as Coordinators for Central America.

God has laid on our heart the vision to develop facilities for the LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE & TRAINING CENTER in Panama! This new center will not only serve the needs of the ministries we direct, but will also assist other educational ministries that have a regional impact in the 19 Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America and the Caribbean.

In 1992, God called us to raise up Christian leaders in Panama. In the years following He has opened many doors of ministry throughout Latin America. Our involvement with Panama's Bible schools and Christian schools has prepared us for our current leadership in regional ministries, serving as Coordinators for Christian Education Services for Latin America, Directors of the Resource and Advisory Center for Bible Schools in Spanish-speaking Latin America, and as Latin America ChildCare Coordinators for Central America.

We believe our principal missionary contribution for the next decade will be to encourage, support and strengthen the joint efforts of the region's Spanish-speaking countries towards effective educational ministry. Our strategic role is to enable those who lead, train those who teach and provide resources for educational ministries.

We are asking you to join the CENTER TEAM! As you read about the Center in the pages that follow, we hope that you catch our vision and passion for this ministry, and that you will join us in praying for God's direction and provision.



A GROWING NEED FOR CONCERTED EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

Latin America is changing rapidly. Globalization, technology, communication, travel—these and other factors are accelerating this change. Latin American countries are tired of poverty. They recognize that education is key to improving society. But only Christian education produces true change through transformation of heart and mind.

National churches are maturing. After decades of growth, our leaders are recognizing the importance of education at all levels to train workers in order to sustain growth. There is an awakening desire and expectation to work together to maximize our educational efforts to reach this continent and beyond. Who will guide this new cooperation and interdependence?

The face of missions is changing. Missionaries make disciples and teach them how to live for Christ. Although this basic missionary goal remains the same, methods and strategies must change. Christian Education has become a strategic priority for Latin America. All educational programs have grown exponentially in recent years. Nearly half of the 2,100 Assemblies of God Bible schools and extensions worldwide are in Spanish-speaking Latin America! Thirty years ago there were only a few Christian day schools in the region. Today there are more than 400 schools, ministering to over 100,000 children and youth.

The unfinished missionary task will be to anticipate, embrace and encourage this new emphasis on Christian education and support ministries, offering new paradigms, facilitating coordination and partnerships, working together to build upon the growth of the past to prepare Latin America for its worldwide impact in the future.

“And the things you have heard me say...
entrust to reliable men who will also be
qualified to teach others.”

—2 Timothy 2:2 (NIV)



“If you don’t like **change**, you’re
going to like **irrelevance** even less.”

—Ret. General Eric Shinseki
Former Chief of Staff, U. S. Army



**A COMPREHENSIVE MINISTRY
PLAN FOR EDUCATIONAL SERVICES**



The “ae” in the logo above stands for “*asesoria educativa*” in Spanish, a phrase that means educational assistance.

The “bow” reminds us of our work of connecting ministries and people that are a part of training and discipleship.

The **TRAINING & RESOURCE CENTER** serves educational ministries in the 20 Spanish-speaking countries in Latin America educational ministries by enabling leadership, equipping educators and developing resources. New facilities will enable the Center to strengthen its current three-fold ministry:

- **Equipping Leadership** includes consultation and advisory services through international educational summit, leadership dialogues and other strategic team meetings that enable leaders to network, strategize and coordinate educational ministry efforts.
- **Training Educators** includes both international programs and national and international events that inspire, motivate and equip teachers and other personnel to strive for and achieve excellence.
- **Providing Resources** includes an extensive ministry library (both print and electronic), cutting-edge research-technology center and a state-of-the-art training center. Continuing emphasis will be given to translation and distribution of existing resources and the development of new resources.

The new Center will house our ministry offices. These new facilities will allow our ministries to expand and will strengthen their impact in the region.

The new facilities will also house other educational ministries that are be served by relocating to the Center. The Center will also be available to house building and ministry teams from the US working in Panama.



PANAMA: A STRATEGIC LOCATION FOR EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

The **TRAINING & RESOURCE CENTER** will be built in **Panama City**. God has helped us assemble an effective ministry team here. The national church has invited the Center to base in Panama and has designated property in the Pedregal area. The Center will be located just 15 minutes from the Tocumen International Airport to facilitate easy access for international travel and events.

Panama has a stable political environment with favorable tourist visa requirements and a strong economy that uses the US dollar. Panama offers one of the safest environments in the region and is free from natural disasters.

Panama is also a hub for air travel throughout the Americas that permits direct access to all 20 Spanish-speaking countries in the Latin America / Caribbean region.

Panama's **Copa Airlines** has become a major regional airline and is a member of the *Star Alliance network*. Copa flies non-stop to 74 cities in 31 countries from the **Tocumen International Airport**, located 12 miles from downtown Panama City. The airport is the largest in Central America and is in the middle of an aggressive expansion and modernization project.



