



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,

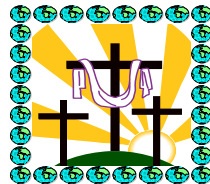
Every day Jean and I praise God for you — for your loving interest, continuing faithfulness, constant prayers and generous support! Your gifts during the past five months have sustained this ministry and deeply encouraged us.

Your prayers were answered! The intensive class session in early February in Costa Rica was really wonderful! On pages 2 and 3 of this prayer newsletter we will introduce you to the truly outstanding leaders who began their studies in February. You partner with us so that together we can invest in their lives. Please pray for each of them by name.

In late February and March I attended two meetings in Beirut, Lebanon. The first was a gathering of the Lausanne Theology Working Group. The second was convened by the International Council of Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), gathering people who lead doctoral programs in Theology around the world. The meeting confirmed for me that we are on the right track — in fact we seem to be ahead of the curve. It also helped me see where our program needs to be strengthened and improved. A highlight of our time in Beirut was a private meeting of our group of around 20 international scholars with the President of Lebanon. Expected to give us a short greeting, he talked with us for almost half an hour about the need for Christian leaders to foster global reconciliation and peace.

Pray for us and for LACM. As the program grows, our need for additional structure, personnel and financial support continue to grow as well! We really need your prayers that our risen Savior, Jesus Christ, will continue to provide the resources we need. Thank you again for your wonderful support! **Please keep praying!**

NOTE: As per our last newsletter, we are beginning to create an email address list to send this newsletter to you via email.



Jehoshaphat stood in...the house of the Lord,...and said, "O Lord, God of our ancestors, are you not God in heaven? Do you not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations?...We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."...Then the spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel....He said, "Do not fear or be dismayed....for the battle is not yours but God's...take your position, stand still, and see the victory of the Lord on your behalf....Do not fear or be dismayed...the Lord will be with you."
— 2 Chron. 20: 5-17 NRSV

Our Schedule

- April 1-8 — Chuck preaches in Orange City, Iowa and speaks at Northwestern College.
- April 17-18 - Chuck speaks and preaches at Rockland Westchester Classis, and Clarkstone Reformed Church (RCA) in New Jersey.
- April 25 — Chuck preaches at First Reformed Church, Oak Harbor, WA.
- April 29-May 2 - Chuck & Jean attend their 40th Class Reunion at Hope College
- May 2 — Chuck preaches at First Reformed, Holland
- May 6-7 — Chuck at Hope College Board of Trustees meeting.
- May 10-12 — Chuck & Jean in Miami for the Academic Council of the LADPT.
- June 17-20 — Chuck attends the Association of Professors of Mission and American Society of Missiology meetings in Chicago.
- June 28-July 2 — Chuck teaches "Biblical Foundations of Mission" at Fuller Seminary in Pasadena, CA.

PRAY FOR NEW PUBLICATIONS

Please pray for Chuck as he guides two books toward publication. Chiapas Para Cristo: Ochenta Años de Compañerismo en Misión (co-edited with Carlos Martinez) is the Spanish translation of the Fall, 2004 issue of Reformed Review, (Holland, MI, Western Theological Seminary) that summarizes the mission principles of the Reformed Church in America mission in Chiapas, Mexico from 1925 to 2005. La Iglesia Latinoamericana: Su Vida y Misión (co-edited with Nancy Thomas and Alberto Roldan) is a symposium volume with chapters written by each of the members of the LADPT Academic Council offering an overview of the theology, mission perspectives, and philosophy of education of our doctoral program.

Along with his own chapters, Chuck is writing the Preface and the Conclusion for each book, and will work out arrangements with the publishers. We are anxious to see both books in print soon.



Chuck & Jean at the door to the apartment where they stay when in Costa Rica

"Always respond to every impulse to pray. The impulse to pray may come when you are reading or when you are battling with a text. I would make an absolute law of this – always obey such an impulse." -- Martyn Lloyd-Jones

(taken from <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/prayerquotes.htm>)



"When I heard these words I sat down and wept, and mourned for days, fasting and praying before the God of heaven. I said, 'O Lord God of heaven, the great and awesome God who keeps covenant and steadfast love with those who love him and keep his commandments, let your ear be attentive and your eyes open to hear the prayer of your servant that I now pray before you day and night for your servants, the people of Israel, confessing the sins of the people of Israel....They are...your people whom you redeemed by your great power and your strong hand. O Lord, let your ear be attentive to the prayer...of your servants who delight in revering your name. Give success to your servant today, and grant him mercy...'"
— Nehemiah 1:4-11 NRSV

Meet the LADPT Students who began in February, 2010



Maximo Alvares, director of Evangelism in Depth for all of Spain, administers programs of evangelism and church planting, working with local congregations to develop missionary strategies. He planted and pastors a Baptist church in Seville. Maximo and his wife Joana have two children.

