



# LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (LACM)

## Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT)



Forming gifted leaders for  
greater service — Eph. 4:12

553 Cherry Lane, Holland, Michigan 494924  
e-mail: "cvanengen@lacmin.org"

Phone: 616-294-1190  
Cell: 626-862-1348

A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.

Volume XX: No. 2

Websites: [www.lacmin.org](http://www.lacmin.org) / [www.prodola.org](http://www.prodola.org)

December, 2015-April, 2016

### Dear sisters and brothers, colleagues, partners in Christ's mission,

We thank and praise God for each of you and your prayers for us. The past several months have been filled with God's grace and with a lot of activities and change. In June our 3 children, 3 spouses and 5 (now 6) grandchildren were with us in Holland for a week. What fun! In July, Chuck taught 3 intensive courses for Fuller.

The first three weeks of August Chuck was in Brazil for the LADPT intensive courses and dissertation defenses (See page 2.). Five days after Chuck arrived back from Brazil, the moving van in California came on August 28. Unpacking day in Holland, Michigan, was September 18. We moved our home, Chuck's professor's office, and the LADPT office as well. We are feeling at home in our condo here in Holland, although we have a lot to do to be totally settled. Since mid-September, we have spent 37 days traveling: North Carolina, Ohio, California, Florida, and Missouri. Together, we are completing the editing of a book of presentations given in October for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the School of World Mission/School of Intercultural Studies of Fuller Theological Seminary. In November, we were in Miami for an inspiring and joy-filled meeting of our Board of Directors of LACM (see below).

Please accept our deepest gratitude for your personal interest, your prayers, and your generous financial support of this ministry. We simply could not do this without you.

— Chuck and Jean



"Since then we have a great high priest who has passed through the heavens, Jesus, the Son of God, let us hold fast to our confession....Let us therefore approach the throne of grace with boldness, so that we may receive mercy and find grace to help in time of need...Through (Christ Jesus), then, let us continually offer a sacrifice of praise to God, that is, the fruit of lips that confess his name. — Heb. 4:14;13:15 NRSV

### Please continue to pray for us.

- Dec 2-5 Chuck spoke at the Assemblies of God Seminary in Springfield, MO.
- Dec. 7-10 Chuck met with 4 other past RCA General Synod presidents regarding the Special Council to meet in April. Jean spent 4 days with her 4 sisters near Cadillac, MI.
- Dec. 20 Deadline for Chuck to submit the book he is editing of lectures given at the 50th anniversary of the School of World Mission, Fuller Seminary.
- Jan. — Chuck and Jean prepare for the first session of the new group of doctoral students to meet in Lima, Peru.
- Jan. 7-12 — Jean and Chuck are with Amy and Mike Spivey and children in Tacoma, WA
- Jan. 30-Feb 13 — Chuck and Jean are in Lima, Peru for the LADPT class session.
- Feb.-March — Chuck needs to complete the writing of 2 book projects due in June.
- Apr. 15-18 — Chuck attends the RCA Special Council meeting in Chicago.
- Apr. 29 — "Retirement" celebration for Chuck at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

We are so grateful for our family (below). They keep us young, they give us great joy, they pray for us, they advise us, and they support and help us in so many ways.



Back Row (l to r): Andrew, Isaiah and Andrea Van Engen (daughter Adele is in front row); Mike, Amy and Daniel Spivey (daughter Clarissa and son Dirk are in front of them); Anita and John Bateman; Front Row: Chuck and Jean Van Engen (June, 2015)

### Pray for our LACM Board members

In November the LACM Board of Directors met in Miami. We meet every May and every November for several days each time. We are so blessed by the time and effort they donate and for their personal involvement and commitment to the LADPT. They are full-time professors, business people, leaders in their contexts. Several fly all night to get to Miami for our meetings. Please pray for them.



Back row: Tito Paredes, Art Hurtado, Antonio Barro, Norberto Saracco, Glenn Van Noord, Neal Johnson, David Roldan, Pablo Deiros; Front row: Rob Johnston, Cathy Barsotti, Priscila Barro, Viviana Barron, Jean and Chuck Van Engen.

"The more you pray, the less you'll panic. The more you worship, the less you'll worry. You'll feel more patient and less pressured." — Rick Warren, *The Purpose of Christmas* ([www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/prayer](http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/prayer))



“Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my sighing. Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. In the morning, O Lord, you hear my voice; in the morning I lay my requests before you and wait in expectation....Let all who take refuge in you be glad; let them ever sing for joy. Spread your protection over them, that those who love your name may rejoice in you.” Ps. 5:1-3, 11 NIV



It was a delight for the group of students who began their studies in February, 2014 to meet for the fourth and final time in Londrina, Brazil, this past August. On Sunday between the 2 weeks that we were together we had a special joy to worship at the Japanese-Brazilian Holiness Evangelical church co-pastored by 2 of our students, Roberto and Dilma Yahiro (see photo on the left, front row, third and fourth from the right.). We worshipped in Japanese, Portuguese, and Spanish. David Horta from Brazil (back row) could not contain his joy!



