



*Because He came to the world, we go to the nations*

*December 2008*

A WARM Merry Christmas to you from the southern hemisphere,

With our move to Buenos Aires and new project, the EJ Institute for youth leaders which begins holding classes this coming April, we've been in a season of transition, but as we look back on the past year what stands out is the even deeper continuity with what we've been doing since 1996: providing resources and training for Spanish-speaking youth leaders. Since your partnership with us is

**www.ParaLideres.org** – The Web site now has over 23,000 pages of free resources which are used by approximately 75,000 leaders each month. A donation from a foundation is allowing us to upgrade and we're already getting a lot more letters like the following:

*Believe me, every day I go to the Web page and I always learn something new.  
Thank you and may God bless you, Claudia*

*I want to congratulate you and encourage you to continue enriching us with valuable activities that help us improve our group. Blanca*

**Conferences** – Over e-mail, chat, or face to face from one year to the next we have continuing contact with some of the youth leaders we've taught. It's exciting to see them growing in their understanding and practice and sharing this with others.

*The analysis of our youth group activities that you guided us through in your workshop has helped me rethink what we do. When I got home I shared it with the other leaders. We are taking it very seriously, are excited and have lots of new plans. Noemi, Chile*

*Through the training we've done with our group, we've started working on our plan for next year and have realized that we weren't meeting the needs of the students. So we are trying to make the necessary adjustments to our activities. The truth is God chose the perfect time for us to attend the Roots conference and meet you. Thank you and may God continue to use you always. Karen, Mexico*

**In-depth training** – Institutions and individuals are using a youth ministry textbook and accompanying online, interactive courses into which we invested years of our life.

*This [online youth ministry] course has been very helpful. My wife and I were able to study together and we're putting it in practice with our adult ministry as well as with the youth. Javier, Uruguay*

We really need your prayers during the next few months as we ramp up to the start of classes for the institute. What comforts us in the process is the knowledge that God has done more than we can ask or imagine in the past, so we can trust him for that in the future, even if it might not be on our timeline or looking the way we expect it to.



Appreciating you,

*Annette & Tim*

Annette and Tim Gulick

# From the President...

## HOW IS OC DOING?

As we come to the end of 2008, a year which has been marked by tremendous economic turbulence and resultant uncertainty, a number of our ministry partners have been asking how OC is doing. From my vantage point as president of the mission, I would say that overall the mission is doing very well.



Greg Gripenrog  
OC President

- With regard to **the size of the mission**, we currently have over 500 ministry personnel serving with our OC teams around the world. This is the highest number of ministry personnel in the history of the mission!
- With regard to **the ministry of the mission**, on an annual basis, OC missionaries are serving over 2 million church leaders in more than 75 countries around the world! Through the ministries of these leaders, hundreds of thousands of churches are being equipped for more effective outreach in their communities and nations!
- With regard to **the future ministry of the mission**, we currently have numerous strategic ministry opportunities on every continent, and we are planning and praying toward the goal of seeing the mission expand by more than 40 percent over the next three years!
- With regard to **the finances of the mission**, because of God's faithful provision, we were able to finish our fiscal year, which ended on September 30, in the black!

Truly, as a mission we have much for which we are deeply grateful to God, including the 11,000+ individuals, families, and churches who have partnered with us financially during this past year.

Over the course of the past few months, as a mission we have begun to feel the impact of the economic slowdown in the United States, with financial support levels beginning to decrease for many of our missionaries, as well as for the OC General Fund from which we cover a portion of the operating expenses of our Mobilization Center in Colorado Springs.

Because of these harsh economic realities which are impacting a growing number of our ministry partners, I would like to request that you pray about making a special year-end contribution, as the Lord makes possible, to the ministry of the OC missionaries with whom you are partnering. I know that a special year-end contribution from you for their ministry would be a great help and a wonderful encouragement to them.

If, as you pray, the Lord were to also lead you to make a year-end contribution to the OC General Fund, that would be a great blessing and a huge help to the entire mission. Along with this letter, I am enclosing a response card you may use to make this special Christmas contribution to your missionary and/or to the OC General Fund.

May this be an especially meaningful Christmas for you as you celebrate the birth of our wonderful Savior.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Greg Gripenrog". The signature is fluid and cursive.

The Word became  
flesh and made his  
dwelling among us.  
We have seen his  
glory, the glory of  
the One and Only,  
who came from  
the Father full of  
grace and truth.  
John 1:14

## Our Vision

Healthy  
churches  
working  
together to  
disciple all  
nations.



OC International  
P.O. Box 36900  
Colorado Springs, CO 80936  
800.676.7837

[www.ONECHALLENGE.org](http://www.ONECHALLENGE.org)