

CONNECTION

chi alpha

VOLUME 7 ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2014



4-5
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This timeline gives some insight into E. Scott Martin's history as well as Chi Alpha's.

6-7
P
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We sit down with E. Scott Martin in an exclusive interview about him and his new role.

New NATIONAL DIRECTOR'S PAST LEADS CHI ALPHA INTO THE *Future*

BY MELANIE LYNCH

AFTER A YEAR OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS, INTERVIEWS AND PRAYER, E. SCOTT MARTIN WAS APPOINTED TO BE CHI ALPHA'S SEVENTH NATIONAL DIRECTOR IN ITS 60-YEAR HISTORY.

"I assume this role with a posture of humility and gratefulness," Scott says after officially becoming appointed to the position. "I feel a tremendous sense of anticipation of what God is going to unleash through Chi Alpha."

Scott possesses deep Chi Alpha roots stemming from his time as a student. He has been a part of Chi Alpha for 32 years, having served in local, district, national and international capacities.

From 1986 to 1996, Scott was the campus pastor of The University of Arizona Chi Alpha, the group he helped pioneer with other students. While a senior, God called him to stay at The University of Arizona as the Chi Alpha campus pastor.

During his first year as campus pastor and at the urging of his district director, Scott went on a missions trip to Argentina. While there, he was enlightened in terms of what missions trips could do for his students. This trip played a huge role in Scott's love of missions.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3 >

Scan to watch
Scott's latest
video blog post.



0:33 / 2:10



CHI ALPHA CONNECTION

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E. Scott Martin

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EDITORIAL

BY RICH BROWN

It has been said, “everything rises or falls on leadership.” It is my privilege to affirm the selection of E. Scott Martin as the new National Director of Chi Alpha. Our relationship goes back to his early days as the campus pastor at The University of Arizona. I met Scott at a District Council and soon found out he was a passionate, missions-minded soul winner with a heart to reach university students with the love of Christ.

I was invited to serve on the Arizona District Chi Alpha Committee, a position I have served in for 26 years, where I observed first hand Scott’s ability to inspire and influence campus pastors to reach the university. He led by example, leading missions trips to difficult places as well as sharing love and life with those who never heard they were valued and loved by God.

We have partnered with Scott prayerfully and financially from those early years. He has spoken two to three times a year to our congregation. Because of that, we feel like we have been a part of his ministry as he came and shared with us what he was seeing Jesus do in Chi Alpha and the world. His selection to serve Chi Alpha as the Student Mission Director was a perfect fit.

When he and Crystal shared their thoughts on “give a year, and pray about a lifetime,” we believed they heard from God and partnered with them in a regional test to validate and confirm. It was a great success and The World Missions Summit was born. What a tremendous God idea that has served students and our fellowship since its inception. Glory to God!

We love the Martins! Crystal, Mercer and Marcus share Scott’s vision and passion for Christ and His Kingdom. We consider them to be dear friends and co-laborers in the Lord. In addition, Scott is a great hunter, fisherman and cattleman; traits I admire.

It is my sincere belief that God has groomed Scott and Crystal to serve together in the national ministry center, as Scott leads Chi Alpha as the newly appointed National Director.

RICH AND CINDY BROWN pastor Cornerstone Christian Center in Avondale, Arizona, a church they pioneered 27 years ago. Rich has served the Arizona District as a Presbyter and Executive Presbyter for 12 years.



“I feel a tremendous sense of anticipation of what God is going to unleash through Chi Alpha.”

— E. Scott Martin



As campus pastor, Scott and his staff presented students with the Gospel and trained them to be effective disciples of Jesus. They also managed an international student ministry and a well-known athletic ministry. In addition, Scott held the role of the Arizona District Chi Alpha Director from 1990 to 1995.

Because of his heart for missions, Scott left The University of Arizona in 1996 to serve the National Chi Alpha Office as the Student Mission Director. As the Student Mission Director, Scott encouraged students to give a year and pray about a lifetime in missions. He and his wife Crystal initiated The World Missions Summit, a conference in partnership with Assemblies of God World Missions. As a result of these conferences, a total of 2,560 students pledged to give a year to missions in the United States and abroad.

The Summit only gave the Martin family a bigger heart for missions, and they spent two years pioneering campus ministry in Central Eurasia. Scott continues to be involved in the area he served overseas.

Scott was the Student Mission Director for 18 years until he began his new role as national director on April 1.

