

the Power *of ONE*

Kingdom Pictures Presents "THE POWER OF ONE" AN L.A. CHURCH OF CHRIST PRODUCTION

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Church of Christ

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A KINGDOM PICTURES RELEASE

the Power of ONE

L.A. SUNDAY ATTENDANCE	
SEPTEMBER 4	7,173
SEPTEMBER 11	7,055
SEPTEMBER 18	7,581

It was a real “Garden Party.” Sunday, September 18, over 8,000 in the Boston Garden celebrated the fifteenth anniversary of the Boston Church of Christ. The story of Boston demonstrates the power of one, the difference that one person or one group together with God can make. New England in 1979 was considered a difficult mission field. The Lexington Church of Christ (now the Boston Church of Christ) was dead and about to be buried. The zeal, vision and determination of a twenty-five year old evangelist and his wife, Kip and Elena McKean, showed the power of one. It took only weeks to instill that zeal and vision into the 30 original “would be” disciples of the Lexington Church. Then the power of one was not just a man, it was a church. We salute the Boston Church of Christ for fifteen years of faithful service that have forever changed the future course of the modern-day church.

The event came complete with a twenty-by-twenty-foot cake that weighed over a ton, green and white balloons and confetti falling from the ceiling... and baptisms! Three fourths of the original group of thirty that met in the Gempel’s living room fifteen years ago met for an early morning communion (five were unable to attend). They reminisced, remembered, and praised God. Later, Kip and Elena, Doug and Joyce Arthur, Bob and Pat Gempel, Steve Johnson, and Gloria and I were able to share with the church our memories and impressions of God working in Boston over the past fifteen years. Of course, Kip preached powerfully. All of it was an emotional experience. The fellowship produced a flood of emotions in me. So many memories, so many victories of God, so many good times. Each face represented a piece of my life and my thoughts were drawn to the time God had caused our paths to cross that some way forever affected our lives. Especially gratifying were those who had given up on God the last time I had seen them,

“ I CAN DO EVERYTHING THROUGH HIM WHO GIVES ME STRENGTH.”
—PHILIPPIANS 4:13

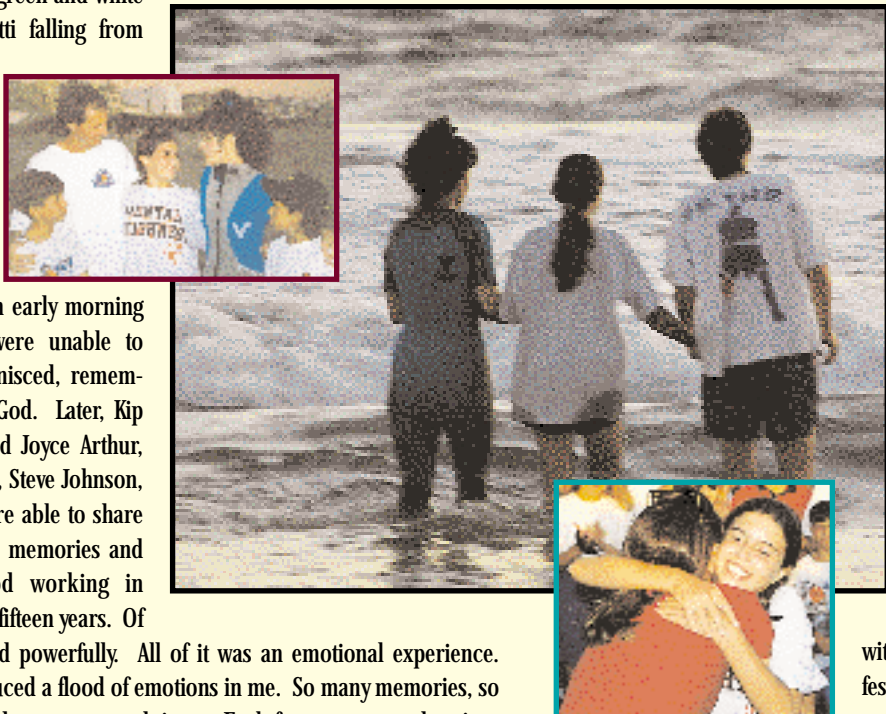
but are now back.

