



# LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (LACM)

*Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT)*

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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

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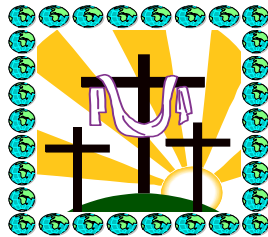
## Dear partners in Christ's mission,

Our gracious Lord Jesus is so good! We are so blessed and honored by your personal interest and love. During the past five months we have been amazed at the remarkable commitment and support that folks have demonstrated for this ministry. Many of you will remember that last fall we suggested that each one who receives this newsletter might consider investing \$50.00 in this Kingdom venture. The response was wonderful and deeply encouraging. We have received more financial support during the past 5 months than during any other similar time period. We wanted you to know how the Holy Spirit has answered your prayers.

The global financial crisis is real and deep. It has affected all of our doctoral students in their ability to cover the cost of tuition. As a response to the situation, we have decided to freeze tuition for 2010 to this year's annual amount of \$7800, and, in faith, we have raised slightly the maximum scholarship assistance we hope to offer, based on need.

One of our operating principles is that vision and commitment come first, financing is second. The Lord has honored that over the years, and we don't plan to back off from that faith commitment. As much as is humanly possible, we are committed to seeing that no-one be prohibited from studying solely because of financial need. At the same time, we are seeking to educate the churches, denominations, mission agencies, theological institutions, and individuals throughout Latin America of their responsibility and privilege to help fund the study programs and leadership development of their present and future leaders.

We praise God for your willingness to walk with us in this wonderful opportunity to build the Kingdom of God and further the maturing of the Church in Latin America.



"In repentance and rest is your salvation, in quietness and trust is your strength....The Lord longs to be gracious to you; he rises to show you compassion. For the Lord is a God of justice. Blessed are all who wait for him."  
— Isaiah 30:15

## Our Schedule

- June 11-13 — Fuller graduation exercises and Commencement — Chuck has two mentorees graduating with Ph.D.'s in Missiology.
- June 12-18, Our daughter, Amy, and grandson Daniel visit us in Glendora.
- June 18-20 — Chuck attends the American Society of Missiology in Chicago.
- June 21 — Chuck preaches at the Reformed Church of Oregon, Ill.
- June 22-26 — Chuck teaches an intensive course at Fuller.
- June 27-July 5 — Chuck & Jean in Holland, Michigan with family.
- July 19 — Chuck preaches at Warwick Reformed Church, Warwick, NY.
- July 30-Aug 14—Chuck & Jean in San Jose, Costa Rica for the intensive courses of the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology.
- August 13 — Horacio Piccardo, our first graduate, will defend his dissertation in San Jose, Costa Rica. This is also Jean's birthday! ☺
- Sept. 28 — Fuller classes begin for the fall quarter.

## PRAISE GOD FOR PUBLICATIONS

Chuck is a member of the Southern California chapter of the Latin American Theological Fraternity (LATF). In March, 2008, the LATF held a symposium at Fuller Seminary on Theological Reflections on the Latino/Hispanic experience of immigration and life in the United States. The book (right) came out last fall with chapters from that symposium. Chuck's chapter (in Spanish) is entitled, "Biblical Perspectives of the Role of Immigrants in God's Mission." Chuck has since presented modified versions of this chapter to the Lausanne Theology Working Group in Panama last January, and at the Overseas Ministries Study Center in New Haven, Connecticut this past April.



Left to right: Andrea and (our son) Andrew Van Engen, Jean and Chuck, in Maryland, March, 2009

**Contemplative Worship:** "True (Christian) contemplation naturally leads to worship of God. If contemplation has to do with being in the Lord's presence and simply beholding him, worship has to do with expression of our hearts' devotion to him. If contemplation implies, 'Here I am, Lord, I trust your presence,' worship implies, 'I love you Lord, and I offer my life to you.' Thus, contemplative worship is worship which flows out of a Christ-centered state of being." — Daniel Kim. *The Contemplative Way: A Christian Perspective*. 2008, 58. (Daniel completed his Ph.D. in Mission Theology in the School of World Mission at Fuller Theological Seminary. Under Chuck's mentorship, Daniel investigated prophetic spirituality in Korean-American churches.)



