



Mission Overview

The primary focus of our Latin America missions team is *Academia Cristo*. *Academia Cristo* is a multi-faceted effort that seeks to 1) make disciples in Latin America by sharing the message of God's grace with as many people as possible, 2) identify and train potential leaders, and 3) encourage those leaders to make disciples who plant churches. The Latin America missions team uses social media to promote the *Academia Cristo* self-study courses and training program throughout Latin America.

The *Academia Cristo* training program is divided into three tiers:

- 1. Self-study through WhatsApp:** *Academia Cristo* offers four self-led courses at the Bible information class level of study. The last course in this tier focuses on training students to share what they've learned with others. Students must complete all four courses before they are able to sign up for live classes.
- 2. Discipleship 1:** Students work through 13 Bible institute level classes that are taught live online by a WELS missionary or national partner. At this level, a large emphasis is placed on gathering a group of people to share the gospel message. The goal is that students who finish Discipleship 1 are in doctrinal agreement with WELS.
- 3. Discipleship 2:** Students who complete the Discipleship 1 tier then move onto Discipleship 2, where they take advanced Bible institute level classes, still taught live online by a WELS missionary or national partner. Students at this level are actively sharing the gospel message with a group of people and are in doctrinal agreement with WELS. They are also matched with a WELS missionary or national partner mission counselor and receive face-to-face visits.

Academia Cristo Fast Facts

- 2 million followers on social media
- *Academia Cristo* manages over 30 million engagements every month through their various communication platforms
- 1 million+ people have downloaded the *Academia Cristo* mobile app that launched in February 2020
- 2,400+ people have completed the self-led courses on the mobile app since March 2020 and are signed up for live courses
- Almost 690+ people have completed one live course since March 2020 with a WELS missionary or national partner
- 85 students in the *Academia Cristo* program have gone through a doctrinal agreement process designed for leaders and church planters
- There are 30 *Academia Cristo* leaders who have taken a group through at least seven lessons of a two-year program of worship and study

