

LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE & TRAINING CENTER



*Empowering leaders
Training teachers
Providing resources*

*throughout the Spanish-speaking
Latin America - Caribbean region*

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Strategic Partnership...
*Matching means with methods
to maximize disciple-making.*





A VISION FOR STRENGTHENING TRAINING MINISTRY



Rod and Sherry are missionaries in Panama and Directors of the Latin America Resource and Training Center. Rod serves as Coordinator for Latin America Christian Education Services, the international Assemblies of God education organization. Rod and Sherry are coordinators for ChildHope in Panama and are part of the ChildHope Executive Leadership Team as Coordinators for Central America.



Miguel and Maria Morales are missionaries in Panama, Co-Directors of LARTC and Directors of the PROCEPA teacher certification program with more than 6,000 enrolled. Miguel is Assistant Coordinator for Latin America Christian Education Services.



Mike and Mona Shields are directors of the Latin America Advanced School of Theology that provides advanced training to hundreds of pastors and ministry leaders throughout Spanish Speaking Latin America and Caribbean. They are also missionary evangelists, winning and strengthening believers everywhere. They serve on the board of LARTC.



WHY TRAINING? Led by the Holy Spirit, our earliest pioneer missionaries followed a simple, yet very successful formula for multiplying the church in Latin America:



Following the principle that God desires to use all believers in ministry, new believers were disciplined in the faith and trained for ministry. Many were sent to pastor new church plants in communities in need of a church. As the church matures and new ministries are developed, believers are trained and are sent to reach people groups around the world!

TRAINING has been a central and essential component in the plan from the beginning. Since 1960, unified by a common language, the twenty Spanish-speaking countries have developed and implemented a unified plan that offers accessible, discipleship rich training for ministry across the region.

The Latin America Resource & Training Center strengthens this rich tradition. We believe our principal missionary contribution for the next decade and beyond will be to encourage, support and strengthen the joint efforts of the region's Spanish-speaking countries towards effective training ministry. Our strategic role is to empower those who lead, train those who teach and provide necessary training resources.

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 as a prayer and support partner.



A GROWING NEED FOR CONCERTED TRAINING MINISTRY

Latin America is changing rapidly. Globalization, technology, communication, travel—these and other factors accelerate change, advance the secular agenda and threaten basic Christian values. Latin American countries are convinced 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 recognize the urgent need to train workers at all levels in order to advance Christian values and to sustain growth. They're learning to work together to maximize training efforts to reach their continent and beyond. Who will guide this new cooperation and interdependence?

Training and educational programs are growing exponentially. Half of our Bible schools and training centers, and half of our in-classroom students worldwide are in Spanish-speaking Latin America! Thirty years ago there were only a few Christian day schools in the region. Today there is an army of more than 6,000 teachers, ministering to more than 100,000 children and youth in more than 350 schools. Who will orchestrate needed training?

The work of missions is evolving. Although the basic missionary task to win, train and send is the same, methods and strategies are changing. *The unfinished missionary task* will be to anticipate, embrace and encourage the growing emphasis on education and training ministries. The LARTC stands ready to create new paradigms, to build and strengthen partnerships and to raise up Christian leaders to prepare Latin America to win, train and send harvest workers to the ends of the earth.

"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)

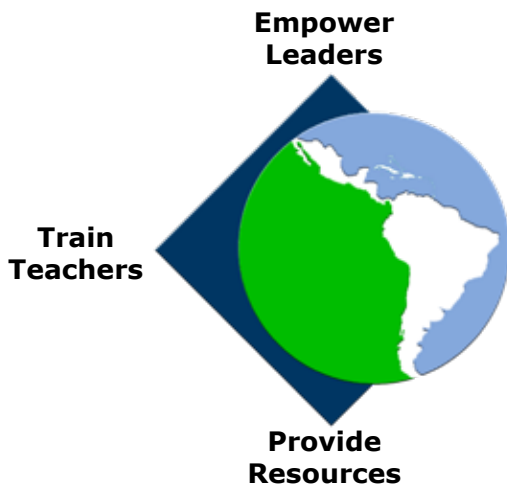


"If you don't like **change**, you're
going to like **irrelevance** even less."

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



A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN FOR TRAINING MINISTRIES



The **LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE AND TRAINING CENTER** exists to empower leaders, train teachers and provide resources for the 20 Spanish-speaking countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region:

- **Empower Leaders.** The Center hosts and houses leaders for advanced training and learning modules, up to four weeks in duration. The Center offers consultation and advisory services through international educators summits, leadership dialogues and other strategic team meetings to inspire and empower leaders to better network, strategize and coordinate training ministry efforts.
- **Train Teachers.** The Center hosts and conducts numerous training events in its facilities. In addition, the Center directs, organizes and conducts national and international programs and events that inspire, motivate and equip teachers and leaders to strive for and achieve excellence.
- **Provide Resources.** The Center as a premiere ministerial and educational library (print and electronic) and a cutting-edge research and technology center. The Center develops, produces and distributes low-cost, accessible course materials and offers innovative teaching resources and materials and platforms.

The Center serves nearly 46,000 students preparing for ministry and more than 6,000 pastors and leaders who teach them in more than 1,000 Bible schools, extensions and ministry training centers.

The Center serves more than 100,000 children and youth, and more than 6,000 teachers in 350 schools in Spanish-speaking Latin America/Caribbean.



