ILfl. STORY

# PECTATIONS

L.A. CHURCH OF CHRIST

A Kingdom Pictures Release "GREAT EXPECTATIONS" A KINGDOM NEWS NETWORK PRODUCTION Featuring: Kip & Elena McKean • Dr. Doug & Joanne Webber • Arturo & Jolie Gandara Bruce & Robyn Williams • Marty & Chris Fugua • Cory & Megan Blackwell

PRODUCED AL BAIRD

DIRECTED ROGER LAMB

SCREENPLAY MARYANN ROSE



PRODUCTION EMILY BRINGARDNER

KINGDOM MILESTONES COUNTRIES PLANTED NUMBER OF CHURCHES SUNDAY ATTENDANCE

# FREAT EXPECTATIONS

tarting over is refreshing. A new semester in school, a new job, a new home, a new Bible Talk, a new life in Christ after baptism - a clean start. Here we are in January, 1996. This L.A. Story is both a look back to 1995 and a look ahead at God's great expectations.

As I reflect, it occurs to me that the most special memories I have are centered in relationships. The last sixteen years of my life have been the wildest, most exciting times imaginable. It was May, 1979, that I first got to know Kip McKean. He was only 26 years old at the time and I was 39. He and Elena had no kids; Gloria and I had three daughters. Staci, our oldest, was 15. Kip was a young, fiery preacher (now he's just a fiery preacher) and I had been an Elder in the traditional Church of Christ for several years. My attitude was that I would teach him a few things and he would teach me a few things which I would take back and apply in my church. It took four years to figure out that Kip knew a lot more than I thought he did and that I knew a lot less than I thought I did. Gloria and I finally became a part of the Boston Church of Christ in 1983, and I have been discipled by Kip ever since. Never at any time since we met has he put me down or made me feel other than respected. Our friendship has grown and so has my respect for him. It is clearer than ever that God has raised up Kip and Elena to lead his modern-day Movement.

So many positives can be listed about the McKeans, but the character of the children perhaps says the most about the parents.

They have Olivia, 14, Sean, 13 and Eric, 11. Olivia is a beautiful young Christian woman. She was baptized a year ago in the Pacific Ocean. Last year she was the 3rd-runner-up for the Miss Pre-Teen Pageant of Southern California and was also voted "Most Likely

grade class. Now in the 9th grade, she is the only freshman to be selected as Varsity Cheerleader.

Sean is a 7th grader. Last year he was Student Council President and the all-star point guard on the city basketball team. This year he is the leadership board president at his school. The most exciting thing in Sean's life right now is that he is studying to become a Christian.

Eric, like both Olivia and Sean before him, is Student Council President. Last year he starred on the 7th grade city basketball team as a 4th grader! He, like his brother and sister, makes straight A's.

Eric, Sean and Olivia are all ranked tennis players in Southern California and have won a number of trophies. Eric is ranked 29th in the 12 year olds in Southern California. Olivia plays on her high school Varsity team that just won their league and state championships. She was the number three singles player in her entire league with a record of 19-2.

Gloria and I often stay with the children when Kip and Elena travel, so we get to see what they are really like at home. They are happy, well-rounded, fun-loving, normal but exceptional kids who love and respect their parents immensely. Anyone would be proud to be their parents. The McKeans consider their children their most important disciples, give them quality time and teach them excellence and whole-heartedness in everything they do.

Kip and Elena believe in leading by example. They rent a modest three bedroom home and drive a Honda van. Since they teach personal fruitful-

ness, they nearly always have

visitors with them on Sundays. Through the kids' tennis they have converted three tennis pros in the Sports & Entertainment Sector of the AMS ministry. Last August,

through one of the pros, Kip and the kids met a young South African tennis player and his family and brought



▲ Olivia Garcia-McKean with her tennis coach after her high school team won the California State Championship. Olivia's playoff record was 14-1 as a freshman.

Below: Sean and Eric each won the Junior Open Tennis Tournament in their age divisions.

them to church while at the World Missions Leadership Conference in Johannesburg. Since then, the player and his parents have been baptized. Now the Johannesburg Church has a tennis ministry.

