



OC One Challenge.
Reaching the world together

From Tim & Annette...

Ever since we moved back to the U.S. people have asked us, “**What’s next?**” It was frustrating not to have an answer. I felt lame always saying: “We don’t know. Right now we’re continuing to train youth leaders while we wait on God to guide us to what’s next.” And though we really did believe God would guide us, as the months went by with nothing “new” on the horizon, we repeated our reply almost apologetically and it felt overly spiritual, like something someone in our line of work *should* say. But we kept praying and waiting.



We didn’t lack ideas, but the way to make them work. In conversation with friends who also train youth leaders around Latin America we’d talk about the need for longer-term, experience-based training to supplement the weekend conferences and online courses we already provided. We were all frustrated as we watched bright young leaders who left our seminars motivated to make a difference in the lives of youth but who, in the day-to-day practice of their ministry, couldn’t move beyond the model that they grew up with, which is now deficient. But none of us had the administrative or organizational strength to pull it off.

So when a friend and colleague approached us last December and asked us to consider forming part of a team to launch youth ministry institutes across Latin



America, Annette and I looked at each other with a glint our eyes. Could this be what we’d been waiting for? After that meeting we talked with family, friends, and leadership at OC. All of them saw merit in the project and/or saw it as a good fit for us. So we’ve accepted the invitation.

The goal of the institutes is to *provide transformational training experiences and resources designed to raise up a new generation of youth leaders in the Latin American church.* The first two will be located in Argentina and Guatemala, so beginning early next year we’ll be working out of **Argentina**.

Once the institutes get up and running, our role will be that of **spiritual directors** ... meaning we’ll basically be mentors to the youth leaders, responsible for their spiritual formation and providing a model they can use to mentor those they work with. The informal discipleship we currently do now is what we most love about our current networking and training, so we can’t wait to do that in a more deliberate way.

As foreigners we are convinced that we need to pass the ministry baton on to someone local as soon as possible (i.e. work ourselves out of a job). It’s still very early in the project, but the idea is that our first year in Argentina we’ll be helping with all the pre-work necessary to get the institute up and running as well as getting ourselves settled into a new city. We’ll also be part of a small group working on curriculum and networking with denominations, professors, seminaries, and other organizations. Then for the first two or three years of the institute’s existence, we’ll be figuring out how to best mentor these students. Along the way, we’ll be looking for a few reliable people who we can train to take over our role.

We would really love your prayer for this exciting but daunting project.

Tim & Annette