**INTRODUCING THOSE WHO STUDY IN THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM**

**Alberto Rizzo**

As with most of our PRODOLA students, there's more to Alberto Rizzo than meets the eye. And what meets the eye is impressive. As senior pastor of the Centro Cristiano Kyrios, a renovated Baptist church of 1200 members in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Alberto leads a team of 18 pastors that includes his wife, Silvia Monica. This missionary church has already planted 28 daughter congregations, mostly in Argentina, but also extending to Uruguay, Peru and Spain.

What is not obvious about Alberto is his past record as eight-time national champion for Argentina in taekwondo, a sport that Alberto describes as "Korean karate." One year he was Pan-American champion. During some 27 years, while he was busy pastoring and building up the church, he earned his living teaching taekwondo in some 12 different gymnasiums in Buenos Aires. As the church grew, Alberto cut down on his involvement in sports, and today he gives full time to the ministry.

Growing up in a Roman Catholic family, Alberto came to a personal knowledge of Jesus at 18 years old. At that time, economic pressures forced him to quit school and go to work. In spite of the fact he wasn't able to graduate from high school until the age of 28, Alberto comes to PRODOLA with high academic recommendations, including three masters degrees and a D.Min. He hopes to focus his doctoral research on the problem of the secularization of the church in Buenos Aires, looking toward the revitalization and renewal of the churches in Argentina.

Alberto and Silvia Monica have five children between the ages of 11 and 24, all of whom currently live at home.

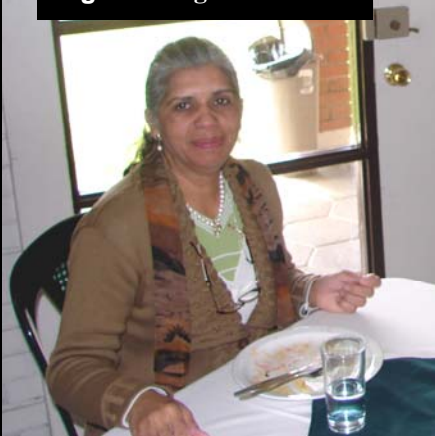


Alberto Rizzo and Jean Van Engen

**Ángela Durigan de Souza**

Compassion and commitment shine from Ángela Durigan's face as she speaks of her life. Currently associate pastor of the 1500 member Church of the Nazarene in Itatiba, Brazil (a city near Sao Paulo), she gives one day a week to pastoral counseling, and also teaches in a Nazarene seminary in the areas of leadership, pastoral care, family and spiritual formation. She is frequently called on to speak in other churches and denominations, and spends much of her time writing. She has published a series of what she calls "pocket books," short works on different aspects of Christian living.

**Ángela Durigan de Souza**



Part of Angela's story is her experience of 17 years of sickness, beginning with the birth of her first child. Doctors told her there was no cure for the strange combination of migraines, allergies and depression that caused her and her family much suffering. But God's touch and miraculous deliverance over the space of two years has given her a heart full of gratitude and helped make her to be the energetic and compassionate leader she is today.

Angela and her husband Jorge have two married daughters. She is in the doctoral program because, as she puts it, "I want to learn more about the Kingdom of God, become a better teacher, and broaden my own horizons." She wants to do her doctoral research in the area of pastoral counseling, in part stemming from her concern that the structure of the church today is producing pastors who are more administrators than spiritual guides or healers. She hopes her contribution will make a difference. She will investigate in the area of ecclesiology, seeking a relational model of the church for facilitating care and healing for all believers within the church.

**"Draw near to God and he will draw near to you....'You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the Lord....But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well....Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; come you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost....Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare....Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you....Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near....'For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways,' declares the Lord."**

**—James 4:8; Jer. 29: 12-13; Mt. 6:33; Isa 55:1,-3, 6, 8 NIV**



**Feb., 2009 Intensive Classes in San José, Costa Rica**

During the first two weeks of February, 2009, we gathered for our intensive courses at the Nazarene Seminary and Conference Center in San José, Costa Rica. As you can see in the photo (right), the weather was perfect the day we took the picture! We had several days of strong, cold winds and drizzle. The seminary is a beautiful location with excellent housing, classrooms, and food. It was a joy to see those who had begun in February 2008 (now the “old-timers”) welcome the eleven new students who were able to begin their studies this past February. The warmth, caring, mutual support and sense of group cohesion and collegial encouragement is really wonderful. During the second week of classes, Dr. Sonia Abarca, one of our professors, underwent surgery in San José, for which we were all in prayer.



