

**DEVELOPING A TEAM LEADERSHIP SEMINAR FOR THE BIBLE SCHOOL  
DIRECTORS AND EXECUTIVE PRESBYTERY OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD  
IN COLOMBIA, SOUTH AMERICA**

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The Assemblies of God in Colombia, South America is a growing and dynamic national church. The church has experienced strong numerical growth in the last five years. It anticipates that trend to continue or even heighten. Its leaders recognize the need to form future pastors through the Bible schools. As the Church's leadership began to examine their Bible schools, it became clear that the apparent issues in those institutions point to a much deeper issue—their own leadership model. Leadership throughout the continent is largely hierarchical, pyramidal, or vertical in nature. Leadership in the church reflects this tendency.

The leaders of the national church in Colombia became willing to explore models, ideas, and organizational alternatives, not only for Bible schools, but also for their own leadership style. The Bible schools (and their ongoing development), became a case study or metaphor for a much larger issue—a leadership model adequate for the setting.

The central thesis of the project is that leadership expressed in a team is a complement, and not a replacement for the traditional vertical model. A seminar was designed to propose the idea of team leadership and then applied that model to the contemporary issue of the development of Colombian Bible schools.

Biblical and theological research focused on the idea that the Church is a charismatically constituted institution. It is a living organism, and as such the Pauline teaching on the body of Christ is much more than a metaphor. Spiritual gifts become a way to further understand the dynamics of the body and put it to work. The modern concept of teams seems to adequately represent that biblical ideal.

The project resulted in the formation of a National Christian Education Department, the appointment of a national director, a long-term plan for the development of the Church's Bible schools and ministerial training program.