Juan Castillo, a Peruvian, serves with his wife **Eva Morales de Castillo**, also a LADPT student from Bolivia, in a Christian organization called "Paz y Esperanza" (Peace and Hope) in Bolivia (see page 3).



Rubén Esponda, from Chiapas, Mexico, currently lives in California where he pastors a Methodist congregation in Santa Ana and teaches theology in a seminary in Claremont. His research project is to write the history of the Presbyterian Church in Chiapas, the church of his own Christian formation. Rubén and his wife Aremi have three sons between age 6 and 16.



Felipe Esteban teaches theology at the Peruvian Union University in Lima, an institution of the Peruvian Seventh-Day Adventist Church. He is married to Lidia, and the couple has two children. Felipe wants to focus his research on the growth of the church among Lima's youth.



Oscar Franco pastors the Church of the Nazarene in the town of San Bartola, El Salvador. He has taught sociology in the University of El Salvador for many years. Currently he is an adjunct professor of theology in the Nazarene seminaries of Guatemala and Costa Rica. Oscar and his wife Rosalba have two teenage children.



Oscar Jo pastors a Presbyterian church in Lima, Peru, and teaches theology in the Evangelical Seminary of the Andes in Ayacucho. He and his wife Majelis have two teenage children. For his doctoral research Oscar wants to study the integration of Bible, mission and ecology, exploring the history of the Peruvian church in its response to environmental problems.



José Bernardo Luacute serves as pastor of an evangelical church in Lubango, Angola, Africa. He also teaches theology in the Higher Institute of Evangelical Theology in the same city. He has been active in ministry among university students, serving as national director for several years. He wants to research urban mission, exploring models of healthy church growth in a



Faculty and students at the Evangelical University of the Americas, in San José, Costa Rica

The Church has not yet touched the fringe of the possibilities of intercessory prayer. Her largest victories will be witnessed when individual Christians everywhere come to recognize their priesthood unto God and day by day give themselves unto prayer. -- John R. Mott (taken from <http://www.tentmaker.org/Quotes/prayerquotes.htm>)



Introducing students who study in the doctoral program



Juan and Eva Castillo

Juan Castillo and Eva Morales de Castillo

Joy radiates from Juan and Eva's smiles that reflects delight in their family, excitement in their ministry, and gratitude at the opportunity they have to prepare for a more effective involvement in mission in Latin America. Both are in the 2010 Generation of new students, and they are also one of a small but growing number of married couples in PRODOLA.

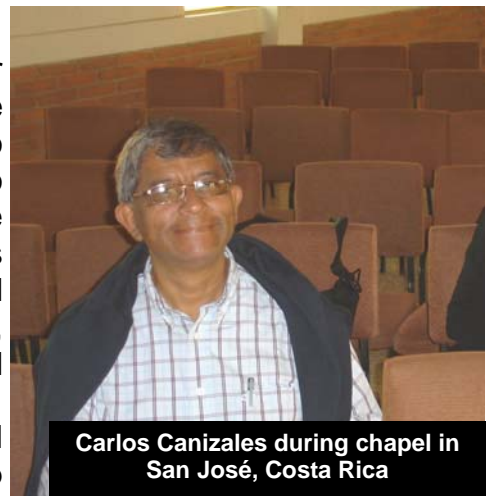
Juan Castillo grew up in a strong pastoral family in Peru; his parents served as missionaries to an Amazonian tribe and also planted seven congregations. Eva is from Bolivia, but with a similar background of parents who served both as pastors and as missionaries among Quechua people. Juan and Eva met through their involvement with the Latin American university movement, organizationally related to InterVarsity Christian Fellowship, first as students and later as staff members. After their marriage, they served the movement together in Bolivia, where Eva served as Secretary General for the country. Juan and Eva have a three-year-old son, Felipe, and look forward to having more children.

Eva and Juan are currently in a transition time in their ministry, moving from their positions with InterVarsity in order to work full time with Paz y Esperanza, a Christian ministry that focuses on integral mission and community development. Paz y Esperanza works in contexts of violence and seeks to help local churches face problems in their own barrios, through education and projects. The Castillos will be located in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

For his research in PRODOLA, Juan wants to investigate the models of mission that formed the evangelical church in Latin America, with projection for the future mission of the church. Eva wants to explore how contemporary biblical interpretations of gender affect the identities of men and women in the evangelical church. She will consider how gender roles are passed on and their effects in issues of leadership, power and violence. She notes the problem of machismo and domestic violence in evangelical families.