### HOLD EACH OTHER TIGHT

Who would you say was your strongest relationship during the last year? And are you now forming the kind of relationships that will grow deeper over the next 20 years? I challenge you to be that kind of friend to another disciple. Jesus died that we might have great relationships.

On the following pages you will read about some of the outstanding sectors of the L.A. Church, the fastest growing church of any kind in North America. On page seven are some of the great leaders that God has raised up among us. These stories reflect the great God that we serve. The great love that he gives us accomplishes his great purpose that achieves great results producing great joy. Lives have been changed, families have been restored, souls have been saved eternally.

We are in the middle of God's dream realized in our generation: disciples made of all nations. Based on what you have already seen, add the conviction that God routinely does what we cannot even imagine. The L.A. Church has great expectations to meet in the Rose Bowl one day. The Kingdom is rapidly planting churches in every nation with a city over 100,000. What is God's great vision for you in his plan? What are your great expectations? What are God's great expectations for you?

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to Succeed" by her 8th

## GREAT PRAYER GOD GIVES THE INCREASE

"Enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness." Acts 4:29

In June of 1979, God's modern-day movement began when Kip and Elena McKean gathered 30 disciples in the Gempels living room in Boston, Massachusetts. Three years later the Boston Church sent out its first three church plantings to Chicago, London and New York. God has answered those early prayers by multiplying the movement from one church to an incredible 235 churches in all 50 states and in 84 countries in just 16 years.

### INTERNATIONAL CHURCHES OF CHRIST

(THROUGH FALL 1995)

### CHURCHES

- 47 new Churches were planted in 1995 (through November) for a total of 235
- Sunday Attendance:
  - 1 Church at 10,000
  - 33 Churches over 1,000
  - 53 Churches over 500
  - 32% of ICC Churches in North America are over 500 on Sundays compared to only 2% of denominational churches.

### COUNTRIES

**GOAL:** By the year 2000 one church of disciples in every nation with a city over 100,000 population.

- There are now disciples in 84 countries and all 50 states of the US
- 82 countries to go
- New countries planted through November 1995:

Namibia Outer Mongolia Turkmenistan Zaire

Austria Pakistan Burkina Fargo Honduras

Latvia

Georgia

Guyana Ecuador Paraguay Curacao Laos



### L. A. CHURCH OF CHRIST

PLANTED BY THE BOSTON CHURCH IN 1989

### **GOALS FOR L.A.:**

- •Over 10,000 regularly early in 1996
- 12,000 Sunday attendance (Largest attendance of any church in L.A.)
- 18,000 Sunday attendance (Largest attendance of any church in North America)
- Shepherding the flock to help disciples grow and mature
- All disciples involved in helping the needy

### 1995 FIRSTS:

- Fastest growing church of any kind in North America
- 10,000 average attendance for one month
- \$187,000 per week average contribution
- Special Missions Contribution over \$3 million
- First AMS Seminar / Lawyers' Forum / Great Physicians' Conference

### 1996 SEMINARS:

AMS & KNN

April

Great Physicians

October

Attorneys & Administrators

October

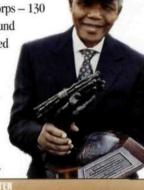
World Missions
 Leadership Conference

November

### HOPE worldwide

- God has worked through Bob and Pat Gempel to grow HOPE in just six years from 3 fledgling efforts to over 80 projects around the world.
- Dr. Mark Ottenweller, Director of HOPE for Africa, was featured as the ABC Nightly News "Person of the Week" on International AIDS Day.
- HOPE for Kids received a prestigious award from JOHNSON & JOHNSON.
- The Village of HOPE opened its doors to 400 families of leprosy patients in India.
- The first annual HOPE Unity Award was presented by the Gempels and Kip McKean to President Nelson Mandela at his official residence in South Africa.

HOPE Youth Corps – 130 teens from around the world joined 40 teens in Johannesburg, South Africa, to work with AIDS babies and plant gardens in Soweto.





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# GREAT GROWTH SOUTHLAND SUPER REGION Bruce & Robyn Williams, Leaders

### AMS REGION

### **A&E DISTRICT**

od is turning Hollywood upside down. For 1995, the Arts Media Sports ministry was one of the leading regions in the L.A. Church in growth, retention and contribution.

