



Keeping My Promise on a 17-Year-Old Commitment

As a young person, I was interested in knowing and serving the Lord. God brought people and events into my life that encouraged that process. It is neat to look back at the markers along the way and see how God has shaped each one of us. I could make a list of the individuals, institutions, conversations, and conferences that He used in my life.



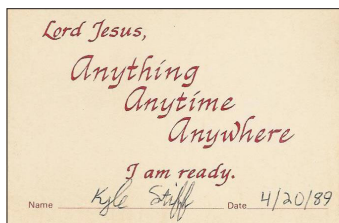
Nice shades! The young version of Kyle in 1989.

Young people all over the world are also excited about knowing and serving the Lord! I believe that He is still using people and events in their lives to encourage their process toward Him. One such event was Latina 2003 in Panama City, at which almost 400 Latin American youth signed a commitment card to serve Christ with their vocations.



Kyle and the youth group from his church at Latina 2003.

Of course it is just a card that they signed, and perhaps many of them don't know where that card is almost three years later. On the other hand, let me share with you a commitment I made 17 years ago that I keep in my office still to this day. It says:



So, some people really do keep those things! My commitment card reminds me of the first time that I communicated to the Lord that I would serve Him no matter what. In life I sometimes come across difficult things that make me want to throw in the towel. Seeing my card every day encourages me to be obedient to what God has put before me to do.

That is why I am a part of the committee for Latina 2006. My prayer is that God brings young people from all over Latin

America who have hearts for Him, and that the conference encourages and motivates them to communicate to the Lord the same thing I did back in 1989.

Latina 2006, an Urbana-style youth conference, will take place in Quito, Ecuador (January 3–7, 2006). We are expecting about 1,200 young people from all over the Spanish-speaking world. The cost for each person who attends is \$160 for the conference, room and board, plus some of the travel expenses. As a part of the committee, I am committed to raise money to subsidize the costs for every attendee (the real cost of the conference, room and board is about \$320, of which we will subsidize half). We are trying to raise \$40,000 by January 2006.

The theme of Latina 2006 is Embrace His Call. In an article published in a bulletin for the conference, the director of Latina, Miguel Angel De Marco wrote: *“Two years ago, when Kyle Stiff, member of our coalition and a representative of OC Guatemala recommended the theme ‘Embrace His Call’ it occurred to me: This is exactly what we need to do with every new generation. We need to encourage them to take the next step and respond with passion, embracing the call to serve the Lord. We have so many praise and worship concerts and evangelistic campaigns, yet we need to take the next step to embrace our call to service in God’s Kingdom.”*

Would you like to join us as we encourage this next generation? Please pray for Latina 2006 and the participants whom God has already chosen. For many, it will be a miracle to even arrive in Quito, Ecuador. Economic resources are always a hurdle here in Latin America. I am looking for people who would like to help subsidize the costs for this conference. If you are one of those people, you can make a special donation! You can use the response card enclosed and send a check to OC, specified for Latina 2006. As always, I am so thankful for you as you journey with me in this ministry!

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