Carlos Canizales began his studies in the LADPT in 2009. Carlos comes from El Salvador, where he serves as supervisor for the national Church of God, Cleveland, supervising the pastoral leaders of over 330 congregations. He is also President of the board of trustees and Director of the Seminario Bíblico Pentecostal Centroamericano, in Guatemala City. He leads a group of disciples in his local congregation. Carlos exercises pastoral influence among over 40,000 believers in El Salvador through church planting, pastors' conferences, preaching, teaching, writing discipleship materials, and personally supervising and coaching the pastors.

Discipleship is the broad theme of Carlos' doctoral research. He plans to study the leadership and discipleship practices of Jesus, with applications to the church in Latin America. For fun, he likes to play soccer. But even so, Carlos insists that his "great passion is to make disciples and form leaders." He hopes that his research in PRODOLA strengthens the work of the church in El Salvador.



Carlos Canizales during chapel in San José, Costa Rica



SPOTLIGHT ON LATIN AMERICA: CHILE

Situated south of Peru and west of Bolivia and Argentina, Chile fills a narrow 2,880-mi (4,506 km) strip between the Andes and the Pacific. One-third of Chile is covered by the towering ranges of the Andes. In the north is the driest place on Earth, the Atacama Desert, and in the center is a 700-mile-long (1,127 km) thickly populated valley with most of Chile's arable land. At the southern tip of Chile's mainland is Punta Arenas, the southernmost city in the world, and beyond that lies the Strait of Magellan and Tierra del Fuego, an island divided between Chile and Argentina. The southernmost point of South America is Cape Horn..., which belongs to Chile. Chile also claims sovereignty over 482,628 sq mi (1,250,000 sq km) of Antarctic territory; the Juan Fernández Islands, about 400 mi (644 km) west of the mainland; and Easter Island, about 2,000 mi (3,219 km) west....Chile was originally under the control of the Incas in the north and the nomadic Araucanos in the south. In 1541, a Spaniard, Pedro de Valdivia, founded Santiago. Chile won its independence from Spain in 1818 under Bernardo O'Higgins and an Argentinian, José de San Martin. O'Higgins, dictator until 1823, laid the foundations of the modern state with a two-party system and a centralized government. Pray for Chile in the aftermath of the recent earthquake. —Source: http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107596.html



Introducing Nola Aalberts

We are so pleased that Nola Aalberts has agreed to serve as part-time Development Officer for LACM and help us present and coordinate the ministries of LACM with persons, organizations and churches in Iowa and mid-America.

Nola was raised on the Winnebago Indian Reservation in Nebraska, where her parents were Reformed Church in America (RCA) missionaries. She remains a member of the Winnebago Reformed Church. Nola has her bachelor's degree in Social Work from Gustavus Adolphus College and masters in Management from the University of South Florida. Nola served in the Peace Corps in Guatemala and taught English as a second language for an additional three years at the American School in Guatemala City. On her return to the U.S., Nola began a 20 year career in Home Health Services, beginning as the director of a small agency in Mitchell County, Iowa, eventually becoming the COO of the National Association of Home Care and the

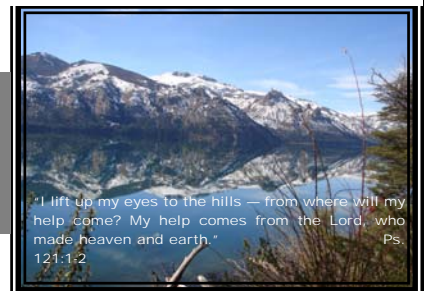
Foundation for Hospice and Home Care in Washington, DC. Nola was then called to 11 years of ministry in the RCA as a Coordinator for Mission. She now resides in Orange City, Iowa where she serves as the Coordinator for Northwest Iowa Decat and Community Partnerships, a funding and planning body for services and programs for high risk families with children ages 0-18. She also is a Certified Independent Health Coach for Healthy Habits 4u, Take Shape for Life.

Nola recently attended a meeting of several LADPT doctoral students with Hal and Nancy Thomas, in Guatemala City. Nola was impressed with the students, their various ministries and areas of doctoral research. Nola writes, "It was

wonderful to hear them share their thoughts and dreams, as well as observe how they were willing to assist each other in their doctoral studies and investigations." She was impressed by the fact that results of the research of each topic could lead to new vision and understanding that could impact not only the church in Guatemala, but in all of Latin America and beyond."



PRODOLA students and faculty meeting in February, 2010, with Arenal, one of Costa Rica's active volcanoes, in the background.



"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