The newest ministry was the Arts and Entertainment District led by AMS Geographic Sector Leaders David and Coleen Graham and ably assisted by Kai and BJ Foster and Chris and Sonja Chloupek. Numerous promising and established talents have become disciples. David Manners, currently an animator for Graz Entertainment which produces the animated series "The Tick" and "X-



▲ Antoinette Corley.





Tammy Woodward. John Woodward pictured with Spike Lee when they both won **Academy Awards for student** filmmakers from the Academy of Motion Picture Arts & Sciences in 1983.

Men," was baptized in May and is now leading a Bible Talk! Those recently baptized include Antoinette Corley, an actress who has appeared on television in "The Young and the Restless" and "Beverly Hills 90210," and John and Tammy Woodward, independent film directors and writers whose films have appeared on HBO, Showtime and The Movie Channel. In the music field, Vic Anderson, an experienced band leader and jazz trombonist now completing his Master's Degree at the University of Southern California, was baptized in June and last fall began to lead a zone!

The other AMS sectors also converted a number of talented professionals in the entertainment industry. The Studio District, led by Kevin and Trae Holland, baptized gifted rapper and songwriter, Sean Holland, who appeared in and had a song released on the sound track of the popular movie, "Clueless." The Media District, led by Jeff and Lane Morrell, baptized songwriter Eraldo Melo and singer Raquel Hitchett who are working on a recording with Motown great Barry Gordy. Terry Davis is the third tennis pro to become a disciple in the Sports and Entertainment District, led by Jess and Cindy Asper.

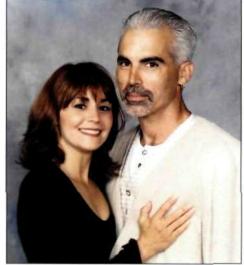
### EAST REGION **GREAT FAMILIES**

new milestone for the L.A. Church has been reached as Steve and Jacqueline Gansert have just been appointed leaders of the East Region. Baptized in the East December 10, 1990, they are the first couple to be baptized and raised up in

> L.A. to lead the region in which they were converted.

Evangelizing the world begins in our own backyard, as demonstrated in the powerful lives and family of the Ganserts. Steve and Jacqueline left a denominational background and encountered persecution from family members. They persevered to see God be victorious as many in their family came to Christ in the last year.

In January, Jacqueline baptized her mother, Jo Ann Brown.



▲ Jacqueline & Steve Gansert.

This moved the hearts of the rest of the family. Motivated by Kip McKean's challenge to the entire L.A. Church in February, the Ganserts prayed and boldly reached out even more in love and faith. Steve's mom, Mary Ann Gansert, was baptized in February. His father, Fred Gansert, and Jacqueline's sister, Jeri Ann Burgess, were baptized on the same day in March. Jeri Ann's husband, Scott, became a disciple a few months later.

Along with Steve Jr., daughter Shaylene, and the newest addition, 16-year-old foster daughter, Lissette Torres (who has already been personally fruitful), Steve and Jacqueline continue to shine as a family brought together by God with his purpose in their hearts.

▼ Gansert Family - Top to bottom, left to right:



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# GREAT HEARTS METRO SUPER REGION Marty & Chris Fuqua, Leaders

### CENTRAL REGION LATIN SECTOR

ost people are still surprised to learn that the majority of the population in the L.A. area is Latin. That fact alone brings obvious reasons to reach out to thousands of Angelinos for whom Spanish is their first language. The tremendous Latin ministry in the East Region of the L.A. Church has inspired numerous other efforts.

"Parts of the Central Region and parts of East L.A. are 60-to-80 percent Latin," said Anthony Galang, lead evangelist for the Central Region. "This is one of the major reasons why our region was chosen to initiate a Latin ministry within our super region. In January of 1995, we started with a bi-lingual zone of 30 members that grew to 70 by August. At that point we saw the need for a Spanish ministry and formed the new sector. The Bible says, 'Faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God.' For people to fully feel the impact of the Gospel, they must hear it in their own language."

"I'm excited about the leadership of Rafael and Griselda Lua and Nora Chavez," Galang said. "All are young in the ministry. Rafael and Nora became disciples in the UCLA campus ministry and Griselda was baptized while attending Occidental College."