"The plans of the Lord stand firm forever, the purposes of his heart through all generations."

—Psalms 33:11



"Give me the **children** until they are seven and anyone may have them afterward."

—St. Francis Xavier



FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES FOR EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY



“Suppose one of you wants
to build a tower..”

—Luke 14:28



The Center will include two primary buildings, joined by the atrium commons. The Center will be built in multiple phases:

PHASE ONE - 2016

Construction of the first half of a two-story, 15,000 square foot building. This first half will include:

- Two classrooms
- Library and research center
- Resource production and printing center
- Administrative and small meeting facilities
- Restrooms

PHASE TWO - 2016-2017

Construction of a two-story, 16,000 square foot housing building that will include:

- 24 Guestrooms for lodging up to 100 guests
- Kitchen, laundry and storage

PHASE THREE - 2017

Construct a 4,000 square foot atrium. This building will include:

- Reception
- Open lobby and dining area
- Bridge/Mezannine

PHASE FOUR - 2018-2019

- Construct a two-story, 4,000 square foot staff and family housing building with three apartments.
- Construction of the second half of the Phase One building.



A CALL TO PARTNERSHIP FOR EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY



Construction is underway on the Latin America Resource and Training Center!. Please join us in praying for funds and teams so that the following work can be completed:

- Sufficient funds for continued site preparation, drainage and erosion control, road, parking, electrical and septic work.
- Doors, windows, finish work and furnishings for phase one building.
- Offerings and construction teams from partner churches through 2019. We will need:
 - Five or more **PRIMARY partner churches** each to commit \$50,000 and send two construction teams.
 - Five or more **MAJOR partner churches** each to commit \$30,000 and send two construction teams.
 - Several **BUILDING partner churches** each to commit \$15,000 and send one construction team.

Construction of the **LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE & TRAINING CENTER** will depend upon generous churches and individual donors like you. Thank you for considering this strategic opportunity.

The LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE & TRAINING CENTER is an approved AGWM project, number 14295. Please send your offerings to:

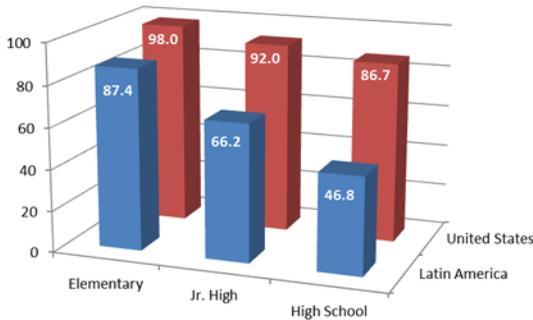
Assemblies of God World Missions
Latin America Resource & Training Center
Project 14295
1445 Boonville Ave.
Springfield, MO 65802





THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SPANISH-SPEAKING LATIN AMERICA

Completion Rates



“Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.”

—Proverbs 22:6

Elementary Education. Elementary education has drastically improved in the 20 Spanish-speaking countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region with 87.4% of those 15-19 years of age having completed at least a 6th grade education. The lowest rates are in Central America: Guatemala, 58.3%; Honduras, 70.6%, Nicaragua, 71.3%. Panama and Costa Rica are the highest at 95.0% and 92.3% respectively¹. The rate in the US is 98.0%².

Secondary Education. Secondary education continues to lag behind. An average of 66.2% of 20-24 year olds have completed junior high in Latin America, compared to an estimated 92% in the US. The lowest countries are in Central America: Honduras, 28.9%; Guatemala, 33.2% and Nicaragua, 46.3%. Panama is 70.7%. More alarming is the low high school graduation rate in Latin America of 46.8% compared to 86.7% in the US. Some Central American countries are dismally low: Honduras, 21.4%; Guatemala, 24.9%; Nicaragua, 33.9% and El Salvador, 36.5%. Panama is 52.6%.

Not surprisingly, the same Central American countries have the highest illiteracy rates by far: Guatemala, 17.8%; Nicaragua, 13.8%; and Honduras, 11.1%. Panama is 3.9%. The US is 1.1%. High illiteracy and non-competitive education contribute to chronic poverty in these countries. Other countries have added technology and English to their teaching programs, which improves their overall competitiveness.

Ministerial Education. Even though Spanish-speaking Latin America/Caribbean accounts for just 10% of Assemblies of God adherents in the world, almost half of the Bible schools and students are in these countries³. This emphasis on training has postured this region for missionary outreach and future growth. The greatest challenge is to maintain quality and train the more than 5,000 teachers.

¹ The State of Education in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO 2007

² US Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the US, 2012

³ Assemblies of God World Missions, LA/C Regional Statistics, 2009-2011