“I am excited about the appointment of Scott Martin as the national director for Chi Alpha,” says Dr. George O. Wood, general superintendent of the Assemblies of God. “Scott brings to the position a demonstrated passion to reach this college generation for Christ. With his wife, Crystal, Scott represents the best in Spirit-led, Spirit-empowered leadership to strengthen and broaden the reach of Chi Alpha into the campuses of America.”

To connect with Chi Alpha missionaries across the country, Scott commits to do a weekly video blog, which began in April,

for at least a year. He got the idea from a fellow Chi Alpha missionary and took the advice to heart.

Furthermore, Scott wants to visit with each affiliated staff member to pray with them, their spouses and children. “I want to make sure that every one of our affiliated staff in Chi Alpha know that they’re appreciated, loved, valued and we’re listening to what they have to say,” he declares.

He plans to establish a guiding coalition that will decide together the national agenda for Chi Alpha. The guiding coalition members will serve on staggered three-year terms and each Chi Alpha Area can nominate one of their own. Likewise, each director in the National Chi Alpha Ministry Center can make nominations.

Scott also wants to create an elders board that will hold the Martin family accountable and be a spiritual covering to them. The members will serve on a rotating basis like the guiding coalition and meet twice a year. The board member selections will not be based on age; rather it will be based on the fruitfulness of the members’ spiritual ministry.

He emphasizes four leadership principles for Chi Alpha: honor, respect, unity and prayer. Scott encourages Chi Alpha missionaries to honor and respect each other, their peers, authorities and subordinates. He wishes for Chi Alpha to be known as a movement of intense prayer and unbreakable unity.

As national director, Scott leads Chi Alpha with 313 chartered groups, 765 affiliated staff and 28,000 involved students.



MELANIE LYNCH is Chi Alpha’s Missionary Product and Resource Specialist.

E. SCOTT MARTIN & CHI ALPHA TIMELINES



1981-1986

As a University of Arizona student, Scott Martin pioneers a Chi Alpha group with other students and is involved through graduation.



1985

Scott responds to an altar call during a SALT conference at Southern California College, December 1985, where God calls him to ministry.

1963

E. Scott Martin is born on February 22.



1953

J. Calvin Holsinger founds the first Chi Alpha group at Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.

1964

First Chi Alpha house opens at the University of California-Berkley.



1972

First SALT (Student Activist Leadership Training) held in Waxahachie, Texas.

1976

First Institute of Campus Missions (ICM) held in Springfield, Missouri.



1977

The "San Antonio Seven" develop Chi Alpha's four-fold philosophy: worship, fellowship, discipleship, and witness.



1964-1965

RUSS COX
Second National Director

1968-1970

JERRY SANDIDGO
Fourth National Director

1963-1964

LEE SHULTZ
First National Director

1965-1967

RICK HOWARD
Third National Director

1970-1978

DAVE GABLE
Fifth National Director

1986

In April, God calls Scott Martin to be the campus pastor at The University of Arizona. He begins as campus pastor in May.



1990-1995

Scott is the Arizona District Chi Alpha Director from May 1990 to April 1995.

1994

Scott and Crystal get married.



1997

Marcus is born.



2007

The Martin family spends two years pioneering campus ministry in Central Eurasia.

2014

Executive Presbytery approves Scott as Chi Alpha's seventh national director on March 25 and he begins his tenure April 1.

1996

Mercer is born.

Scott pioneers the student missions arm of Chi Alpha and begins as Student Mission Director April 23.



1981

International Student Ministry initiative becomes more prominent.



1993

First Student Institute of Campus Ministry (SICM) held at Western Washington University.

New five-fold mission: being a community of worship, fellowship, discipleship, witness, and prayer.

2000

First World SALT held in Los Angeles, California.



2010

Largest gathering of Chi Alpha affiliated staff at CMC in Phoenix, Arizona.



1986

Chi Alpha Campus Ministries Department moves to the Division of Home Missions.

2005

First World Missions Summit held in Louisville, Kentucky.



2014

Record numbers are set:

- 313 chartered groups
- 111 CMITs
- 765 affiliated staff
- 28,000 involved students

1978-2013

DENNIS GAYLOR
Sixth National Director

2014

E. SCOTT MARTIN
Seventh National Director



CURTIS COLE INTERVIEWS E. SCOTT MARTIN

CC: CONGRATULATIONS, SCOTT. WE'RE REALLY GRATEFUL TO THE LORD THAT YOU'VE BEEN AFFIRMED AS THE NEW NATIONAL DIRECTOR FOR CHI ALPHA. SHARE A LITTLE BIT ABOUT YOUR JOURNEY WITH CAMPUS MINISTRY.

