



# 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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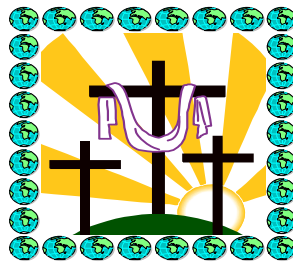
## Dear partners in Christ's mission,

I think you all know, but we want to tell you again how deeply humbled Jean and I are by your constant, faithful partnership, interest, prayer and financial support of this ministry! You make it possible for us -together - to invest in the future of the Kingdom of God by investing in the lives and ministries of truly remarkable leaders in Latin America. The LADPT exists to broaden, deepen, and strengthen the personal, spiritual, pastoral, missionary and academic formation of key leaders. They are the reason we exist. That is why in each issue of this newsletter we highlight some of the leaders in whose lives we are all investing. These leaders want you to know how grateful they are for your prayers and for your support that makes it possible for them to study in the LADPT. I hope you enjoy reading about Silvia, Horacio, Rubén and Monica in this issue.

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

A number of folks have told us they would be happy to receive this newsletter by email. We do post it on our Website [www.lacmin.org](http://www.lacmin.org). In addition, we are preparing an e-mail list to begin to send the newsletter as an email attachment. If you are interested in receiving this newsletter by email, please do 1 of 2 things: (1) Either send a short email to [cvanengen@lacmin.org](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org) telling us to add your email to our list; (2) or return to us by regular "snail-mail" the enclosed response form on which you have written your email address.

Thank you once again for your wonderful and loving support.  
— Chuck and Jean



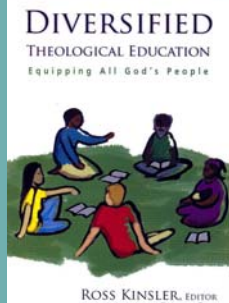
"You whom...I called from the farthest corners, saying to you, '**You are my servant, I have chosen you and not cast you off**'; do not fear, for I am with you, do not be afraid, for I am your God; I will strengthen you, I will help you, I will uphold you with my victorious right hand...For I the Lord your God hold your right hand; it is I who say to you, '**Do not fear, I will help you.**'" — Isaiah 41:8-13 NRSV

### Our Schedule

- Nov. 16-19 - The Academic Council of the (LADPT) meets in Pasadena.
- Nov 16 - The 15 new LADPT students begin their pre-reading for their first two intensive courses in February, 2010, in Costa Rica.
- Nov. 26 - Thanksgiving! Let's praise God together for God's amazing grace!
- Dec. 7-11 - End of the quarter classes at Fuller for Chuck. Chuck has several Fuller-related doctoral defenses scheduled in December.
- Dec. 24-Jan. 1 - Our three children, spouses and Daniel will be with us!
- Jan. 21-23 - Jean's sister, Helen, and her husband Sam Hofman, former RCA missionaries in Chiapas, Mexico, are with us.
- Jan. 24-27 - Chuck is in Dallas at the U.S. Lausanne prep for Lausanne III in South Africa in October, 2010.
- Feb. 1-12 - Chuck and Jean are in San José, Costa Rica for the intensive courses of the LADPT.
- Feb. 14-19 - Chuck is at the Baptist Seminary in Beirut, Lebanon for the Lausanne Theology Working Group, prep for South Africa, Oct., 2010.
- Feb. 20-March 2 - Chuck and Jean in Rome, Italy, celebrating our 40th wedding anniversary.
- March 3-6 - Chuck is in Beirut, Lebanon for the International Council of Evangelical Theological Education for Church to report on the LADPT.

### PRAISE GOD FOR PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Ross Kinsler is considered by many as the "guru" of innovation in theological education. In the 1960's, 70s and 80's, together with Ralph Winter and others, Ross spearheaded a movement called "theological education by extension" (TEE) that began in Guatemala and spread around the globe, forever changing the face of leadership formation. (See Ross Kinsler, edit. *Ministry by the People: Theological Education by Extension*, 1983). Today's "distance learning" programs use modern technology to do what Kinsler envisioned 40 years ago. *Diversified Theological Education* is a report about the latest efforts in global ministry formation. Chuck contributed a chapter entitled "Latin American Doctoral Program" and Dr. Norberto Saracco, one of our LADPT professors, also has a chapter entitled, "International Faculty of Theological Education, Argentina," (Pasadena: WCIU Press, 2008, pp. 207-226 and 173-190).



