



LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (LACM)

Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT)



Chuck and Jean Van Engen

948 S. Bradish Ave., Glendora, CA 91740
e-mail: cvanengen@lacmin.org

Phone: 626-963-9399
Fax: 626-914-3038

*A higher standard.
A higher purpose.*

Volume XV: No. 2

Websites: www.lacmin.org / www.prodola.org

Sept.- Dec., 2010

Dear partners in Christ's mission,

Time has flown by since the last prayer newsletter! July was spent getting things ready for our intensive courses in Costa Rica in early August. The latter part of August found me preaching and speaking in Guatemala City (see page 3). Over Labor Day, Jean and I had a wonderful time visiting our son, Andrew and daughter-in-law, Andrea in Toledo, Ohio, as well as seeing Jean's siblings in Michigan. Jean continues to work at City of Hope. I spent September preparing for fall courses at Fuller and supervising Fuller Ph.D. mentorees. Please pray for us! We have a busy fall! We do praise God for health, strength, safety and wonderful opportunities for ministry.

Some of you may wonder how we finance our travels. Your donations to LACM are not used to fund my travels except for the intensive courses or other meetings related only to the LADPT. Rather, because of my association with Fuller, the RCA, global mission endeavors, and because people know of my writing and speaking, I receive numerous invitations to preach and lecture around the world. When I accept an invitation it is on the condition that those inviting me will pay the bill for my travel. Almost always, this is both acceptable and expected by those who are inviting me. In that way, my travel costs are covered, and often I can use the opportunity to promote the LADPT, visit our doctoral students, and partner with our LADPT faculty at no cost to LACM. The Lord is good! **Please keep praying!**

— Chuck and Jean Van Engen

NOTE: As per our last newsletter, we are creating an email address list to send this newsletter to you via email. Let us know if you want to receive it that way.



"Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful? They should sing songs of praise...the prayer of the righteous is powerful and effective." — James 5:13,16b NRSV

Our Schedule

- Sept. 16-24 — Chuck speaks to 400 pastors at a missions conference in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.
- Sept. 27 — Classes begin for Chuck at Fuller Seminary
- Sept. 27-Oct 1 — Chuck teaches Biblical Foundations of Mission translated to Korean at Fuller Seminary
- Oct. 3 — Chuck preaches at First Reformed Church, Grandville, Michigan.
- Oct. 12-13 — Chuck leaves for Amsterdam to talk with folks at the Free University of Amsterdam regarding the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology.
- Oct. 15-25 — Chuck attends Lausanne III in Cape Town, South Africa.
- Oct. 26-27 — Chuck meets with folks in Johannesburg, South Africa, regarding the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology.
- Oct. 31 — Chuck preaches at First Reformed Church, Byron Center, Michigan.
- Nov. 13 — Board of Directors of LACM meet in Pasadena, California.
- Nov. 15-18 — Academic Council of the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology meet in Pasadena.
- Nov. 24-28 — Chuck and Jean spend Thanksgiving with Anita and John Bateman in San Antonio, TX
- Dec. 6-13 — Chuck goes to South India to talk with folks at a large Christian university about the LADPT as a possible model for them to use.



Van Engen Family
Front (l to r): Mike, Daniel, & Amy (Van Engen) Spivey
Middle: Jean, Andrea and Andrew Van Engen
Back: Chuck, Anita (Van Engen) and John Bateman

PRAISE GOD FOR A NEW PUBLICATION

Chuck was delighted to see the book *MISSIONSHIFT* come off the press a couple months ago. The book features 3 lead chapters by Paul Hiebert, Ralph Winter and Chuck, with 4 persons writing responses to each of the three chapters. It is a deep honor for Chuck to be included in such company — and, happily, the responders were kind!



"Prayer is the perfect instrument of development and of doing — it is outgoing, it is incoming; it is faith in God, and faith in oneself; it is active, it is passive; it is strenuous, it is calm; it works as if the whole thing depended on us, and trusts as if the whole thing depended on God."

