

This summer was crazy, stressful, exhausting, faith stretching—and undeniably wonderful.

The fact that Annette's writing is showing up in youth ministry magazines and books around Latin America, combined with the broad reach of the website we manage, has opened up opportunities for us to train youth leaders from all over. But as the *esteemed theologian* Woody Allen said, "Eighty percent of success in life is just showing up" so maybe the fact that we've simply been around for fourteen years focused on the same thing—providing resources and training for youth leaders—plays a bigger part in these opportunities than we'd like to admit. In the end we know that it is God who opens and closes the doors in these situations and, like you, we're just happy to get to be a part in what He's doing.

### Just the numbers

4 youth ministry training events  
in 4 countries (Bolivia, Guatemala,  
Peru, Argentina)  
with a total of 6,000 youth leaders  
1,500 of whom we taught or trained  
from at least 14 countries  
plus  
1 five week-long mentor training  
program  
with 25 participants.

To accomplish all of that  
we traveled 35,900 miles  
including 5 all night flights or bus trips  
with a total of 0 flight missed  
and 0 bags lost.

### Prayer Requests

The youth ministry institutes begin in April of next year and there are so many things that need to happen before then that it is overwhelming (*i.e.*: finances raised, students enrolled, professors recruited, building purchased or rented, curriculum developed, etc.). The small but dedicated team that is founding these institutes needs your prayer.

Someone surprised us with a donation that was designated to improve the [ParaLideres.org](http://ParaLideres.org) website (the Spanish-language youth ministry resources web site which we founded ten years ago). Please pray that the team working on that project would use that money in such a way that the Church in Latin America would be better equipped to show God's love and truth to the 60 percent of the population that is under the age of 25.

### Superlatives

- Most outstanding food: The *ceviche* in Peru and the tortillas in Guatemala
- Most surprising: Seeing five young youth leader friends from our church in Toluca, Mexico at the Roots conference in Lima, Peru
- Most exhausting: Directing 330 youth leaders in Peru in a complex learning activity for two hours (we almost gave up, but by the end people said they really learned a lot)
- Most encouraging #1: Becoming aware that the quality of youth leaders in Latin America is rapidly increasing
- Most encouraging #2: That one of Annette's recently published books (co-authored) sold out in two hours at the latest conference (all profits go into a youth ministry training fund)
- Most exciting: 175 people have filled out information requests for the youth workers institutes that we're helping start next year.

*Tim & Annette*



# From the President...

## Our Mission

*To mobilize  
godly and  
effective  
Church  
leaders to  
reach all  
nations.*

## Our Vision

*Healthy  
churches  
working  
together to  
disciple all  
nations.*

Twice a year OC's International Leadership Team (ILT), which is composed of our Colorado Springs-based Executive Leadership Team along with our six Area Directors, meets together for a week of strategic planning meetings. Last month our ILT meetings were conducted in the country of Romania, where for more than a decade OC has been assisting the churches of Romania to saturate the nation with healthy churches.



*ILT meeting participants.*

The primary purpose of the meetings in Romania was to work on OC's strategic ministry plan for the years 2009–2011. I traveled to Romania with a strong sense that these ILT meetings were of great strategic importance. In large part, this conviction was the result of a deepening sense of stewardship I have felt over the past number of months related to the growing personnel resources and expanding ministry opportunities the Lord has graciously entrusted to OC.

At a time when many North American mission agencies are declining in size and impact, we entered these meetings with more OC ministry personnel, serving on more ministry teams, impacting more national church leaders, in more countries of the world, and with more strategic ministry opportunities before us than at any time in the 57-year history of the mission! During our week together in Romania, through daily times in the Word, in prayer, and robust interaction, we earnestly sought the Lord's direction concerning the most strategic ways to steward the resources and opportunities He has entrusted to us as a mission.

As the meetings concluded, I had a deeper conviction than ever that this is indeed OC's hour! I was thrilled to hear the reports shared by our Area Directors concerning the strategic ministry goals and projections they are envisioning for the years 2009–2011. If the Lord provides us with the needed additional ministry personnel, in the next three years we could see OC grow from 57 to 80 ministry teams (40 percent growth!) and from 23 to 31 resident fields (35 percent growth!) With this growth in size we are envisioning an exciting acceleration in the worldwide impact of OC's ministry (which last year impacted over 2,600,000 national church leaders in 76 countries).

We completed the meetings in Romania encouraged and energized. As never before, I covet your prayers for the Lord's continued guidance and provision as we begin to implement the ministry plans which were the fruit of our meetings in Romania.

With deep gratitude for your partnership,

Dr. Greg Gripenstrog



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