Rafael comments, "When studying the Bible with the Latin men and women, the language and cultural barriers can make it hard to determine their specific needs. A Spanish-speaking sector helps many more people grow spiritually and quickly as they deepen their knowledge and love of the Bible."

Today, this sector has more than 200 people attending its Sunday services. "My expectation is for us to double in 1996," said Lua. "Obviously, with God we can."

Meanwhile, the Latin ministry is providing a wellspring of opportunity for young, aggressive Latin disciples to take on leadership roles. Nora said the people of the sector inspire her to lead. "I am excited by their hearts and love for God."

### NORTH REGION

### **DEAF MINISTRY**

In 1995 disciples from Chicago, Washington D.C., San Francisco and Orange County joined Los Angeles disciples in the San Fernando Valley to create the Kingdom's first "Deaf Mission Team." Fifteen deaf men and women and interpreters reached out to the tight-knit deaf community to teach them the Word of God.

"L.A. has the largest deaf population in the United States, but it is a difficult population to reach," said Evangelist Ron Hammer who, with his wife, Cheryl, leads the North Region's South Valley Sector and its Deaf Ministry. "With God's hand at work,

the deaf are hearing the word of God," he says. "The magnitude and focus of our ministry give us credibility with the deaf."

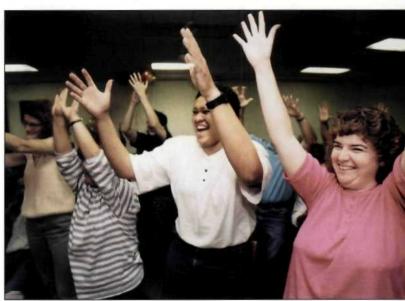
"Learning how to make disciples with other brothers and sisters has been great," said mission team member Ellen Holbert, through interpreter Helen Hayter. "For a long time I wasn't effective, but now I am. We have been able to baptize many people and, of course, that

has had an impact on the deaf community." This spring the ministry will celebrate its first marriage between two deaf disciples.

Ron and Cheryl Hammer have set faith goals for this ministry that now numbers 30 disciples. "The largest U.S. congregation of the deaf I know about is 120. On many Sundays, we have had 60 people in attendance. Our goal is to have the largest deaf congregation in the world," says Ron.



▲ Ron & Cheryl Hammer lead the South Valley Sector and the exciting deaf ministry.



▲ The deaf ministry sings out.

### RAPID GROWTH SPURS NORTH REGION FACILITY

Due to consistent growth, the North Region outgrew all rental facilities in its area in 1995 and broke ground on a build-to-suit, 32,000 squarefoot leased facility that will allow 1,500 disciples to worship together. Completion is expected in March, 1996.

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### GREAT CHANGE TRI-COUNTY SUPER REGION Cory & Megan Blackwell, Leaders



▲ Jeff & Mary Wadstrom, Long Beach.

### SOUTH REGION LONG BEACH SECTOR

"Religion that God our Father accepts as pure and faultless is this: to look after orphans and widows in their distress...." James 1:27

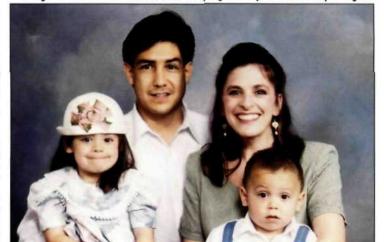
n 1995, this Scripture moved Jeff Wadstrom, South Region Leader, to reach out to meet the needs of his community. He was dismayed to find that gangs are magnets for society's forgotten children — young boys and girls from broken homes, many of whom don't even know their fathers. In his search to help, Jeff found the Washington Youth Center, a program for kids convicted of felonies but too young to serve time. When Jeff volunteered himself and some disciples to help, Center Director James Porter replied, shocked: "No one has ever come to me to offer their services before."