— E. Stanley Jones. *Abundant Living*, 227

“Ah, Lord, great and awesome God, keeping covenant and steadfast love with those who love you and keep your commandments...To the Lord our God belong mercy and forgiveness....Now, therefore, O our God, listen to the prayer of your servant and to his supplication, for your own sake, Lord....Incline your ear, O my God, and hear...O Lord, hear; O Lord, forgive; O Lord, listen and act and do not delay! — Daniel 9:4, 9, 17, 19 NRSV

Please PRAY for the LADPT Students who are Writing their Dissertations

Please pray with us for the 4 students who are writing their dissertations. This is a really hard task. They must take what they have learned and researched over the past 4 or 5 years and distill that into a 250-page coherent, cohesive, concise, focused, and readable book. This takes patience, persistence, creativity, clarity of mind, and concentrated time for uninterrupted thinking. We ask the Holy Spirit to inspire and encourage them in this endeavor. Below, you can read a biographical summary of each, so you can better pray for them.



Valeria Motta Barreto Dos Santos is a Brazilian Presbyterian, involved with her husband in church planting in Brazil and Florida. She is a seminary professor and the coordinator for the extension education program of the South American Theological Faculty of Londrina, Brazil. Her gifting is as a pastor-teacher. Her research focus is an analysis of the expectations of pastors' wives among the members and in the structures of the evangelical churches of Brazil. Valeria is deeply concerned for the lack of recognition and the confusion over roles that pastors' wives suffer. Her desire is that her research provide a point of reference for these women and a means to encourage and strengthen them as valued daughters of God and ministers in their own right.

Dario Ramirez is a Paraguayan journalist and Mennonite pastor with a passion for communicating the good news of God's kingdom through the media of TV and radio. A graduate of both a theological seminary and the national university with a degree in communications, Darío has worked in Christian radio and TV stations in Asunción since 1992. He has also pastored a Mennonite congregation. Darío is investigating the reasons for the effectiveness of a particular popular Christian radio program for women in Asunción, with implications for the use of media in mission. He and his family are currently living in Buenos Aires to be near research libraries.



David Roldán is a Presbyterian pastor living in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He teaches in several theological seminaries throughout Argentina. He is part of the pastoral team of the congregation, Comunidad Evangélica Restauración en Cristo, in that city and has been the national secretary for the accreditation association for seminaries and theological institutions in the southern hemisphere of the continent. He is also the Dean of the bachelor's-level pastoral training program called FIET with over 4000 students. David is doing his doctoral research on the construction of Latin American theology for evangelicals in the 21st Century.

Erico Xavier is a Brazilian Seventh-Day Adventist pastor currently serving three churches in Londrina. He has been extensively involved in theological education by extension as a seminary professor. He and his wife Noemi have two adult children who are also active in ministry. Erico's doctoral investigation is focused on Latin American theologian Orlando Costas and the contribution his theory of the wholistic church can make to the Adventist movement in Brazil. Erico wants to know what constitutes a healthy, vibrant, growing church in the context of Brazil.



“In prayer, Jesus said to his Father, ‘As you sent me into the world, I have sent them into the world.’ (Jn 17:18); and in commissioning, he said, ‘As the Father has sent me, I am sending you.’ (Jn 20:21). These words are immensely significant. This is not just the version of the great commission recorded in John's Gospel, it is also an instruction that their mission in the world was to resemble Christ's. In what respect? The key words are ‘sent into the world.’ That is, as Christ has to enter our world, so we are to enter other people's worlds....This entering of other people's worlds is exactly what we mean by incarnational mission, and all authentic mission is incarnational. We are to be like Christ in his mission.”

— John Stott. *The Radical Disciple*, 34-35.



Chuck in front of the Cathedral in Antigua, Guatemala

The Joy of Guatemala

In August, Chuck enjoyed visiting Guatemala, where he was invited to teach for 3 days at the 75th Anniversary of the Presbyterian Seminary of Guatemala. He revisited Antigua (left), the 470-year-old center of Spanish colonial rule. He spent an evening talking with the seminary faculty (right) about leadership formation in Guatemala. It was delightful to review with them some of their own history. This particular seminary was the birthplace of Theological Education by Extension (TEE), founded there by Ralph Winter, Ross Kinsler, Jim Emery and others. TEE revolutionized pastoral leadership formation around the world. Today's distance-learning is a computerized adaptation of TEE. The world church owes a debt of gratitude to this seminary in Guatemala.



The faculty of the Presbyterian Seminary of Guatemala meets with Chuck.

Mission Vision in Brazil

Mid-September found Chuck in Brazil, invited to Belo Horizonte, a city of 4 million in central Brazil to preach and speak for a week-long world mission congress. On Sunday, Chuck preached at the 8th Presbyterian Church that has over 3000 members and supports around 30 missionaries and church planters locally, regionally in the Amazon, and globally. The church is lively and charismatic, with delightfully vibrant worship.

