

Announcement of Phil Lamb being replaced by Peter Garcia – September, 1998

AN OPEN LETTER TO THE DISCIPLES

From Kip McKean

Greetings from Los Angeles. The fires of revival were fanned into flame at the Emergency Kingdom Leadership Conference in February. Today, fueled by the inspirational Kingdom Campus Congress in early July, the fire of the Holy Spirit is raging in the hearts of the campus leaders around the world. This is essential so that we, as God's modern-day movement, do not merely grow, but multiply disciples. The campus ministry and the AMS ministry are our two largest fountains of future leadership for our churches. Next year's KCC promises to be even more powerful. We are changing the name to the International Campus Ministries Congress. The 1999 ICMC will be held in London, England in August.

Another area of my concern for all the churches has been the youth ministry. Jonathan Perkins has done an outstanding job in leading the LA Youth Ministry. On May 24th at our first annual Youth Rally, the 300 LA teen disciples had an attendance of 1,340. In these three months after the Youth Rally, we have seen over 90 teens baptized into Christ in the LA Church. While at the KCC in Boston, two of the youth ministers in other churches approached me about a conference for Youth Ministers, Women Youth Ministry Leaders and teen workers. Therefore, just as Marty and Christ Fuqua spearhead our campus ministries worldwide, I have asked Cory and Megan Blackwell to work with Jonathan Perkins to begin a united, global teen crusade. In 1999, on June 11, 12, and 13, the Los Angeles Church will host the first International Youth Ministries Conference.

In Deuteronomy 34, the Spirit tells of Moses, at the end of his life, climbing to the top of Mount Nebo. Here God allows Moses, to see the promised land before he dies. Though God decided that Moses should not enter the promised land because of his sin of striking the rock in anger, God did honor Moses by allowing him to see the sure future for the people he had led for 40 years. In July, Phil and Donna Lamb resigned as World Sector Leaders for the Central and South America World Sector. They resigned for two reasons: First, because their two older children were open to the charge of being "wild and disobedient" and secondly, Donna's health had deteriorated over the last few years to the point where she could no longer travel and effectively disciple the women in other countries. Now that their entire family has moved to LA, not only will they receive more intensive discipling for their family, but the Bairds, Gempels, Elena and I have asked them to take a sabbatical from leadership for at least the summer so they can focus on their family to draw all four children closer to God. Deuteronomy 34 states there was no one else like Moses who performed the awesome and mighty miracles through God. Truly it can be said of Phil and Donna that there is no one else like them. God used them to lead the Mexico City planting with just 13 disciples, which now has multiplied to cover all but five of the nations of Central and South America. These last five countries -- Panama, Venezuela, Peru, Uruguay and Cuba -- will have churches established in them by June of 1999. Truly, the Lord has honored Phil and Donna to be able to see the promised land of churches in every nation in Central and South America.

After Moses died, God raised up a new leader, Joshua. His charge was to go into the promised land and conquer every place "where he set his foot." In selecting a new World Sector Leader couple for the CSA, there were three considerations: First, they needed to be commended for their work. Secondly, as Elena and I have Paul/Timothy-like relationships with the original World Sector Leader couples, so this new couple needed to be someone we had helped raise up in the faith. And thirdly, I felt very strongly that they needed to be Latin in order to reflect the charge they are to be given. I am excited to announce that the new World Sector Leader couple is Peter and Laura García-Bengochea! Peter and Laura were baptized in the Boston Church. Later, they led the Boston Youth Ministry. Afterwards, they worked in the church in São Paulo, then planted the Rio de Janeiro and Bogotá Churches. They have led the Mexico City Church for the past five years which now has an attendance of 5,000 every Sunday morning, making the Mexico City Church one of the largest super churches in our fellowship. Certainly, their work commends them. I have known Peter since he was 12 years old as he is Elena's little brother. Phil has trained Peter excellently, but through the years Peter has also been a Timothy to me. Due to Donna's health, Laura has relied more and more on Elena through the past few years. Finally, Peter is Latin, the youngest son of a noble, Cuban family.

As God's movement, let us continue to pray for the Lamb family, always being inspired by their incredible work in building the Central and South America World Sector. Let us pray for Peter and Laura as they will now spread the gospel, not just to one church in one nation, but throughout every city, every town, and every village in every Central and South America nation. Finally, let us pray for God's fire to be in the heart of every disciple as we see the evangelization of all nations in our generation and the defining of true Christianity for the next millennium.

Your brother in Christ,
Kip McKean