Every Saturday since that day in May, a group of ethnically diverse campus students from the Long Beach Sector has joined the Washington Center's "Attitude Crew." They meet with 40 troubled boys and girls ranging in age from nine to nineteen from all ethnic and economic backgrounds. The "Crew" tutors school subjects, coaches for college preparatory exams and helps write resumes. Some of the kids, upon completing their community service, actually request to stay with the program. The courts have been so pleased with the changes they've seen in the kids, they have suggested that many more kids in the probation department spend time with the "Attitude Crew." The church's success has also impressed city leaders who praise the disciples for being on the "cutting edge" of gang prevention in Long Beach.

Tyrone Byrd, who leads the campus ministry, has been key in the hands-on work of the program. Tyrone and Jeff have been asked to be members of one of Long Beach's gang-prevention advisory boards. The local television station is even doing a feature about the Church's work with this program. James Porter and another city worker recently visited the worship services and presented the Church with a "Certificate of Appreciation" for the work being done with the "Attitude Crew."

The "Attitude Crew" has opened doors for the Gospel within the leaders of the community. This month at the request of local businessmen and women, Jeff begins a bi-weekly Community Leadership devotional. Leaders of a campus organization at a local university have asked their disciples' campus group to begin a Leadership Forum for leaders of organizations and clubs on campus; teaching leadership principles based on the Bible.

▼ Randy & Donna Haragan with kids Brena & Riley. The San Diego Church sent the Haragans to the L.A. Church to lead the Palm Springs ministry in the Inland Empire Region.



### **INLAND EMPIRE REGION**

### SAN BERNARDINO SECTOR

Psalm 107:35-36 "He turned the desert into pools of water and the parched ground into flowing springs; there he brought the hungry to live, and they founded a city where they could settle. They sold fields and planted vineyards that yielded a fruitful harvest; he blessed them, and their numbers greatly increased."

he Inland Empire has seen God's mighty hand bring great fruit and great change in 1995. God brought Marvin and Sharisse Lucas to lead the thirsting San Bernardino ministry in November of 1994. They were converted in the L.A. Arts Media Sports ministry and had been leading the Church in Houston, Texas. Since their arrival, the faith of the disciples has grown tremendously and the hungry are being fed physically as well as spiritually. Recently the Mayor of San Bernardino gave an Outstanding Community Service Award to this sector for their tireless work in feeding the homeless every weekend. This great compassion has fueled the dynamic growth of the disciples as they have doubled to nearly 200 in one year.

God then put it on the heart of the San Bernardino disciples to send out the Victorville planting led by John and Karen Unzueta, also converted in the AMS. Beginning with 17 members last March, the Victorville ministry has now exploded to 55 disciples! Truly God is bringing

> living water to thirsty hearts in the desert.

> The Lucases have now been asked to serve as Region Leaders in the great Boston Church and to train as future Super Region Leaders there. The new leaders of the Inland Empire and the San Bernadino Sector are Arturo and Jolie Gandara. 
>
> (See page 7.)

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### GREAT LEADERSHIP

### DR. DOUG & JOANNE WEBBER

r. Doug and Joanne Webber have recently been appointed as Geographic HOPE Leaders to work in conjunction with the Los Angeles Church of Christ. In addition, they will be leading the HOPE Medical Seminar in Los Angeles, October 4, 5 and 6 of 1996. They will also be training to assume the leadership of HOPE for Kids Immunization Project during 1996 and will become the National Directors of this USA effort by year's end.

Doug and Joanne met in college. Doug attended MIT and Joanne attended Wellesley College. After graduation, Doug pursued a medical degree from Yale University School of Medicine. Joanne pursued an MBA from Columbia University School of Business. Upon completion of their graduate study, Joanne began work as an Advisory Systems Specialist for IBM and Doug obtained his post-graduate training in internal medicine at Boston City Hospital.

The Webbers were married in 1982. In 1989, they left their secular jobs, Doug at the Harvard Community Health Plan and Joanne at IBM, and entered the full-time ministry in the Boston Church of Christ where they served as Super Region Leaders. They were also on the Board of Directors for HOPE New England, which has been highly successful in developing programs to help meet needs of the poor in the Boston area. Doug was also the

**▼** Doug and Joanne Webber, new L.A. Geographic HOPE Leaders.



co-founder of the Physically Challenged ministry in the Boston Church.

The Webbers have been married for 13 years and have three children, Tiffany (11), Matthew (8) and Cameron (4). They are moving to South Central Los Angeles where they will be a great addition to that dynamic ministry.