60 miles out of Belo Horizonte was a beautiful retreat center, the locale for the congress attended by 380 pastors and church leaders from 10 different denominations from various places throughout central Brazil. We



Sunday morning worship at 8th Presbyterian Church in Belo Horizonte, Brazil.



Worship at the mission congress.

had a wonderful time of spirit-filled worship and solid Bible exposition. Chuck spoke 3 mornings on the missionary nature of the Church with translation to Portuguese.

He met an elder of a church of 300 who reported that his church supports 28 local, regional and international missionaries. The church also has over 20 different compassion ministries in its region of Brazil. "Listening to you," he said, "I began to think that maybe our little church is a missionary church!" What an inspiration to be with the folks in Brazil! During my time there I also met around 15 very good, and very interested, possible new students for the LADPT! Praise God for the world church to which we all belong! It is Christ's church called to announce the Kingdom of God!



LADPT faculty and students in San José, Costa Rica, August, 2010

Chuck & Jean Van Engen are on the far right.



Young people pray for the world and the evangelization of the nations.

PRODOLA Students by Country as of August, 2010



Our Financial Principles

We have seldom mentioned finances in our Prayer Newsletters; but periodically, people ask us how we finance the program. Our first answer is, "By the grace of God and your loving and visionary generosity." Let us share with you our financial principles.

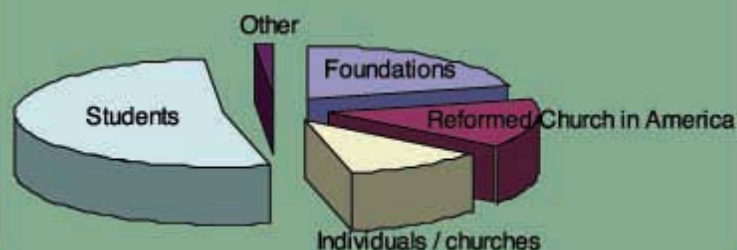
1.) Vision comes first, finances follow. LACM began as a non-profit corporation with few resources. After much prayer, we agreed on this principle, "Cast the vision, follow the Holy Spirit's leading, and trust the Lord for the financial support." We have operated that way and the Lord has provided in wonderful ways!

2.) Our support has multiple sources. As you can see in the "Income" pie-chart, many constituents are involved in supporting our program, including foundations, the Reformed Church in America, individuals and churches, and the students. Many donate time, including Chuck and Jean, board members, Academic Council members, and our webmasters.

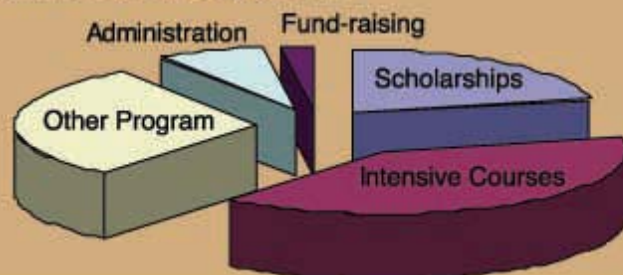
3.) Most financial resources are focused on running the program and the intensive courses. Having no buildings and no full-time faculty is a great assistance to us. We pay our faculty per course and utilize available facilities. Scholarships are given to cover up to 40% of the student's total costs.

4.) We have both short-term and long-term approaches to funding. The LALDP is a continuing, permanent institution. It will take each of our students from 4 to 6 years to complete their studies. We have begun an endowment fund to provide long-term funding for the program and would be happy to give you information about that, if you are interested. We also invite help to provide scholarship assistance. When people donate money for scholarships it helps us to help the students — and together we share the joy of supporting the program.

Income Jan-Sept, 2010



Expenses Jan-Sept, 2010



Latin American Christian Ministries Finances:

		2009 Audited Actuals
Income:	contributions	\$280,881
	tuition (actual)	\$206,175
	other income	\$ 14,187
	TOTALS	\$501,243
Expenses:	total program expenses	\$431,694
	administrative expenses	\$ 58,188
	TOTALS	\$489,822

	2010 Challenge Budget
	\$259,950 (rec'd to date: \$133,603)
	\$210,800
	\$ 8,990 (interest, honoraria, etc.)
	\$479,740

	\$388,600
	\$ 91,140 (includes fund-raising)
	\$479,740



Photo by C. Van Eppen, Patagonia, Argentina

"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