

The Christian University of the Americas

Preparing a New Generation

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Guided by the Word of God, the Universidad Cristiana de las Américas exists to prepare Christian men and women of Christ-like character for service in both ministry and professional fields.

<http://www.ucla-mexico.org/en/>

UCLA Magazine

A Global Perspective, Interview with Faculty Member Gary Queen

I first met Gary and his wife Judy at a concert of Sacred Music during my visit to UCLA. He just happened to sit beside me and went out of his way to explain the songs as they were all in Spanish of which I speak none. I came away very appreciative of his effort (and blessed to sit where I did). Given

the opportunity later I had the chance to ask Gary some questions and try and gain some insight on his South American background. Gary has served in

ministry positions in Peru, Venezuela, Mexico, Argentina, Chile,

Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Panama, Curacao and Uruguay.

With that extensive missions background I asked him how he

got started there: "I was saved at the age of 12 in a small Baptist Church in my home town of Independence, Missouri. The pastor of that church was very "mission-minded", and as a result, from my early Christian days I was exposed quite frequently to missionaries and mission fields. It was at a youth camp when I was around 15 years old that God began to "prick" my heart

about fully surrendering my life to "full-time" ministry.

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Theology Takes Flight with Faculty Member Jonathan Latham

Talking to Jonathan you quickly learn a few things about him, his passion for missions, love of teaching theology, and aviation ministry. Mixing those talents together with a dedicated life call from God you would just begin to get a good peak at his life.

Jonathan was born in Africa to his missionary parents, but they moved back to the states before

his formative years which he spent in Toledo Ohio. Yet somehow that call to Africa was maintained in his spirit. I asked Jonathan when you felt like you had a call on your life to work as a pastor/teacher/missionary. Jonathan said "I always had a burden to missions; at end of high school I had different scholarships opportunities, and strongly considered a career in the Air Force." Just following the next logical step

he decided on attending Bob Jones University with a career in Mission Aviation.

I asked Jonathan how he met his wife Wendy, "When I attended Bob Jones which my sister was also attending she had a roommate Wendy, when my sister left Wendy remained." Talk about a setup.

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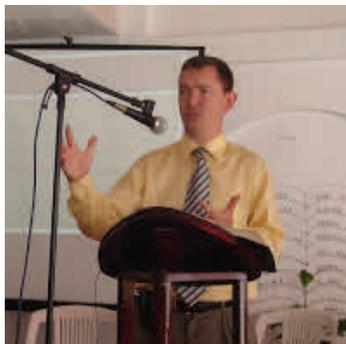
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 University is fulfilling
 the "Great
 Commission" by
 teaching and training
 Hispanic Christian
 students to reach the
 Hispanic World with
 the gospel of Jesus
 Christ.*

Theology Takes Flight with Jonathan Latham (Continued)

Deciding on where to start their mission work, Jonathon still felt that call to Africa. Considering Wendy's ability to speak Spanish, they decided on the only country in Africa that spoke Spanish, that being Equatorial Guinea. This also began his work with remote missions where they lived with no running water, and no electricity. They built a school with logs from the jungle, and bricks from the mud in the backyard. No easy duty for this young couple. After the birth of their daughter they decided for health reasons to consider a change in mission fields.

Jonathan's friend A.J. was on staff at UCLA at the time and asked him to join the team. Knowing that UCLA provides all the training and resources that so many missionaries desperately need, Jonathan quickly saw the value in the teaching mission at UCLA.

Knowing that Jonathan teaches Theology I ask him what his favorite book of the bible is; "my favorite book of the bible is what I happened to be teaching at the time, I love the Penta-



teuch (first 5 books of the bible) Hebrews, so many books I can't pick just one, they all have such depth."

Taking that Theology on the road (or by air should I say), Jonathan has a special gift of flying airplanes which allows him to teach in areas normally inaccessible to UCLA faculty. With a recent upgrade to a Cessna 210 Turbo he can take off Thursday morning, provide 16 hours of teaching to bible institutes anywhere in Mexico and be home on Saturday. By car that would take up to 30 hours of just driving.

