

# **PRESS RELEASE FOR IMMEDIATE PUBLICATION**

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## **COMIBAM IV INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY**

**Bogota, Colombia, November 2009** - On October 29 to 31 in Bogota, Colombia, COMIBAM, the Iberoamerican Missions Network, celebrated its IV International Assembly. The gathering is celebrated every three years and is the most important event in the COMIBAM calendar, bringing together official delegates sent by the national mission entities from each of the countries represented in the organization. The event was attended by the members of the Board of Directors, Department Coordinators and leaders representing 22 of the 24 countries that form COMIBAM. The 67 delegates came together for fellowship, dialogue and a full schedule of business meetings. There were 31 observers, representing many collaborating entities.

Reports from the Executive Director, President and Treasurer were presented and approved. The final text of the proposal "A New COMIBAM for a New Missionary Era" was approved by the delegates. This represented a major step forward in the history of the movement. After the III International Assembly, which took place at the end of the III Iberoamerican Missions Congress in 2006, the leadership of the movement launched a process of internal dialogue and analysis with the purpose of redefining its structure and strategies. A proposal was prepared and sent to the leaders in each country for evaluation and feedback. Their recommendations and input were evaluated by the Board of Directors and incorporated into the final document. The movement received the new vision and mission statements and the proposals with enthusiasm and expectation. Delegates examined, revised and approved new Bylaws, adjusted to provide the basis for the organization to move forward.

The Assembly also examined the 2009 – 2012 COMIBAM Strategic Plan. It was important to define the objectives and activities, and the new Executive Director worked along with Planning Consultant Maria Vega and others to prepare a detailed work plan for the next 3 years. The project was presented and approved by the Assembly.

The movement expressed deep gratitude to Jesús and Mireya Londoño for their service, and especially for almost 10 years of work in the Executive leadership. Profound gratitude was also expressed to Carlos Scott for his faithful and dedicated work as a member of the Board of Directors and for serving as President for the past 3 years. Ruben Suarez, Caribbean Regional Coordinator and Treasurer, Marcos Agripino, Brazil Regional Coordinator, and Luis Marti, Central America Regional Coordinator, who completed their respective mandates, also received the sincere gratitude of all present.

The International Assembly approved the election of new President, Victor Ibagón, and installed the new Executive Director, Decio de Carvalho, the new President and the new regional representatives Tomás Martínez, for the Caribbean Region, Carlos Cordero, for the Central America Region, David Cardenas, for the Andean Region, and Marcelo de Souza for the Brazil Region.

Decio de Carvalho  
Executive Director

[www.comibam.org](http://www.comibam.org)



COMIBAM Vision Statement - *Ibero-America taking the whole gospel to all peoples.*

Board of Directors, both new and out-going

Behind – David Cardenas, Tomas Martinez, Marcelo de Souza, Carlos Cordero, Jose Ramirez, Ruben Suarez, Jesus Londoño, Daniel Bianchi

In front – Luis Marti, Marcos Agripino, Victor Ibagón, Jason Carlisle, Decio de Carvalho, Carlos Scott



*COMIBAM Mission Statement - Serving the Body of Christ in Ibero-America, cooperating in the generation of reflection, service and opportunities so that the Gospel can reach the ends of the earth.*

Department Coordinators, Executive Director and members of the Board of Directors

David Cardenas, Tomas Martinez, Decio de Carvalho, Jose de Dios, Victor Ibagon, Lydia España, Levi de Carvalho, Carlos España, Jose Ramirez, Marcelo de Souza, Ted Limpic, Jason Carlisle, Carlos Cordero