God chose the Boston congregation to be the mother church of the movement. Like the small, insignificant band of 75 Hebrews that went into Egypt (Acts 7:14) and emerged over 400 years later 2,000,000 strong, God started in 1979 in Boston with a small, insignificant band of 30. Given our current rate of growth, it certainly will not take 400 years for us to become 2,000,000 strong. In fifteen years that little group of thirty has grown to a congregation of more than 3500, almost 120-fold growth! Even more incredible is that the Boston Church has planted 38 other churches all over the world, the most recent being Warsaw, Poland, sent out during the Garden Party. Like a mother who has many children, Boston paid a severe price, sacrificing the health of her own body. Having sent out hundreds of leaders, her own incredible growth slowed for several years. The Garden Party left no doubt—the Boston Church is back! Randy and Kay McKean have done a superb job healing the church and taking her to new heights.

The power of one must be passed on or it will die. This year is monumental for Kip because in the same month he had his fortieth birthday

and became the father of a teenager. Gloria and I have been with Kip and Elena since Olivia was born. We know first-hand the love, attention and training they give to their children, Olivia, Sean and Eric. The words that every Christian parent longs to hear from his teen are, “I want to study to become a disciple.” Those were Olivia’s words a couple of months ago. As she began to study she got in touch with her sin, in touch with her heart, and in touch with the cross. Then, September 7, the most important day of her life, about 40 of us gathered on the beach at sunset to share

with and encourage her, to hear her confess Jesus as her Lord, and to witness Kip and Elena walk with her into the Pacific Ocean to baptize her. God’s power of one sprang to life in 1979; it has spread around the world. The power of one is spreading to the next generation. To God be the glory.



PHOTOS BY: ROGER LAMB



PHOTOS BY GUILLERMO HUESCA

Gandaras Plant Guatemala



BY PHIL LAMB

When Arturo Gandara phoned Kip McKean for an interview, he had no idea that a year and a half later he and his wife, Jolie, would plant the first church of God's modern movement in Guatemala. Arturo did not even think he would get to talk to Kip. Soon the highly respected leader in one of the most visible denominations in Los Angeles was studying the Bible with Kip; Jolie was studying with Elena, and they were baptized as true disciples of Jesus Christ in December, 1992. In the spring of this year, the Gandaras' ministry in the East and Latin Region led the L.A. Church of Christ's incredible growth. After training for the summer in Miami under Phil and Donna Lamb, World Sector



*Top: The Guatemala Mission Team
Bottom: Arturo & Jolie Gandara with John Porter, evangelist for the Central Florida Church of Christ*

Leaders for Central and South America, the Gandaras took their team of 11 to Guatemala in September. Less than one week later on September 11, Arturo and Jolie saw how God

turned that one phone call into a first service attendance of 404 at our first church planting in Guatemala.

On September 18 the entire church celebrated their first four baptisms. Jolie rejoices, "I am so excited about Roxanna. She had a very prestigious job traveling the world. Yet when she heard Jesus' call to be a disciple, she "left her nets" and followed Jesus, leaving her job because she could

not grow as a Christian without building strong relationships in the body of Christ." The Gandaras are praising God for the privilege of being used by God to change the course of the world one person at a time. All this is evidence of the power of one phone call.