**Two Dissertation Defenses — Two More Graduates! Praise God!**

While in Londrina in August, we celebrated one of the great moments in the process of doctoral studies: defending the dissertation.



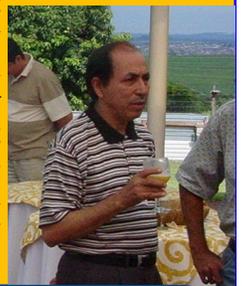
Roger Vergara with 3 of his committee members / examiners: (from left) Chuck, Dr. Tito Paredes (Dean of LADPT), Roger, and Dr. Antonio Carlos Barro, LADPT faculty member from Brazil.

**Roger Vergara** pastors the second-largest Christian & Missionary Alliance Church with over 8000 members in Lima, Peru. He has 20 pastors helping him. He researched what images or metaphors about God are most meaningful and transformational in the daily life of the members of his church, and how those images correlate with biblical and theological ones. His Spanish-language defense was especially meaningful because his wife, Patricia (see photo on right), is also an LADPT student, now halfway through her doctoral program. Roger was recently elected to a major leadership position in the C&MA in Peru. They both teach in the C&MA seminary in Lima. Together, they founded a publishing house that has published close to 40 books, many written by Patricia. Roger’s church has medical ministries and ministries to the poor in Lima. It also supports and sends international, cross-cultural missionaries. Please continue praying for Roger and Patricia.

The second defense was conducted in Portuguese. **Expedito de Melo Silva** lives in Brasilia, the capital of Brazil, where he pastors a large church. His defense brings our number of graduates to 10! Expedito also leads a Pentecostal denomination with over 1 million members. He told us recently that he has 236 pastors who report directly to him. Expedito began his studies in the LADPT with our first group in 2004. He was overjoyed to finish! The title of Expedito’s dissertation was “The Church as an Agent of Transformation: A Biblical and Theological Perspective of Postmodernity in the Context of Brasilia. He interviewed important community and civic leaders in his city regarding their perception of the impact of his church on the community. He then investigated the way the pastors and leaders in his own churches understand their calling to be agents of transformation in their city. As Expedito explained during his defense, all that information gave him new eyes to re-read the Bible and re-think his theology and his understanding of God’s mission for him, his churches, and his denomination in the context of Brazil and around the globe. What a joy to celebrate the moment with him. Please pray for Expedito, his family, and especially for Brazil as it is undergoing a very serious financial crisis.

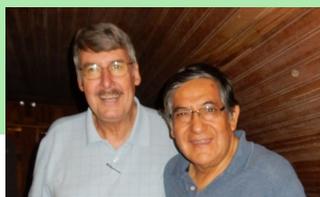


He interviewed important community and civic leaders in his city regarding their perception of the impact of his church on the community. He then investigated the way the pastors and leaders in his own churches understand their calling to be agents of transformation in their city. As Expedito explained during his defense, all that information gave him new eyes to re-read the Bible and re-think his theology and his understanding of God’s mission for him, his churches, and his denomination in the context of Brazil and around the globe. What a joy to celebrate the moment with him. Please pray for Expedito, his family, and especially for Brazil as it is undergoing a very serious financial crisis.



**Dr. Rubén Tito Paredes is named Dean of the LADPT.**

We are so blessed that Dr. Tito Paredes accepted the invitation to become Dean of the Doctoral Program. This has taken a huge load off Chuck’s shoulders. Working with an Academic Team, Tito supervises all academic matters related to faculty, students, curriculum, courses, and grades. Pray for Tito and his wife Joy as they live and minister in Lima, Peru.



Chuck with Dr. Tito Paredes in Brazil in August, 2015

**Note: Your gifts and contributions go directly to fund the doctoral program itself.**

**DONATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED DEC 31 TO BE APPLIED TO 2015.**

E-MAIL NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE: Some who requested e-mail may be receiving this newsletter by both means this time because of our move. We will send you only the e-mail version next time.. If you wish to receive the email newsletter, write us at [cvanengen@lacmin.org](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org).

**“You pray in your distress and in your need; would that you might pray also in the fullness of your joy and in your days of abundance.”** Kahlil Gibran, *The Prophet* ([www.goodread.com/quotes/tag/prayer](http://www.goodread.com/quotes/tag/prayer))