Beyond teaching, missions work and flying, Jonathan is also a pastor to a church plant. Recently the church just celebrated their 4th anniversary. Three young men in the church also serve as co-pastors. This is certainly a win-win situation for both UCLA and the nearby com-

munity. The opportunity to get involved in practical work experience, start bible clubs and work in surrounding neighborhoods allow UCLA students to serve the cause of Christ in the local community.

Jonathan still has a passion for remote missions, and his students work in remote tribes in southern Mexico. They walk from village to village, often spending 2 or 3 days with each pastor. Life in these remote villages are very old west style with Indians leading very simple life's grow food and just getting by.

Speaking about his work on the leadership team at UCLA Jonathan states "the team here works really well together, and it is a privilege to be on this team." Much like the Navy Blue Angels we can talk about what went right, what could be changed or

Jonathan Latham continued

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improved. It's a very positive feeling of work in partnership.

UCLA at its core is led by Pastor Julio Montes and the local Genezareth Baptist Church. The university has long been led by its founder Dr. Carl Herbster, but is now transitioning to the leadership team Jonathan is a part of and headed by Pastor Julio. If you have the opportunity to meet this team, and attend any service at Genezreth Baptist Church you can't help but come away with a lifted spirit knowing that God is at work among these men.

Be it teaching, preaching, remote missions, or playing in the UCLA orchestra, one thing you can count on is that Jonathan is at his post serving the cause of Christ in Mexico and beyond.

To follow along with his journeys, you can read the latest update at: <http://jonathanlatham.blogspot.com/>

Project NU-GEN

This past Spring we celebrated the 15th Anniversary of the UCLA. It was a special blessing to be able to be at the university and to see and hear how the Lord has worked in the lives of so many since the beginning of UCLA in 1998. We began by faith with 18 students and now we have an enrollment that is around 200 students. Through the years UCLA has trained and sent out countless graduates who are now in the ministry pastoring, being mission-



aries Christians teachers, musicians, and businessmen all over Mexico. How we praise the Lord for his goodness to the University and His provision for these fifteen years!!!

As you understand, with many Christian Universities, they are financed by the tuition, room and board charges to the students, Christian foundations, alumni, churches, and donations from many.

We have started a donation program call NU-GEN (New Generation of students) which gives you the opportunity to invest and donate to UCLA. It is a commitment of \$25.00 a month for a year for the University. You are not limited to \$25.00, or a year, but we are asking that if you consider this that you do it for a year.

All of the money will be used for the general fund of UCLA. I am attaching a list of projects that we have for UCLA. This money will be used for projects on this list.

Some of you have already started this program and I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your investment in an Institution that is training and equipping Hispanic young people for the

ministry.

Here are the two ways that you may give:

1. You may send at check made out to Oremundo Ministries, (please put NU-GEN on the memo line of the check and mail it to)

Oremundo Ministries

UCLA

4301 N Shary Road

Palmhurst, TX 78573

2. You may donate on line:

Go to www.ucla-mexico.org

Once you open this page click on the left side column where it says English. Go to the English website and you will see a donate tab. Just click this and follow the directions.

We believe in the verbal plenary inspiration of the Holy Bible. The 66 books comprising the Old and New Testament canon were inerrant in the original writings and thus constitute the believer's final authority for faith and practice (2 Timothy 3:16-17).

It was during my final year at Bible College that God clearly impressed upon me to go to Peru as a missionary." Gary and Judy stayed as missionaries in Lima Peru for 25 years.

After his service in Peru, Gary and Judy partner up with their oldest daughter and her family who had started a new ministry in Venezuela. His son-in-law, Matt Sanders had asked him to join them to help get a Bible Institute started to prepare future pastors, missionaries and lay workers.

Speaking of Judy, I ask Gary how they met, "at Baptist Bible College in Springfield, Missouri during the early to middle 60's. We were classmates and both graduated in 1965. We were married that same year in the month of August. God has blessed our marriage with two daughters, (now two sons-in-law) and 8 grandchildren. I am so thankful for a wife that has been more than willing to follow the Lord's leadership in my life to now three different Latin American countries. She is such a wonderful "helpmeet" and I am so blessed to have her on my team."

