

## FIRM AND LOVING

The apostle Paul wrote to the church in Rome,  
*“God is kind, but God is not soft. In kindness God takes us firmly by the hand and leads us into a radical life change.”* (Romans 2:4 ~The Message)

We like going to church and hearing God is kind and God is love. It is comforting and soothing, but to hear God leads us into a radical life change is unsettling. Most people hear the word ‘radical’ and think of being an extremist or fanatic. Radical comes from the word “radix” which means rooted. Having a Christian radical lifestyle means being rooted in the teachings of Jesus. Teachings that are not always comforting but are challenging and call us to change our lifestyles.

All of us who are parents know that there are times when we must be firm as we discipline our children. We do this because we love them and want the best for them. God is our heavenly parent and offers to firmly take us by the hand and guide us.



My mother was a perfect woman to be a single parent of two boys. She loved us so much, yet she was strong and firm when we needed it. Although there were days she needed to be firm with us, at night she would let us get out of our beds and go down the hall to her room. We’d climb up on her bed and lay our heads on her as she sang and told us stories and taught us her favorite scriptures.

Not soft, but firm, and oh so loving.

*Agapê,  
Kimball, SE*



This story is not just about me or Kimball. This is a story about both of us during our first summer of marriage in 1959.

Our first home was in a cute cottage. It was a sweet little house completely furnished and it welcomed us with open arms. It had a small front porch with a cushioned swing that quickly became one of our favorite places to relax and talk. It also gave us a good view of our neighborhood. From there, we would meet new friends who lived on our street.

Across from us lived a family of four, Dad, Mom, and two young children. They waved almost every day with smiles that warmed our hearts. But one day was different. This time the children came across the street with a jar of four-leaf clovers. "Oh my goodness!" I said to them. "These are beautiful! Let's put them on the table right next to our swing." Kimball and I reached down to hug the children.

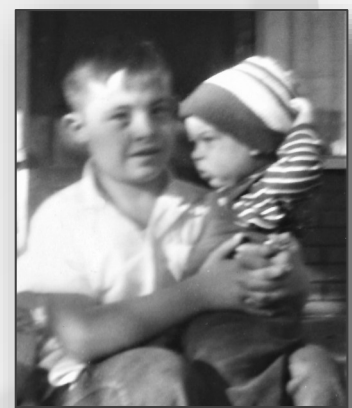
The girl looked about 10 years old, her brother, maybe 5. "My name is Sharon and this is my little brother, Bobby," she said. "Hello, Sharon and Bobby, my name is Pam, and this is my husband, Kimball."

Sharon took Bobby's hand and put it on mine, "Bobby, this is Pam." Then she took Kimball's hand and told Bobby, "Bobby, this is Kimball." We noticed there was something special about Bobby as his big sister helped him focus while meeting us. We later discovered he had Down Syndrome.

We talked and swung. It was delightful. We'll never forget their precious smiles along with their joy of giving us the jar of four-leaf clovers for a wedding gift.

Their mission was complete. And with a quick hug, they ran down the hill and stopped when they reached the sidewalk. Looking up at us, Sharon thanked us for letting them come to visit, "Can we come tomorrow?" "Yes, please, we'd love to have you." Bobby in his strongest voice yelled, looking first at Kimball, "Bye, PAMBALL!" Then he looked to me, "Bye PAMBALL, 'amorrow', ok?" "Yes Bobby, 'amorrow', ok!"

Over the next couple of years, we would enjoy many precious moments with Sharon and Bobby. After Kimball Jr. was born, Bobby was eager to hold him and play with him.



Bobby and Kimball Jr

We had been blessed beyond measure. Every time he called us PAMBALL, it reminded us of our wedding vows and being united in Holy matrimony. 64 years later we still feel the joy of being united as one in love. Our names will forever be one, **PAMBALL!**

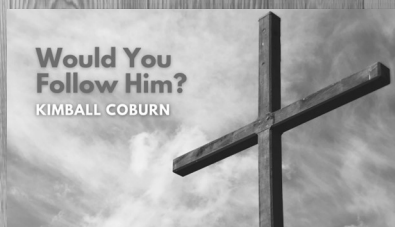
*Agape, Pam*



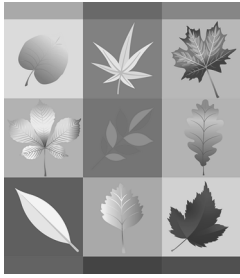


With the help of our Media Team, Kimball is creating a series of videos that can be used for personal inspirations, program starters, or worship resources. All 12 can now be viewed at [KimballCoburn.com](http://KimballCoburn.com)

Subscribe and we'll let you know when new videos are available. You can also download them to use in your church.



Enjoy them now at [KimballCoburn.com](http://KimballCoburn.com)



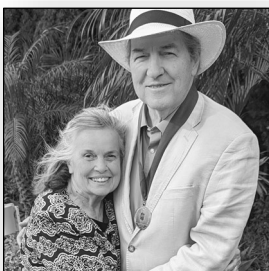
Kimball Coburn Ministry  
P.O. Box 633  
Claremont, CA 91711 - 0633

*Service Return Requested*

## Kimball Receives Bishop's Award

On June 17, the California-Pacific Annual Conference honored distinguished clergy and laypersons who have devoted their lives to extraordinary service. Bishop Dottie Escobedo-Frank and retired Bishop Grant Hagiya presented Kimball with the Bishop's Award.

In his brief message to those in attendance, Kimball shared some of what **Evangelism in the Prophetic Spirit** means. He said, *"Prophetic preaching isn't easy preaching. Like the Old Testament prophets, it takes courage to confront those who are wrong and challenge them to follow God's call for their life. Prophetic preaching comes from a heart of compassion and love, and contains the power to give hope to those who will listen."*



Kimball concluded with his own challenge to young pastors and church lay-leaders by saying, *"Don't ever walk away from the pulpit without giving people a sense of hope. They need that hope to sustain them as they go out of the church and into their community."* Kimball ended by encouraging these leaders to ***"Shake us up! For God's sake, shake us up!"***