Brenda Robinson has done an exceptional job establishing HOPE for Kids in L.A. this past year. She will sit for the February California Bar Exam and has accepted a position as assistant to Keith Rose, Chief Financial Officer for the Los Angeles Church.

At a ceremony in New York, the Johnson & Johnson Company recently gave their highest award to HOPE for Kids in recognition of their outstanding achievements in the drive to immunize all American children. A \$50,000 grant and a crystal award accompanied the honor presented to Bud and Kitty Chiles, Directors. Also attending were Governor Lawton Chiles of Florida and former Mayor David Dinkins of New York.

### ARTURO & JOLIE GANDARA

nly three years ago, Arturo Gandara called Kip McKean requesting an interview for a paper he was writing in a church growth class at Fuller Theological Seminary. Arturo was an evangelist for one of the most famous evangelical churches in the world and was being groomed to take over their international Spanish television broadcast. Kip and Elena studied the Bible with Arturo and Jolie who soon came to realize that although they were religious leaders in high-powered positions, they were not true disciples of Jesus Christ. Following

their baptisms, the Gandaras were leading a region in a very short time. In 1994 they were appointed Evangelist and Women's Ministry Leader and sent to Guatemala to plant the Church which grew rapidly.

Last fall the Gandaras returned to L.A. to lead the East Region. Now Arturo and Jolie have been asked to lead the Inland Empire Region of the L.A. Church.



### MARVIN & SHARISSE LUCAS

onverted in the AMS Region of the L.A. Church, Marvin and Sharisse Lucas have been faithful servants willing to tackle any challenge God has given them. This former boxer and professional model were disciples for only a short time when God called them into the full-time ministry. Sent to be interns in the Church in Houston, Texas, they became the leaders of that rapidly growing Church.

In November of 1994, the Lucases returned to L.A. to lead the San Bernardino sector and then the Inland Empire Region. That region has grown incredibly. Marvin and Sharisse are on the move again. This time they have moved to serve in the great Boston church to train to become Super Region

Leaders. The Boston church, led by World Sector Leaders Randy and Kay McKean, averages over 6,000 in Sunday attendance and is the largest church of any kind to ever exist in New England.



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### L.fl. (HURCH OF CHR

### Elders & Teachers

Dr. Albert W. Baird David Graham Dr. Gregory Metten Bruce Williams Dr. Martin Wooten

### Lead Evangelist

Kip McKean

### Super Region Leaders

Cory Blackwell Marty Fuqua Bruce Williams

### Leader of Women's Ministry

Elena Garcia-McKean

### Women's Ministry Leaders

Gloria Baird Megan Blackwell Chris Fuqua Coleen Graham Robyn Williams

### Congregational Deacons & Deaconesses

John & Emily Bringardner Marvin & Lillian Jones Tom & Etta McCurry Keith & Maryann Rose John & Frances Thorne Cecil & Helen Wooten

### Missions

Copenhagen, Denmark Moscow, Russia Odessa, Ukraine Helsinki, Finland Novosibirsk, Russia Vladivostok, Russia Stockholm, Sweden St. Petersburg, Russia Tblisi, Georgia Kiev, Ukraine Oslo, Norway Minsk, Belarus Tallinn, Estonia Kharkov, Ukraine Yekaterinburg, Russia Tashkent, Uzbekistan Nizhny-Novgorod, Russia Riga, Latvia Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan Ashkhabad, Turkmenistan

Dr. Albert W. Baird

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(818) 363-7464 (818) 407-1979 Mike Hammer..... Deaf Ministry TDD (Ron Hammer)

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Dominguez Hills Sector	
Doug & Angella Wens(310)	515-4882
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Charles & Katrina Waller(213)	291-9755
Administrator	
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SOUTH REGION	

Administrator Brian Beceiro	
SOUTH REGION	
Jeff & Mary Wadstrom	(310) 433-4813
Lakewood Sector	
Don & Jennifer Splitt	(310) 633-4001
Long Beach Sector	
Jeff & Mary Wadstrom	(310) 433-4813
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Jay & Carol Kelly	(310) 373-4739
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