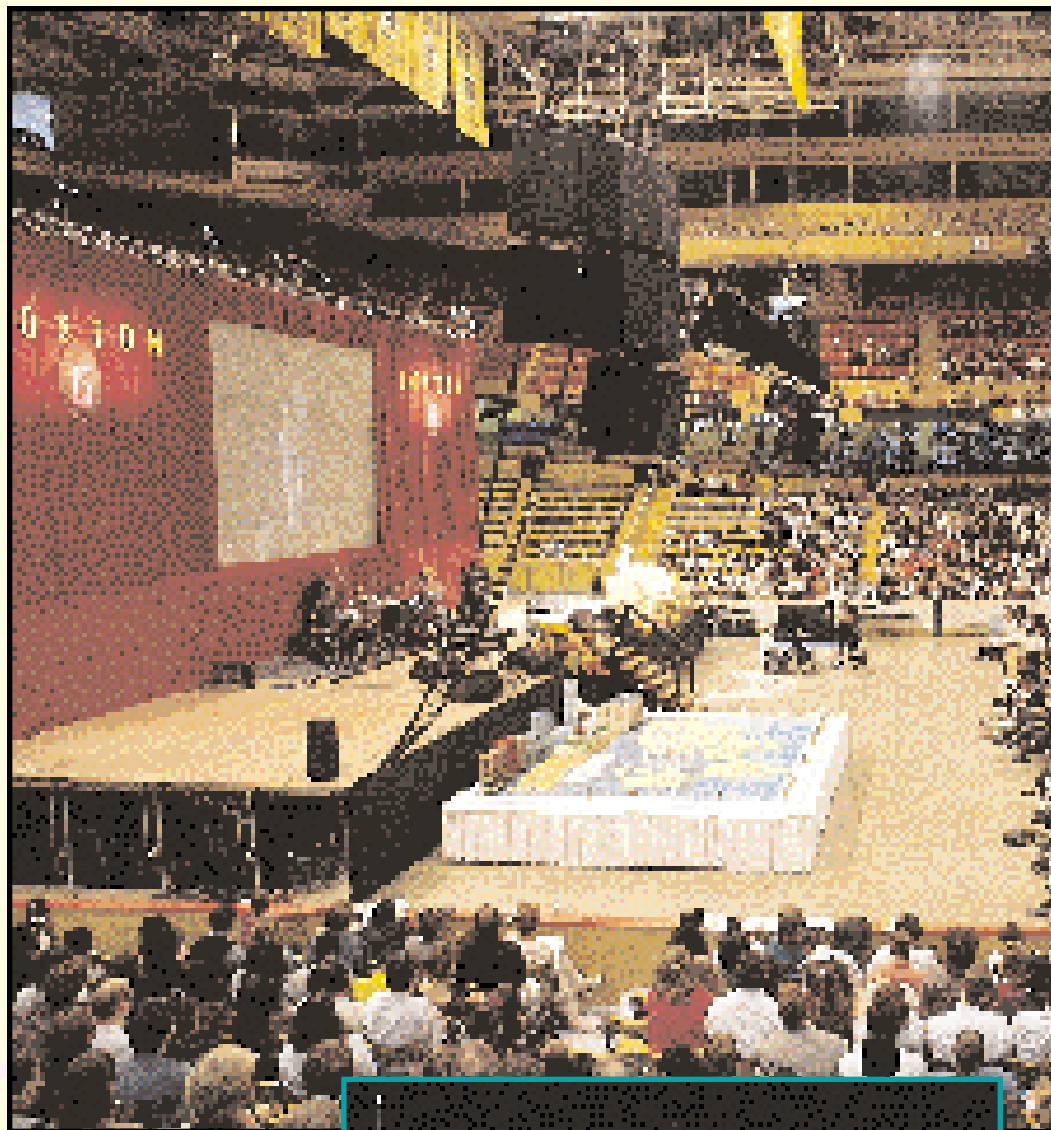
THE SHOT HEARD AROUND THE WORLD

The 15th Anniversary of the Boston Church of Christ

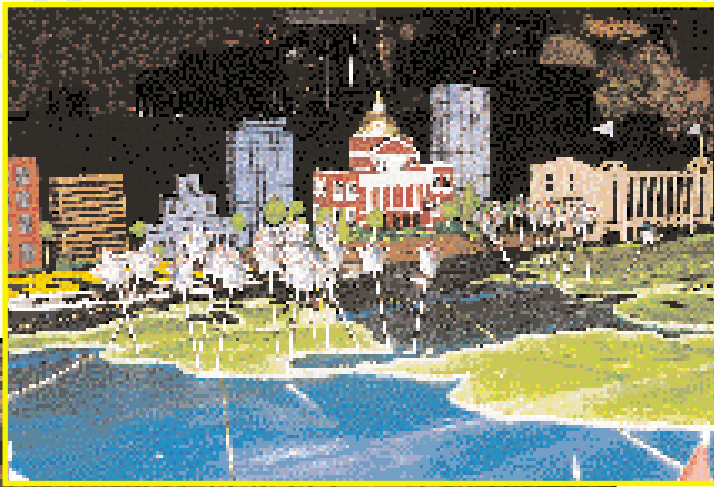
In 1775 the “shot heard ‘round the world” was fired in Lexington, Massachusetts, beginning the famed American Revolution. In 1979, in the heart of tradition and skepticism, Lexington was again the birthplace of a revolution—a spiritual revolution—God’s modern-day movement that is spreading to every nation in one generation.

The Boston church began with the distinctive conviction that every member must be a disciple of Jesus Christ because true Christians are disciples. The message through the years has been simple, yet radical, to a biblically illiterate world: to love God, to love one another, to love the poor and to love the lost. God has multiplied that small group of 30 in the past 15 years to become 173 churches in 65 nations with nearly 90,000 worshipping God on any given Sunday and someone being baptized about every 25 minutes somewhere around the world.