ESM: I started on The University of Arizona in 1981 as a student and a "good AG kid." It was Thursday, August 25 in my first class, cell bio 103. The professor asked the question, "How many of you believe in evolution?" and 338 raised their hands. There's 350 students in the class. Then he asked, "How many of you believe that God created the earth?" I did not respond. I counted 11 students. The Lord spoke to me there and said, "Scott, you know, you're a weenie Christian who doesn't have the courage to take a stand for Me." I had a revelation that I didn't have what it took to live for God, to live out my faith outside of just those four walls of the local church and my comfort zone.

We had a local pastor who knew about Chi Alpha and gathered together some of the AG students to ask if we were willing to pioneer it. As a freshman in 1981, I was part of that pioneering group on The University of Arizona.

I was a student for five years there and then spent ten years on The University of Arizona as our campus director. I served as our district director as well.

CC: HOW DID YOU COME TO SPRINGFIELD?

ESM: At The University of Arizona, I began to realize the remarkable potential that Chi Alpha had to fulfill its missions statement. I started challenging our students to give a year and pray about a lifetime even back then when I hadn't coined the phrase yet. The Holy Spirit told me to pioneer this missions movement nationally. So, for the last 17 years, Crystal and I have served as the student mission directors for Chi Alpha.

CC: OUR PREVIOUS NATIONAL DIRECTOR, DENNIS GAYLOR, SERVED CHI ALPHA VERY WELL FOR ALMOST 35 YEARS. WHEN HE RETIRED, YOU CHOSE TO SUBMIT YOUR NAME AS A CANDIDATE FOR THE NATIONAL DIRECTOR POSITION. WHAT SKILLS DO YOU FEEL LIKE YOU BRING TO THE TABLE?

ESM: When Dennis retired, I really sought the Holy Spirit and I felt Him say to go through the process, not that I'd be the next national director, but to just do it.

I've felt like we bring to the table a tremendous sense of credibility with our spiritual leaders in the Assemblies of God at very high levels. I've also felt like even down at the grassroots level, we could still minister and speak to the students. One of the strongest things I've felt like I personally brought is a sense of a prophetic voice and apostolic ministry.

CC: WHAT IS IN THE FUTURE FOR CHI ALPHA?

ESM: I believe Chi Alpha is going to help lead a great awakening that will impact the Church as a whole. I see a wave of our students out in the marketplace deliberately expanding the Kingdom of God. I believe the Lord is preparing us for something supernatural He wants to impart.

CC: THE CHI ALPHA NATIONAL OFFICE IS HEADQUARTERED HERE IN SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI, BUT MORE OFTEN THAN NOT, I'VE HEARD YOU CALL IT "THE NATIONAL CHI ALPHA MINISTRY CENTER." WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY THAT?

ESM: I feel like there's a responsibility for us to model Kingdom ministry to the whole nation. When you come into the National Chi Alpha Ministry Center, we're going to pray for you and speak life over you; we want to send you out feeling better about the call of God on your life than when you came in. We need to change our vernacular and to be more representative of what that entity should be: The National Chi Alpha Ministry Center.

CC: HOW CAN PEOPLE IN THE FIELD REALLY PARTICIPATE WITH THE NATIONAL MINISTRY CENTER?

ESM: I'm going to reverse that question a little bit. Our role is to help serve them. We need to be providing value at the local, district and area levels so they can be fruitful in reaching students for Christ and transforming their university. As a movement, if our local people can trust us to make good, wise, prayerful, godly decisions and pursue that sense of unity, it's going to help us facilitate the movement. The field could pray for us as well since we're the keepers of the trust of Chi Alpha.

CC: I RECENTLY READ A STATISTIC THAT SAID 69 PERCENT OF FIRST-GENERATION HISPANICS ARE GOING TO COLLEGE. COMPARED TO ASIAN, WHITE, AND EVEN BLACK AMERICANS, THAT'S A HIGHER FIRST-GENERATION PERCENTAGE GOING

CHI ALPHA CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP

Scan to watch
this exclusive interview.



TO COLLEGE THAN ANY OTHER ETHNIC DEMOGRAPHIC IN AMERICA. WHAT ARE THE IMPLICATIONS FOR CHI ALPHA CONCERNING THIS?