The doctoral students and faculty in San Jose, Costa Rica, Feb., 2009

**INTRODUCING THOSE WHO STUDY IN THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM (CONT.)**

**Luis Cruz Villalobos**

Luis Cruz Villalobos, a man in his thirties, is the youngest student in PRODOLA, and yet he carries heavy responsibilities in his denomination and profession. In addition to pastoring a Presbyterian congregation in Santiago, Chile, he serves as vice-president of his denomination, the Christian Presbyterian Church of Chile, and regional denominational president for the north of Chile. As a psychologist, Luis also gives one day a week to a Christian clinic, doing psychotherapy through the arts.

Luis is an artist on many levels: a poet, composer, singer and photographer. In addition to using art in his profession as a psychologist, he has introduced it to the church, forming groups of artists in ministry and worship.

Luis and his wife, Isabel Soledad, have three young children. The loss of a child several years ago has proved a formative experience in both Luis’s art and ministry. For his doctoral research, Luis hopes to do a comparative study of resilience (a current focus in Latin American psychology), comparing some aspect of the secular Chilean population with a group of new converts in the major penitentiary in Santiago.



Luis Cruz Villaloboa

**María Silvina and Javier Kosacki** are originally from Argentina and are presently serving as missionaries and co-pastors of a Hispanic church in Chino, California, a part of the International Evangelical Foursquare Church. In Argentina, Javier was trained as a lawyer. After moving to California and sensing the Lord’s call to full-time pastoral ministry, Javier and Silvina both completed their Master of Divinity degrees at Fuller Seminary. Along with giving supervisory care to the three congregations the church has founded, they work together in directing and teaching in the VIDA Bible School, a center for discipleship and leadership formation. Javier has also exercised a supervisory role in the Hispanic ministries of the Foursquare Church in Southern California. Javier began his studies in the LADPT in 2008 and María Silvina began her doctoral studies this past February. Javier wants to investigate the history of role of Hispanic/Latino leaders in the Foursquare Church in Southern California. Silvina wants to investigate the use of music as an intentional strategy for mission. They have three children between the ages of 9 and 16.



María Silvina and Javier Kosacki

**It is an honor to be members of the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA).**

You have no doubt noticed the ECFA logo that appears on the top-right corner of page 1 of this Prayer Newsletter. In the words of the Council, “Earning approval by ECFA....entitles an organization to display the ECFA seal in promotional materials and appeals. The ECFA seal is tangible evidence to donors that a ministry is complying with the highest standards of Christian ethics in its governance, fund-raising and financial accounting and reporting....Founded in 1979, ECFA is comprised of over 1,300 evangelical Christian organizations which qualify for tax-exempt, non-profit status....ECFA’s steadfast purpose is to articulate, maintain, manifest and enforce a code of financial accountability, ethics and reporting which is consistent with enlightened and responsible Christian faith and practice.”

(Taken from ECFA brochure, pg 1.)



### SPOTLIGHT ON LATIN AMERICA: ARGENTINA

“**Argentina** (ärjuntē'nu, Span. ärhāntē'nā) officially Argentine Republic,...(2008 est. pop: 40,677,348), 1,072,157 sq mi (2,776,889 sq km)....Languages: Spanish (official), English, Italian, German, French. Ethnicity/race: white (mostly Spanish and Italian) 97%, Religions: nominally Roman Catholic 92% (less than 20% practicing), Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, other 4%.” (The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright © 2007, Columbia University Press. All rights reserved.).

“Second in South America only to Brazil in size and population, Argentina is a plain, rising from the Atlantic to the Chilean border and the towering Andes peaks. Aconcagua (22,834 ft, 6,960 m) is the highest peak in the world outside Asia. Argentina is...bordered by (Chile to the west), Bolivia and Paraguay on the north, and by Uruguay and Brazil (on the northeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east). The northern (Gran Chaco) area is...swampy and partly wooded....South of that are the rolling, fertile Pampas,...rich in agriculture and sheep- and cattle-grazing....Further south is Patagonia, a region of cool, arid steppes with some wooded and fertile sections....First explored in 1516 by Juan Díaz de Solís, Argentina developed slowly under Spanish colonial rule. Buenos Aires was settled in 1580; the cattle industry was thriving as early as 1600. Invading British forces were expelled in 1806–1807, and after Napoleon conquered Spain (1808), the Argentinians set up their own government in 1810. On July 9, 1816, independence was formally declared....On December 10, 2007, First Lady Cristina Fernández de Kirchner took over the presidency from her husband, Néstor Kirchner....(She has shown interest in forging closer ties with the United States, Europe, and Brazil.”

—Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107288.html>

### PRAY FOR THE DIGITAL LIBRARY PROJECT



Paschoal Piragina (right)

Every Bible school and seminary in Latin America suffers from a terrible shortage of library resources (books, textbooks, reference works, journals, etc.) in all areas of Theology and Missions Studies. This shortage has serious implications for the research and study programs of our doctoral students. So we have begun a long-range project to create a specialized digital library in Theology and Missiology in an electronic collection of bibliographic resources that will support the intensive courses of the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology as well as the individualized research of our doctoral students. Via the internet, this digital library will facilitate and reinforce the access to needed bibliographic resources from wherever the doctoral students live. This digital library will also be made available to Bible schools, seminaries, mission organizations, and church leaders throughout the continent on a membership basis. The digital library will include bibliographic resources in Spanish, Portuguese, English and French. The goal of the initial phase of this project is that by the middle of 2010 we will have a collection of 5000 bibliographic resources that include books, chapters of books, magazine articles, and Internet “links” to other digitalized collections.



Freddy Guerrero

Rev. Freddy Guerrero, President of the Nazarene Theological Seminary in Quito, Ecuador, and Rev. Paschoal Piragina, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Curitiba, Brazil and Coordinator of the Federation of Baptist Seminaries in Brazil are both doctoral students in the LADPT. They have personnel with the appropriate technological and computer skills and the computer hardware and servers available to create this bibliographic collection. They have offered to coordinate this project. Pray for Freddy, Paschoal, and their staff persons as they identify, collect, digitize, and organize this digital library as a service to us all.

### PRAY FOR DR. RUBÉN TITO PAREDES, OUR NEW ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR



Chuck, Jean, and Tito

**Dr. Rubén Tito Paredes** has graciously agreed to assist us on a half-time basis to walk alongside Chuck in guiding and administrating the LADPT. Tito brings wide-ranging experience, deep wisdom, and remarkable expertise that will be an invaluable help in directing the doctoral program as it continues to grow. Tito’s willingness to be involved at this level is a huge relief and a deep honor for all of us in the program.

Tito is Peruvian. He studied Missiology at Fuller in the early 1970’s and then went on to get a Ph.D. in anthropology from UCLA. Dr. Paredes is one of the leading experts in Andean world view and socio-cultural transformation. He is the Director of the Evangelical Theological Faculty “Orlando Costas” of the Evangelical Andean Mission Center in Lima, Peru.

Dr. Paredes has served as General Secretary of the Latin American Theological Fraternity. He is a consultant for World Vision and other mission organizations and a member of the Lausanne Theology Working Group. His publications include El evangelio: un tesoro en vasijas de barro (The Gospel: A Treasure in Jars of Clay); “Cambio Social y Conversión,” (“Social Change and Conversion”) in Misión # 9 (June, 1984); “Evangelio y Cultura,” in Clade III, Quito, 1992; and Con permiso para danzar. (With Permission to Dance), Lima, 2006. Dr. Paredes teaches courses in the interface of religion and culture in the Latin American context. Please pray for Tito as he takes on this added responsibility.

**Contemplative Mission:** “Our...contemplation of the ‘incarnational’ nature of the Lord (Jesus Christ) should inspire a proper attitude of mind and heart for ministry and mission to others. Like Jesus, we need to humbly enter into other people’s contexts in order to fully embrace them. Like Jesus, we need to truly understand others by observing, listening, and empathizing with them.....Through contemplation, we cultivate a missionary heart for all people....We learn to truly behold them as they are...We also humbly learn from them, and we discover that they have a lot to teach us.”

— Daniel Kim. The Contemplative Way: A Christian Perspective, 2008, 65.

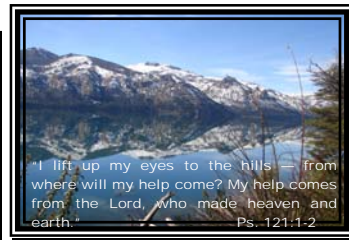


Photo by C. Van Engen, Patagonia, Argentina