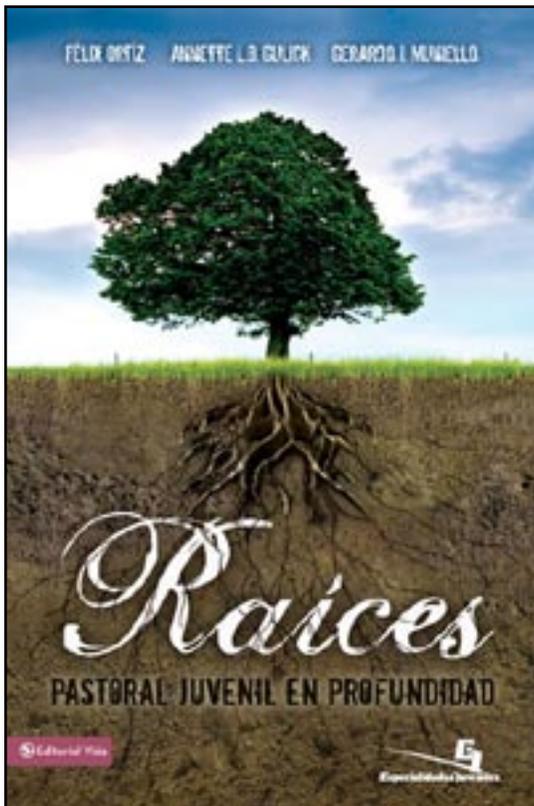


“So, have you started working yet?” People have asked us this question quite a bit over the past few months. The short answer would be yes. The more accurate answer is that we never stopped working, even though at first we felt like we couldn’t get traction and so were getting disheartened. However, the last couple of weeks there is a definite feeling of momentum. Here’s an update on some of the projects we’re in the middle of.

Instituto Especialidades Juveniles – This brought us to Buenos Aires and will absorb a major part of our time once classes start in March of ‘09. Until then we’re on the launch committee, which means we do whatever has to be done. Last week we met with the director of the school we’re partnering with—the one that will provide the academic accreditation for our courses—and it went even better than we’d hoped.



Raices – We recently spent time putting the finishing touches on the textbook that should be going to print any day now. In the next few weeks we’ll be working with the designer to get the Web page with the animated classes up and running, just in time for the summer conferences where members of the Raices team will be teaching around 1,500 youth workers from this material.

Youth Worker Journal in Spanish – Youth work in Latin America finally has its own professional journal, and Annette is a columnist (see her name there on the right-hand side), which harkens back to a conversation she had years ago: “I majored in Spanish and professional writing in college and got a master’s degree in theology. What on earth will I do with those? Write about theology in Spanish?” Apparently the answer ended up being ... yes.





For the last month Annette and I have not been in Buenos Aires (B.A.), but in the mountains of Colorado getting hands-on training in mentoring. “But why Colorado?” you might ask.

We were invited to Argentina specifically to be mentors for the youth leaders who will be going through the program at the youth ministry institute here ... kind of like the youth leaders to the youth leaders. As part of our preparation we are spending a month mentoring OC International’s new missionaries, all the while being coached and mentored by Steve Aldrich, an expert with decades of experience in this field. Our hope is that this mentoring apprenticeship will equip us to be more effective in our role in the youth ministry institute. Please pray with us for that.

We don’t return to B.A. until July 17, and seven days later we head off to Cochabamba, Bolivia, for three days of leading workshops at the national youth leaders convention. This is the sixth year in a row that we’ve been invited, but the first time we’re able to participate. Some of you may remember the only other time we tried to go to this Bolivian event, the airline we were flying on went bankrupt and we were stuck in Chile for seven days.

When we return from Bolivia we have a week before we leave for Guatemala for an annual youth leaders convention—2,000+ youth leaders from all over Central America. We’ll also be in meetings with the Guatemalan team, helping start the youth ministry institutes we’re a part of. We get back from Guatemala and nine days later we leave for Lima, Peru, for a Raíces congress where we’ll be doing in-depth youth ministry training for around 350 dedicated leaders. Wow, I’m tired just typing out that summer schedule. 😊

Prayer requests

- That the EJ Institute team would be provided with what we will need—relationships, wisdom, funds, abilities, etc.—to successfully launch the youth ministry institutes in Buenos Aires and Guatemala City in March of 2009
- That Annette, I, and the other trainers would be filled with the energy, love, and health we need to give the youth leaders we are training what they most need
- That Annette and I would be more effective together than as separate individuals

Tim & Annette