Daniel Spivey, our grandson, is teaching us how to be grandparents. Daniel lives in Tacoma, WA, where his mother, Amy, and father, Mike, teach Physics and Mathematics, respectively, at the University of Puget Sound. Left, Daniel is loving his own little table and chairs, an early Christmas present.

**LET PEACE RULE:** The only thing that ever hinders peace is when we refuse to surrender our troubles to God. So, when dismay, frustration, or deep disappointment come, "Let the peace of God rule in your hearts" (Col. 3:15). To surrender to God is never the same as surrendering to the situation....It is an act of choice that overrules whatever of chance seems to be trying your soul, stretching your faith, or overthrowing your confidence. Say, "Lord God, almighty, I give this to you — completely!" Then with praise leave it there.  
—Jack Hayford. *Praise in the Presence of God*, 2003, 221.



**VALUES:** "Infuse the right values in our hearts, God, Start with me." "Values control behavior. We act on the basis of what we believe really matters, what is right and good. Whoever influences the core values in a group is, in fact, the leader. That process must begin with the values God instills in the leader." Richard Kriegbaum. Leadership Prayers. Tyndale, 1998, 17. "Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right spirit within me. Do not cast me away from your presence, and do not take your holy spirit from me. Restore to me the joy of your salvation, and sustain in me a willing spirit. Then will I teach transgressors your ways, and sinners will return to you....O Lord, open my lips, and my mouth will declare your praise....The sacrifice acceptable to God is a broken spirit; a broken and contrite heart, O God, you will not despise."  
— Psalm 51:10-17 NRSV

**Introducing those who study in the doctoral program**

**RUBÉN AND MONICA FERNANDEZ** are third generation Christians whose grandparents came to know Jesus as Lord through missionaries in Argentina in the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. Rubén dates the story of his faith heritage back to 1914 when missionaries Frank and Lula Ferguson arrived in Buenos Aires to sell Bibles and promote Bible reading. Today Ruben and Monica are passing on that heritage of faith to countless men and women throughout the continent through lives dedicated to discipleship and the training of leaders and theologians. Currently Rubén serves both as President of the Evangelical Nazarene Seminary of the Americas (SENDAS) in San José, Costa Rica, and Regional Coordinator for Theological Education in the Nazarene churches of Mexico and Central America. Monica is administrator and Dean of Institutional Development in SENDAS and Regional Assistant for the "Lifelong Discipleship" program in the Church of the Nazarene in Central America. Both teach theology courses in SENDAS.

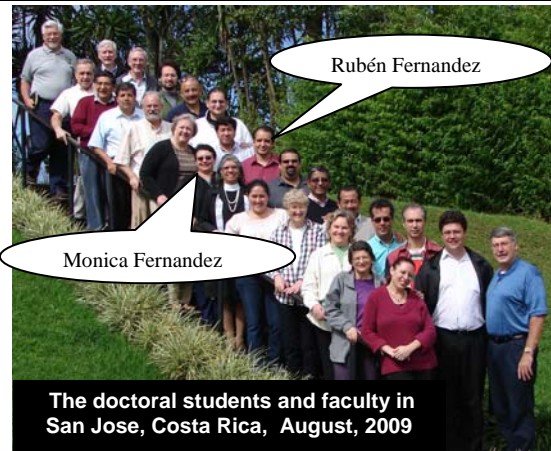
Rubén has bachelor's degrees in Christian ministry from the South American Nazarene Seminary in Argentina and in theology from the Nazarene University in Costa Rica. He also has a degree in Administration of Church Resources from the University of the Americas in Costa Rica and a master's degree in the Science of Religion.

Rubén also has a D. Min. degree from the Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City. Monica has a bachelor's



**Monica and Rubén Fernandez**

degree in theology from the Nazarene University in Costa Rica, a master's degree in the Science of Religion



**The doctoral students and faculty in San Jose, Costa Rica, August, 2009**

from the Evangelical University of the Americas, and a D. Min. from the Nazarene Theological Seminary in Kansas City.

Concurrent with their years of pastoral ministry in Argentina (1982-1990), Rubén and Monica served as professors in various theological institutions. Ruben was President of the South American Nazarene Seminary in Pilar, Argentina from 1990 to 1995. After 14 years as pastors and educators in Argentina, the Fernandez family moved to Costa Rica in 1995.

Rubén and Monica chose to study in the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology because it gives them a perspective from the wider church throughout the many countries and Protestant traditions in Latin America. They want this broadening and deepening perspective to reflect back into their own Nazarene tradition. Rubén is motivated to learn the more rigorous methodologies of research required by a Ph.D. program for the benefit of the Church of the Nazarene in Latin America. He notes the need and importance for the theological seminaries of the region to have more professors with a Ph.D. Rubén and Monica Fernandez are servants of God, preparing to pass to future generations with excellence, the heritage of their parents and grandparents.

