



LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES
Latin American Leadership Development Program
July 2008 Update

Dear intercessors and partners with us in Christ's mission:

We continue to thank God for you. We are humbled and deeply grateful for your loving interest, faithful prayer, and generous support! Here is a summary of the recent months where your prayers have been so beneficial.

Chuck's busy speaking and teaching schedule has taken him to Michigan, Florida, Washington, Connecticut, and California in the past three months -- and the coming months look even more varied and full. We have scheduled the second 2008 intensive courses for the doctoral program to meet in Asuncion, Paraguay in August 3-16. The end of August Chuck will teach a one-week intensive course for Doctor-of-Ministry students in the South American Theological Seminary in Londrina, Brazil; and will speak for three days at SEPAL, the national Brazilian association of mission-sending agencies meeting in Florianopolis, Brazil.

We are new grandparents! Our daughter, Amy, and her husband, Mike Spivey, had a baby boy this past February. Daniel Zachary, pictured right at 4 months, is a bundle of energy. If he turns out to be as mischievous as he looks here -- and as ornery as his Grandpa Chuck, Amy and Mike will have their hands full! Ha! ☺ ...

In answer to your prayers, the Holy Spirit continues to grant us strength, health, energy, and joy in the ministry. The Lord bless you for your faithfulness. **Please Keep praying!**

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Daniel Spivey, June 2008

Chuck & Jean Van Engen

Facts about Latin America:

Population:

About 550 million

Countries:

Latin America is divided into 33 independent countries and 13 other political units.

Languages Spoken:

French, Spanish, Portuguese, English, Creole, and hundreds of ancient native-American languages

Ministry:

Theological Education and Leadership Formation

Location:

The entire continent

Partners:

The Evangelical University of the Americas, San José, Costa Rica; and Latin American Christian Ministries, Inc.

The unprecedented growth of Protestant churches in Latin America has created an urgent need for pastors to disciple all the new believers who have little Bible knowledge and less background in Christian living. This situation has created an even more urgent need for Bible school and seminary teachers who can help form the next generation of pastors to disciple the new believers, be involved in transforming society, and train the leaders of mission sending organizations.

In years past, missionaries from Europe and North America served as the Bible school and seminary professors. With fewer of them being sent, there is a shortage of those who will shape the next generation of pastoral leaders in Latin America. Today, over 400 Latin American mission agencies send more than 6000 cross-cultural missionaries for world evangelization. Yet many are sent into difficult cross-cultural mission situations with little or no training because there are too few leaders capable of training others.

To meet this need, the **Latin American Leadership Development Program (LALDP)** was created as a multi-national and multi-denominational community of Latin American scholars, churches, and educational institutions that can provide upper-level theological education in Spanish and Portuguese. The LALDP is directed by Latin Americans, taught by Latin Americans, and offered to Latin American churches, missions, seminaries and Bible schools. It is a 4-year program leading to an accredited Ph.D. degree in theological and missiological studies.

PRAY FOR THE ACADEMIC COUNCIL



(Left to right), back row: Antonio Carlos Barro (Brazil), Norberto Saracco (Argentina), Rubén Tito Paredes (Peru), Pablo Deiros (Argentina); Middle row: Jorge Maldonado (Spain), Peter Larson (Mexico and USA), Hal Thomas (Bolivia), Enrique Guang (Costa Rica), Mariano Ávila (Mexico and USA); Front row: Nancy Thomas (Bolivia and USA), Sonia Abarca (Costa Rica), Georgia Grimes Shaw (USA), Priscila Barro (Brazil), Jean Van Engen (USA), Raquel Guang (Costa Rica), Chuck Van Engen (Mexico and USA)

The Latin American scholars pictured above have helped us design, create, and now administer the LALDP. Together, they represent over 350 years of experience in theological education. Seven of them have been or are presently serving as presidents of seminaries. Two are founders of universities. Jean and I are so blessed to have them as our partners, advisors, colleagues, and friends. Their commitment to the LALDP has been truly remarkable. And their wisdom and vision has been the key to creating the LALDP. Although we live in different parts of the continent, we meet every May in Miami and every November in Pasadena. We have been meeting twice a year for the past 7 years! Please pray for each of these servants of God as we continue to work together.

INTRODUCING AN LALDP STUDENT



Chuck Van Engen (L) with Amos Cahuich (R)

Amos Cahuich grew up in southern Mexico speaking the Mayan language of his parents. As a child he witnessed the persecution and suffering of evangelical leaders and decided never to become a pastor. But God had other plans for Amos. He is now pastoring his third church, one that he helped plant. He also serves as president of the San Pablo Presbyterian Seminary in Merida, Yucatan, Mexico. He chose to study in the LALDP because of a strong burden he feels to adequately train Mexican pastors.

Amos' wife Miriam is a social worker in health care. The couple have three children. Amos and Miriam request prayer for their 17 year old daughter Hasadi Hael ("Mercy of God") who is deaf. Hasadi finishes high school in two years and desires to go to college to study art. Pray for the Cahuich family, and for Amos to be disciplined in his studies and effective in his ministry.

PRAY FOR ECUADOR



"During these days in Ecuador a new Constitution is being prepared...As Protestant Evangelicals, we have come together to present our proposals to the nation and to (the)...congress... Among our proposals are: 1.That the name of God should remain in the Constitution; 2.That the state assure and guarantee the value of human life from conception to death; 3. That the state recognize and protect the family and marriage,... and promote healthy, viable families; 4.That the state recognize interculturality and the multi-ethnicity of our peoples...God is moving among the Protestant Evangelicals in Ecuador....God placed it in my heart to write several newspaper articles concerning these themes to present a Protestant Evangelical perspective and to support our Christian national leaders at the forefront of this challenge...The President of Ecuador has invited leaders of the Protestant Evangelical churches to a breakfast (to talk about these issues).... So I ask for your prayers: we are living a crucial moment in the life of Ecuador."
(trans. by cve)

Please pray with us for the following:

- Pray for peace in Latin America, especially the countries our students travel to and from.
- Pray for the upcoming session of courses to be held in Paraguay -- especially for this year's new students.
- Pray that the students have the time and energy to finish all their pre-assignments for their courses.
- Pray that the students will have the time and money to travel to Asuncion.
- Pray for the ministries of our students, that through them they may raise up new leadership.
- Pray that all of us will have the necessary visas and that our entrance into Paraguay will not be difficult.
- Pray for the safe keeping of the families of our students, professors and staff.
- Pray for the professors as we teach our courses.
- Pray for the provision of textbooks in Spanish and Portuguese.
- Pray for the financial support that our students and the program need. We provide most of the students with an average of 45% scholarships (\$3200 out of a tuition cost for 2008 of \$7500) in order to help them be able to study — and so far the Lord has provided for all our needs! **Praise the Lord!**