ESM: I believe we are the most diverse entity in all of the Assemblies of God. We have to look into the future and say we need to make sure that we're carving out pathways for Latinos and other ethnic groups in terms of demographics on the campus and our leadership roles.

CC: YOU'VE MENTIONED THAT YOU WERE A STUDENT, CAMPUS PASTOR, AND GRADUATE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA. YOU ARE A GALACTIC WILDCAT FAN. HOW IS IT POSSIBLE TO CARRY YOUR BIAS FOR THE WILDCATS AND STILL STEWARD A NATION OF CAMPUSES?

ESM: Bear down Arizona. Because I love Jesus more than I love The University of Arizona, and I know that Jesus loves students and wants every student to have an opportunity to hear His message, that drives me more than my love for The University of Arizona. I can assure you that we're committed to making sure that every campus has an equal opportunity to be a part of Chi Alpha and we're equally committed to students having that presentation of the Gospel.

CC: YOU AND CRYSTAL HAVE REALLY PARTNERED TOGETHER IN MINISTRY DURING ALL OF YOUR MARRIED LIFE. CRYSTAL HAS BEEN AN OUTSTANDING DIRECTOR OF CHI ALPHA INTERNATIONALS, XAI, FOR THE LAST COUPLE OF YEARS. HOW DO YOU SEE YOUR NEW RESPONSIBILITIES IMPACTING HER ROLE AND HER FUTURE IN MINISTRY WITH CHI ALPHA?

ESM: She has a tremendous heart and passion for student missions and for XAI. It would pain her and Chi Alpha for her to step away from that at this time. I do feel that there are a lot of contributions and gifts that she could add nationally in terms of speaking into our women staff and wives. We'll see how that transitions over time. We're not going to leave XAI in any kind of hole or lurch. We're going to do things right with the highest levels of excellence.

CC: DURING YOUR YEARS AS CHI ALPHA'S STUDENT MISSION DIRECTOR, YOU HAVE CHAMPIONED THEMES LIKE "EVERY STUDENT GIVES, GOES, PRAYS, AND WELCOMES," "GIVE A YEAR AND PRAY ABOUT A LIFETIME," AS WELL AS EVENTS LIKE THE WORLD MISSIONS SUMMIT 1, 2, AND 3. WHAT

ROLE DOES CHI ALPHA PLAY IN TERMS OF SHAPING GLOBAL CAMPUS MINISTRY?

ESM: I've had the privilege of going around the world representing Chi Alpha. As you see different areas in World Missions where they've been planting campus ministry, you see our former Chi Alphans there. Our people are all over the world.

As I'm dialoging with international leaders and general superintendents from other nations, they keep coming to us saying they need Chi Alpha in their nation and asking us for partnership and help. I feel like our global influence continues to increase.

CC: IN SEVERAL PUBLICATIONS GEORGE O. WOOD, THE GENERAL SUPERINTENDENT OF THE ASSEMBLIES OF GOD, ENCOURAGED ALL OF THE CHURCHES TO STRENGTHEN THEIR MINISTRY TO POST-HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS; IN PARTICULAR, THEIR SUPPORT OF CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES. HE'S SAID THAT HE'D LOVE TO SEE THE NUMBERS OF CHI ALPHA GROUPS DOUBLE IN THE NEXT DECADES. HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THAT CHALLENGE AND HOW DO YOU FEEL CHI ALPHA CAN RESPOND?

ESM: I love that challenge. There are now 4,000 listed universities. I think it would be completely irresponsible for us to suggest that we could be on all of those, but I do believe that we'll be on the right ones at the right time. As we really focus on developing a healthy staff and teams on campus, we're going to see fruitfulness because healthy staff will lead to a healthy Chi Alpha. We're blessed that George Wood is taking notice of us.

CC: WHAT IS THE MILLION-DOLLAR IDEA FOR CHI ALPHA CAMPUS MINISTRIES?

ESM: It's called reconciling students to Christ, transforming the university, the marketplace and the world. That is the idea that people buy into and want to give toward. We go out and reach the most strategic mission field on planet Earth. I'm not saying it's the most important, but the secular university is by far the most strategic mission field on planet Earth; every religion, race, creed and culture are represented. We as a Church have an opportunity to reach it. As we're able to clearly articulate that and garner favor at the local level, the church, and the National Leadership and Resource Center, we're going to see some tremendous things happen.

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the present inspires the
future, and where God
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three hundred people
gathered and became a
moment, out of which
came the audacious goal
of doing the greatest work
of evangelism the world
has ever seen.