**CHRIST IN US:** Being *in* Christ points to our inclusion within a new order of life established at the cross and resurrection and continued under the lordship of Jesus....The Christ *in* us is the Christ *for* us, not only on Calvary, but in the daily renewal of His willingness to be on our side and at our side. Christ in us? When we think of this, we should think of Christ as Lord, the one around whom we center our lives; think of His summons to us, of His direct lordship over us, of His willingness to make us partners — obedient partners to be sure, but partners in His action....What is in us is not a distilled version of the divine life; it is the concrete individual, Jesus Christ."  
Lewis Smedes. Union With Christ: A Biblical View of the New Life in Jesus Christ, 1983, 112,123.



**A TIME FOR CELEBRATION:  
PRODOLA'S FIRST DISSERTATION DEFENSE, ON THE WAY TO GRADUATION!**



Dr. Tito Paredes, Dr. Norberto Saracco, Horacio Piccardo, Dr. Pablo Deiros, Maria de Jesus Piccardo, Dr. Charles Van Engen, Dr. Sonia Abarca, and Dr. Enrique Guang.

On August 13, 2009, the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology reached a milestone: Horacio Raúl Picardo became the first student to defend his doctoral dissertation. The event took place in the auditorium of the Evangelical University of the Americas (UNELA) in San Jose, Costa Rica with a legally constituted jury and a public audience. The six-person jury was chaired by Dr. Charles Van Engen, Dean of the Graduate School of Theological Sciences of UNELA, and included Dr. Enrique Guang, president of UNELA; Dr. Pablo Deiros, Horacio's mentor; Drs. Norberto Saracco and Rubén Paredes, readers; and Dr. Sonia Abarca, a member of the faculty.

Horacio gave a 40-minute presentation of his research entitled, *Methodological Processes for a Theological Reflection Based on a Worldview of Conflict: Anthropological, Historical and Critical Approaches to the Western Reflexive Model.* Using PowerPoint and speaking with passion, Horacio presented his findings tracing the development of a theological worldview of control versus a theological worldview of conflict — particularly as that was reshaped by Augustine of Hippo. He made the case that the latter more closely reflects a biblical perspective, as well as that of the early church. Horacio concludes his dissertation with applications to the Latin American church, drawing from case studies done in Buenos Aires. Sixty minutes of questioning by the jury followed Horacio's presentation, after which the jury left the room for a half-hour deliberation. After the jury members filed back in, Dr. Van Engen read the official decision, sustaining the defense, pending the corrections the jury requested. The official graduation will take place in mid-2010.

Horacio was born in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He

completed engineering studies in the Buenos Aires Technological Institute, receiving degrees in Electronic Engineering and Arms Control Systems Engineering in 1984. With a scholarship from Philips and the government of the Netherlands, he then completed a Masters' degree in Electronic Engineering with a specialization in Robotics from the Philips International Institute in Eindhoven, the Netherlands. In 1992, he was awarded a Ph. D. in Electronic Engineering in Robotics by Delft University of Technology. During those years, Horacio had a conversion experience with God and became part of an independent Pentecostal church in Rotterdam, where he served as deacon. Upon his return to Buenos Aires in 1992, he began worshipping at a Holiness Pentecostal church, where he also served as an elder. During that period he met and married his wife, Maria de Jesús who is a lawyer in Buenos Aires. Together they began an evangelistic work in a town near Buenos Aires. After receiving a vision from God, Horacio began formal theological studies in 1995 in the Bible Institute of Buenos Aires, completing his bachelor's and Masters' degrees in Biblical and Theological Studies by 2000. In 1999 he became a member of the Central (Baptist) Church and began pastoring a mission church among the very poor in Buenos Aires.

Dr. Piccardo is Professor of Industrial Automation at the Technological Institute of Buenos Aires, teaching the graduate course in Advanced Robotics. Additionally, he has been professor in 18 biblical institutes and theological seminaries in the areas of New Testament, Greek, and Biblical Theology. He has written 4 books in theology, including a 3-volume commentary on the New Testament. He has also written several manuals for seminaries, and various theological articles, and articles in national and international technological journals. Horacio did part of his doctoral research in the LADPT with Dr. Gregory Boyd of Minneapolis, Minnesota, noted pastor, and expert in this field.

Pray for Horacio and María de Jesús as Horacio finishes editing the final draft of the dissertation and they continue to serve their church and teach in churches, Bible schools and seminaries

throughout South America. We praise God for their passion for Jesus!