We are thankful to God for those heroes in the faith—men and women whom God has used powerfully and effectively through the years to dream, build and shape this church and his entire modern-day, worldwide movement. We will always love, respect and admire Kip and Elena McKean whom God used to begin and lead this spiritual revolution, as well as Bob and Pat Gempel, Doug and Joyce Arthur, Steve and Lisa Johnson, and Al and Gloria Baird. We all owe these people a debt of love and gratitude. We all owe God our pledge to finish the task. The Boston Church is committed to taking it higher in our love for God, each other, the poor and the lost. At our anniversary service, over 8000 worshipped God together in the Boston Garden—our largest attendance ever! Though we are the largest single congregation of any kind to have existed in New England, we will not rest until every soul has heard the message of Jesus. To God be the glory.



Clockwise left to right: Sunday assembly of 8,000 in the Boston Gardens; Giant celebration cake pictures Boston landmarks and world expansion; Crowd joins the celebration; Part of the 30 original disciples in Lexington; A highlight of the day—one of many baptisms; Randy McKean speaking—accompanied by (L to R) Joyce Arthur, Kip & Elena McKean, Al Baird, Kay McKean, and Bob Gempel.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF: THE BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST



BOSTON BENCHMARKS THE BOSTON CHURCH OF CHRIST...

- Averages over 5,000 attendance on Sundays in a metropolitan area of 4 million.
- Has planted 38 churches in its 15 year existence.
- Is responsible for the first plantings in 23 nations.
- Is responsible for the first plantings in 15 states and Washington D.C.
- Remains the largest single congregation in the history of New England.
- Has grown 10 churches and 900 new disciples in 7 different languages in 7 new countries in Europe in the last 4 years.
- Will plant a church in Warsaw, Poland in October.

CHURCHES MULTIPLYING CHURCHES

Unique to the International Churches of Christ is our long history of entire churches multiplying themselves by planting other churches around the globe. One of the best examples of this is the first "fifth-generation" church planting in Fiji.

Boston ⇄ London ⇄ Sydney ⇄ Auckland ⇄ Fiji

Beginning with one church in Boston in 1979, the International Churches of Christ are now 173 churches in 65 nations with a Sunday attendance of nearly 90,000.

La Mision

FESTIVAL OF THE AMERICAS

CONTRIBUTORS: BRUCE WILLIAMS,
JOE RODRIGUEZ, GLORIA RODRIGUEZ
AND WILLIE FLORES

"DECLARE HIS
GLORY AMONG
THE NATIONS,
HIS MARVELOUS DEEDS
AMONG ALL PEOPLES."
—PSALM 96:3

Over 1400 Latins met in Los Angeles September 2-4 for the second annual *Festival de las Americas*. Disciples from all over North America gathered to encourage and challenge Latins to rise up and carry out the task of evangelizing the world in our generation. Appropriately, the conference theme was "THE MISSION." Kip McKean opened the conference with a stirring speech, citing the statistic that, given the current trend, in the year 2010 the United States will be home to more Latins than any other country in the world. He charged the *Festival* participants to meet the challenge of leadership, and to raise up more young leaders. Later, the Spanish version of KNN, Kingdom News Network was shown featuring Elena Garcia McKean and Guillermo Huesca as the anchors.

Particularly impressive were the powerful young men leaders from the Los Angeles Church who served as "Master of Ceremonies" to open each day's activities, such as Abel Aguilar for Friday night, Guillermo Huesca for Saturday, and Ralph Lua for Sunday morning. In addition, God has blessed the church with inspirational disciples such as Sal Velasco, Lilly Sacedo, Yolanda Michel and Perla Cabeza de Vaca, who taught the Word of God and shared their testimonies. Forceful leaders spoke such as Phil Lamb, World Sector Leader for Central and South America, Peter Garcia, Guillermo Adame, Geographic Sector Leaders for Central America and the Southwest U.S. respectively, and the Regional Leader for L.A.'s East and Latin Region, Willie Flores.

The Women's program was equally inspiring. It was wonderful to have such heroines of the faith as Elena Garcia-McKean, Worldwide Women's Missions Leader, Donna Lamb, Women's World Sector Leader for Central and South America, and Carmen Bentley and Gloria Rodriguez, elders' wives in San Diego and L.A. preach the Word and share their lives. They challenged the sisters, speaking on God's power to change, making women bold and putting to death fear and faithlessness.