Asking Gary what subjects he specifically teaches, he stated "I teach a number of courses here at the University, such as Personal Evangelism, Introduction to Counseling, Study on Prayer, How to Study the Bible, Basic Bible Doctrines, Christian Ethics, Pastoral Ethics, Pastoral Ministry, Church Planting, and Marks of a Strong Church. Of course, I don't teach all of these courses all of the time, but they are some of the courses I have taught and am now presently teaching." With just my limited time meeting with Gary I have more than a suspicion that he is a very popular teacher. Not just anyone can teach Prayer, Counseling and Pastoral Ministry, but I can quickly see how Gary has the heart and ability to do just that.

With his background in Venezuela I ask him about the new leadership there now that the former president Victor Chavez has passed away. Gary stated "it shows me that the situation in Venezuela isn't going to change much, at least for the moment. The man who was elected to succeed Chavez (Nicolas Maduro) is not a well-educated man, doesn't have the charisma that Chavez had and, to be point blank - he isn't Chavez.

He will struggle along for a while, but sooner, probably, than later, his popularity will drastically decline and there will be serious political and social problems as a result."

Asking Gary what makes UCLA unique he responded, "I suppose the unique thing about UCLA is their emphasis on superior scholastic achievement and preparation for the future of the students. We are proud (in the correct sense and use of the word) to mention that many of our graduates are now in very good positions in their respective career fields. In fact, there are companies that go to UCLA, asking about the possibility of their graduates applying for employment in their companies." Considering the students in multiple countries that Gary has taught in, I asked what he thought are the biggest differences between students growing up in the different countries you have served. "That is a difficult question to answer because there are so many cultural differences from country to country. I will say that, to some point, there seems to be more of a focus on overall ministry (professionally, sociologically and scholastically) here at UCLA, than I have seen in other places. Until we came to Monterrey, our ministry was more specifically involved with students who were preparing for the "ministry" (pastors and missionaries), more than for a profession in music, law, administration or teaching, so that is very different for us. Having said that, we encourage the students here to be involved in "ministry", regardless of what their profession might be."

With the idea that Gary might have some special insight on what an older couple looking at retirement with an interest in missions may be able to play a role, I asked him what the most important things they should consider: "looking at the different possibilities (different fields), contacting any missionaries they may know there and then inquiring about the different types of "lay" ministries they may be able to be involved with, or in. Some go to work as support in youth camps (kitchen, maintenance, etc.), others go to help teach missionary children either in a private home situation or a Christian school on the field. The other thing that needs to be taken into consideration is to plan to go to the mission field without incurring any undue burden on the missionary



which may hamper their ministry instead of support it. I think what I am trying to say is that they mustn't go thinking they are going to "live off" the missionary. They need to be prepared to rent their own place, have their own furniture, their own vehicle, if feasible, etc. Many of these types of "support staff" are usually on a short-term basis. Each field is different, each missionary family is different, and therefore, much prayer must precede any decision to invest their "golden years" serving in this capacity. We have mentioned all these things without taking into consideration the language barrier."

With life in Monterrey, Mexico I asked Gary what they liked to do for fun; "We always enjoy any activities that would let us spend time with our "adopted" students. My wife and I, at this time, have 5 students from out of town, one of which is from Venezuela and we always enjoy our time with them. For example, this past Sunday we were all together to celebrate the fact that one of them was having a birthday."

Considering their future plans, Gary stated "My wife and I are now 69 and 68, respectively, but as of this time, our only "future" plans are to continue to minister here in Monterrey as our health permits or until the Lord returns. We enjoy the ministry and probably wouldn't be happy doing anything else. We do, of course, miss family and stateside friends but, as some said; "that goes with the territory."

Occasionally you get the opportunity to meet people that just have that depth of character you can't help but want to get to know better. I can definitely say that Gary is just such a person.