Compiled from reports by Dr. Nancy Thomas, and Dr. Pablo Deiros, August 14, 2009



**Chuck and Jean Van Engen (right) with Horacio and María de Jesus Piccardo**



**SPOTLIGHT ON LATIN AMERICA: GUATEMALA**

**“Guatemala:** Land area: 41,865 sq mi (108,430 sq km); population (2009 est.): 13,276,517 (growth rate: 2.0%); capital and largest city: Guatemala City, 2,655,900 (metro. Area). The northernmost of the Central American nations, Guatemala is the size of Tennessee. Its neighbors are Mexico on the north and west, and Belize, Honduras, and El Salvador on the east. The country consists of three main regions—the cool highlands with the heaviest population, the tropical area along the Pacific and Caribbean coasts, and the tropical jungle in the northern lowlands (known as the Petén)...Once the site of the impressive ancient Mayan civilization, Guatemala was conquered by Spanish conquistador Pedro de Alvarado in 1524 and became a republic in 1839 after the United Provinces of Central America collapsed. (Close to 50% of the people of Guatemala are of Mayan descent.) —Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107596.html>

**Introducing those who study in the doctoral program**

**Silvia Giselle Fernández**

Silvia is Costa Rican and works full time as a professor in the Nazarene Seminary of the Americas in San José (known in Costa Rica as SENDAS). Silvia was converted to Christ at seventeen in the midst of a personal crisis. She was in her second year of studies in public administration in the National University of Costa Rica. She left her university studies to follow Jesus, although her family thought she was crazy to do so. Not knowing what to do next, a local church leader suggested that Silvia visit a small, struggling local church once a week. The ministry that the Holy Spirit enabled her to do there awoke in Silvia an even deeper desire to serve God. So she enrolled in SENDAS with a small and insufficient scholarship. To make ends meet, she worked days in a factory, and took night classes in SENDAS. Eventually, she came to the end of her available energy and resources. One day she was sitting in the garden in SENDAS, crying to the Lord that she could not go on. At that moment, the administrator of SENDAS approached her to tell her that someone wanted to give her a much larger scholarship. It was the answer to her prayers. She quit work in the factory, dedicated herself to her studies, augmenting her small income with preaching and teaching assignments in local churches. She finished her course of study and began teaching ethics, serving as chaplain and as spiritual counselor for the next eight years in a local Assemblies of God school. Silvia has bachelor’s and master’s degrees from SENDAS.



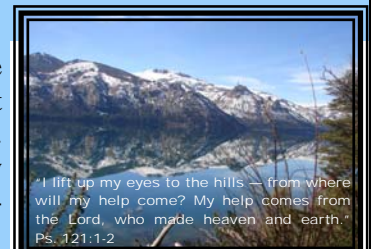
Jean Van Engen with Silvia Fernandez

She asks for prayer for financial resources to continue to study in the LADPT, for the conversion of her father and her brother, and for wisdom in her teaching and preaching. In SENDAS, Silvia teaches in the areas of Bible, missions, leadership and education; and she assists master’s students with their thesis projects. A Methodist, she also teaches weekends in a regional Methodist seminary, traveling to a variety of places in Costa Rica to teach on Saturdays. She plans to investigate the role of the contemporary prophet from a biblical perspective.

**Latin American Christian Ministries Finances:**

	<u>2008 Audited Actuals</u>	<u>2009 Challenge Budget</u>
<b>Income:</b>		
<i>contributions</i>	\$225,527	\$313,890 (rec'd to date: \$233,259)
<i>tuition (actual)</i>	\$209,891	\$210,850
<i>other income</i>	\$ (9,747)	\$ 6,500 (includes interest, honoraria, etc.)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$425,671</b>	<b>\$531,240</b>
<b>Expenses:</b>		
<i>total program expenses</i>	\$380,735	\$463,200
<i>administrative expenses</i>	\$ 56,999	\$ 68,040 (includes fund-raising costs)
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>\$437,734</b>	<b>\$531,240</b>

We are in awe at God’s goodness this year. During this economically challenging time for so many individuals and ministries, we praise God for the many unexpected gifts that His people have sent to support LACM and make this one of our better years financially. We passed a Field Review by the Evangelical Council for Financial Accountability (ECFA) during this past year and were found to be in full compliance with ECFA’s standards. Thank you for your partnership with us in this ministry.



*"I lift up my eyes to the hills — from where will my help come? My help comes from the Lord, who made heaven and earth."  
Ps. 121:1-2*

Photo by C. Van Engen, Patagonia, Argentina