Disciples also provided entertainment which included colorful *ballets folkloricos*, local rock and roll bands, such as "Azteca"; Angelica Robles created and orchestrated an outstanding fashion show. On Saturday, all the disciples celebrated at Magic Mountain, culminating with a talent show that night attended by over 3,000 people from the community who were publicly and individually invited to come to church.

The L.A. church is home to almost 1000 Latino disciples, and another eighteen congregations outside Los Angeles sent over 530 disciples to the festival. Two years ago, the first festival, held in Miami, had 350 disciples attend. This year, God nearly quadrupled that number! Every Latin Christian is looking forward to August, 1995, when the third *Festival de las Americas* will be celebrated in Mexico City in conjunction with the World Leadership Conference. The lives of many Latin disciples were touched and changed forever as they were again brought face-to-face with "THE MISSION!"



Pictured above: Joe Rodriguez
Middle bottom: Machete Dance



Pictured above: Playing Soccer, Top middle:
A Festival Tradition—a marriage proposal!

HOPE NEWS WORLDWIDE



BY BOB AND PAT GEMPEL

HOPE COMES TO PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Physicians Graham and Helen Ogle had it all—a thriving medical practice in Sydney, Australia, and rich, rewarding lives as disciples in the Sydney Church of Christ. Still, they were touched by the plight of the poor in Papua New Guinea (or PNG for short). Almost a year ago, convinced God could use them to serve the poor in PNG, they gave up everything they had to relocate there.

PNG is a forbidding place. It occupies the eastern half of an island just north of Australia. The Highlands of this country are so remote and inaccessible that until quite recently they were thought to be uninhabited. In fact a famous documentary filmed in the 1930's called *First Contact*, records the extraordinary experience of a primitive people's first encounter with western civilization.

Not only were these Highlanders isolated from the west, they were isolated from one another. Of the approximately 700 distinct languages in the world, about 400 are found in New Guinea. This isolation was fostered not only by the terrain but also by a culture of suspicion and mistrust where over the cen-



tures tribes settled their differences through intimidation and warfare. Port Moresby, the capital city, is a melting pot of migrants from the Highlands seeking a better life, but culturally bringing with them their predisposition of violence and crime. By day the city is a fortress

of high walls topped by barbed wire. At dusk almost all activity ceases as people retreat to the relative safety of their homes. In PNG, a security guard has the greatest job security!

In this potentially dangerous setting, Graham Ogle provides medical services in a Government Urban Clinic in Kila Kila, a shanty town of some 14,000 inhabitants near the city. Plans are well under way to establish a Mobile Clinic at a settlement farther away. This will be a joint project between HOPE PNG and two government bodies: the PNG Department of Health and the National Capital District Commission. The Department of Health not only provides the trailer, but they have also agreed to provide a nurse and two community health workers. The people of Papua New Guinea are desperate for the love and compassion of Jesus Christ—desperate for HOPE.

“WHOEVER IS
KIND TO
THE POOR
HONORS GOD...”
—PROVERBS 14:31

“DO NOT
CONFORM
ANY LONGER TO THE
PATTERN OF THIS
WORLD...”

—ROMANS 12:2

BREAKING AWAY *Singles Day at Calamigos Ranch*

BY JESS ASPER

Today in the United States, nearly half of all adults are single. Magazines and television programs frequently focus on ways for singles to meet and socialize; the choices run from disappointing to grim, and even pathetic. Singles everywhere lament the lack of opportunity to make lasting friends, and find the ideal spouse.

Not true in the Los Angeles Church of Christ, currently home to more than 1200 single disciples. A church of this size would be among the 25 largest congregations in our fellowship worldwide! On Labor Day at Calamigos Ranch, zealous single men and women of all ages fellowshiped and played various sports, most notably an exciting game of “amoeba tag.” Great food, followed by a talent show, made the event complete.

The greater Los Angeles area covers a staggering 470 square miles. Many of our Christians met new friends and possibly even future mates as they exchanged addresses and talked over dinner. Impressed by the conduct of the disciples, the Calamigos staff members noted a striking difference from other groups that attend. The manager of the ranch even wanted to attend the church because of the example of our singles. Praise God for the opportunity to “break away” from the pattern of the world!

L.A. Church of Christ Directory

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Kip McKean

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