PANAMA: A STRATEGIC LOCATION FOR TRAINING MINISTRIES

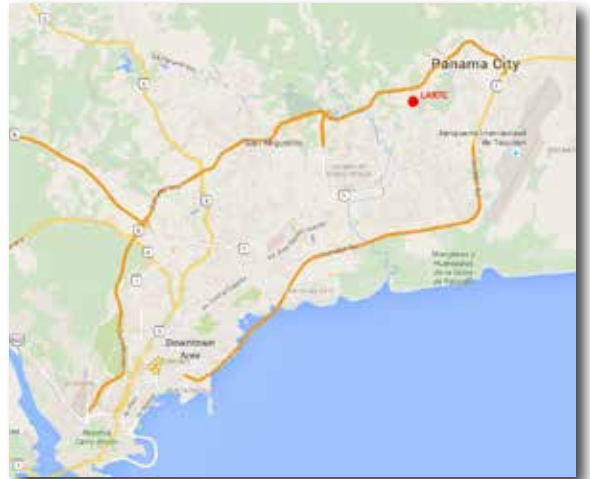
The **LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE AND TRAINING CENTER** is located on a four-acre parcel on the outskirts of **Panama City**. It is strategically located just 600 yards from the Northern Highway, 15 minutes from downtown Panama City and 12 minutes from the Tocumen International Airport, facilitating easy access for international travel and events.

The **Assemblies of God National Church** donated the property to the Center, believing that in part it fulfills God's prophetic call on Panama as the *"bridge of the world and heart of the universe."* Truly, God has provided an almost ideal location and lot for the Latin America Resource & Training Center!

Panama is a stable, conservative democratic republic with growing tourism and favorable tourist visa requirements. Panama has 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 a centrally located hub for air travel throughout the Americas that permits direct, non-stop access to all 20 Spanish-speaking countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region.

Panama's **Copa Airlines** has become a major regional airline and in partnership with United Airlines, 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 and less than 5 miles from the Center. 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





FUNCTIONAL FACILITIES FOR ADVANCED TRAINING



CONSTRUCTION of the Latin America Resource and Training Center has multiple phases and is now more than 50% complete! The Center includes two primary buildings, joined by the atrium commons.

PHASE ONE - 2016-2017 (95% Complete)

Construction of the first sixty percent of two-story, 14,000 sq ft Building One that includes:

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

PHASE TWO - 2017-2019 (80% Complete)

Construction of two-story, 15,200 sq ft Building Two for housing that includes:

- 23 Guestrooms for housing up to 100 guests
- Kitchen/pantry, laundry and storage

PHASE THREE - 2018-2019 (30% Complete)

Construction of a 6,000 sq ft Atrium that includes:

- Reception, auditorium, dining, restrooms
- Bridge/Mezannine to connect

PHASE FOUR - 2019-2020

Construction of a two-story 4,800 sq ft addition to Building One for training and administration.

PHASE FIVE - 2020-2021

Construction of a two-story 4,000 sq ft building for staff and family housing to include three apartments.

Additional work, interspersed during other phases, includes: Entrance, road, drainage, parking, lighting, security wall, facade, paint and landscaping.



A CALL FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP FOR TRAINING MINISTRY

WE STRATEGIC PARTNERS! We are grateful for the help of eight teams and the miraculous provision from several very generous donors and ministries that have helped us to complete more than half of the construction in just two years. We have prayed and been seeking one or more strategic partners to complete construction of the Center and consider joining us in joint ministry, both in the context of the Center and our ministry that takes place around Spanish-speaking Latin America.

Additional teams will join us in the next two years, providing funds and labor to complete pending structural work. However, ***we will need an additional \$500,000 to complete finish work and provide furnishing.*** This work includes flooring, ceiling, lighting, doors, windows, A/C, parking, road, entrance, security walls, facade, painting, landscaping, drainage and more.

LARTC offers our strategic partners ongoing short-term and longer-term ministry opportunities, where involvement in the Center and local outreach ministries directly impact communities and trains those who lead and minister throughout Latin America and around the world.

On behalf of thousands trained who in turn serve many thousands more, thank you for considering this opportunity for strategic partnership!

The **LATIN AMERICA RESOURCE & TRAINING CENTER** is an approved Assemblies of God World Missions project, number 14295. Please visit www.lartc.net for construction reports and additional information.



Strategic Partnership...
*Matching means with methods
to maximize disciple-making.*

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

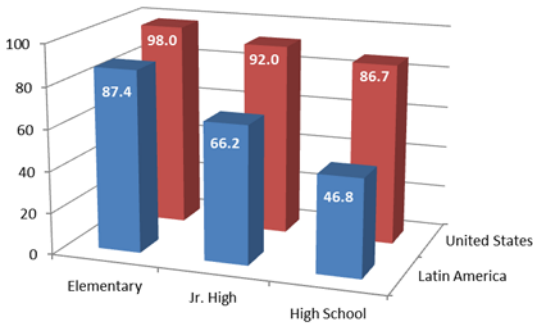
—Luke 14:28



THE STATE OF EDUCATION IN SPANISH-SPEAKING LATIN AMERICA



Completion Rates



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

—St. Francis Xavier



“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 nearly 90% of those 15-19 years of age having completed at least a 5th grade education. The lowest reported rates are in Central America: Honduras, 75.05% and Guatemala, 75.26%. It is likely that Nicaragua would have a similar statistic. Chile is the highest at 98.15%¹. The rate in the US is near 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, 24.14%; Nicaragua, 19.8%; and Honduras, 14.88%. Panama is 5.91%. The US is 2.1%. 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 6,000 teachers.

¹ Regional Report about Education for All in Latin America and the Caribbean, UNESCO 2014

² US Census Bureau, Statistical Abstract of the US, 2015

³ Assemblies of God World Missions, LA/C Regional Statistics, 2010-2017