

Missionaries sought with commitment and a walk with the Lord; Will be key to Latin America's role in reaching 10-40 Window

By Kenneth D. MacHarg
LAM News Service

Miami, FL—"Latin America has a key role in reaching the 10-40 Window," says Robert Foster, a Baptist missionary serving as the Director of Personnel Administration for Latin America Mission. "As we minister to Latin America and as Latin Americans eventually get involved in mission service, they often can move into 10-40 Window countries much easier than North Americans."

Because of that concern, Foster's Miami-based organization is working to mobilize up to 300 new missionaries for the region in the next three years. "We are not just waiting for someone to knock on our front door," he said. "We believe the Lord would have us to be proactive to insure that Latin America has its place in world missions."

The 78-year old Latin America Mission (LAM) is emphasizing evangelism through church planting teams and other creative ministries as it looks for people of all ages. "As long as it falls under our four program areas of evangelism, disciple-making, leadership formation and compassionate care, we can put you to work," said Kevin Jezequel, LAM's Vice President for Personnel.

The mission is seeking seminary professors, church planters, church camp directors and leaders, communications specialists, chaplains, agricultural specialists and people to work with children at risk.

As to qualifications, "A person needs to demonstrate some degree of spiritual maturity and a personal walk with the Lord," Foster said. "At some point in time they must have had a conversion experience, where they were transformed by a saving knowledge of Christ," he explained.

"Then, there needs to be evidence of their walk with the Lord. They need to express how they came to sense this call on their lives," Foster indicated. "There would, of course, need to be an acceptance of the basic doctrines of the Christian faith."

As one would expect, there is paper work! "We have about ten steps in our formal process," he explained. "There is a Preliminary Information Form (PIF) for someone interested in exploring opportunities." Following that, the Latin America Mission asks candidates to prepare a personal doctrinal statement and a personal history. References are checked and psychological and medical examinations are required as well.

"We are an interdenominational mission board," Foster said. "We have people from many different denominational groups who have affiliated themselves with the LAM. We do not receive support from any denomination." For that reason, Foster explained, "The person who hears God's call will be largely responsible for raising their own support." Foster, however, is quick to interject that the LAM trains missionary candidates in how to develop their own methods of seeking prayer and financial support from churches, family members and friends who want to invest in their ministry.

Foster, who lived in the Fort Worth, Texas area and studied at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary before going to Brazil as an LAM missionary in 1985, encourages anyone who has thought about missionary work to get in touch with the LAM. "Clearly, we would welcome people who would explore with us the possibility of

a call to missions. I think that the LAM is in a good position to help people of all ages ascertain whether God might be calling them.”

The Miami-based Latin America Mission, is an international fellowship of men and women encouraging the Latin church in ministry to the Latin world in evangelization, disciple-making, leadership formation and compassionate care. The mission currently has approximately 240 missionaries in 13 countries. The mission can be reached at Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami Springs, FL 33152, by e-mail at info@lam.org, or by calling 800-275-8410. The mission’s website may be found at www.lam.org.

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