

News from Chuck and Jean

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

Thank you so very much for your generous, loving, and faithful support of this ministry! We have received so many letters and gifts during the past weeks! We are truly blessed. Thank you!

About three months ago, one of our supporters asked about our graduates. Where are they and what are they doing? As Jean and I began to prepare the September newsletter, we saw that we would need quite a lot of space to tell you about each graduate in a more complete and interesting way. So we decided to focus on 4 of our 8 graduates in the September newsletter and tell you about the other 4 in this newsletter. So here is "Our Graduates, Continued!"

With us, you are investing in the lives of these sisters and brothers, top leaders in their denominations, churches, mission agencies, Bible schools and seminaries throughout Latin-America. The result of your – and our – investment will yield immeasurable fruit for years to come.



Dr. Rubén Dreidger, a Mennonite from Uruguay, began his studies in our doctoral program in 2008. Coming from a German background, Rubén grew up on his family's cattle ranch in Uruguay. Rubén says, "I love living in the rural areas and I could have spent my life milking cows, but something inside me told me there was more to life than this. My gift is teaching." So Rubén sold his cows, rented out his land, and moved to Paraguay. Rubén and his wife, Ingrid, have a grade school age daughter, Joanna.

Rubén's area of research in the LADPT has been the theology of mission in Matthew's Sermon on the Mount and

how the principles found there in relation to family, friends, social structures, and relationships between persons and God guided Mennonite churches in the 16th Century and can guide them in Paraguay today.

Since 2007 Rubén has been serving with his family on the Faculty of Theology, CEMTA campus (Centro Evangélico Menonita de Teología) of the Evangelical University of Paraguay. Rubén received his Ph.D. diploma from the South African Theological Seminary (SATS), one of our partner degree-granting institutions. This past November, Rubén and LADPT graduate Darío Ramirez were honored by their Faculty of Theology and their university in a special hooding ceremony and celebration in Asunción, Paraguay.



Dr. Érico Xavier is a Brazilian pastor in the Seventh Day Adventist Church in Brazil. He is also an educator for Adventist churches in Brazil. In his Ph.D. research in our program, Dr. Xavier examined seven Adventist churches in the southern Brazilian city of Londrina, in relation to their characteristics of wholistic growth: organizational, spiritual, incarnational, organic, theological, and numerical. He also examined the impact that those seven churches have had on their local and global contexts. Around the world, the nation with the most Seventh Day Adventist members is Brazil, and Adventist churches continue to grow rapidly. Upon graduation, Dr. Xavier was asked to serve as a professor of Theology and Mission in an Adventist university in Bolivia for about 2 years. Recently he reported, "I have finished a post-doctoral program in Theology in the Faculty of Philosophy and *Theology of the Jesuit University of Belo Horizonte*, (in northern) Brasil. As a result of that study, I have published a book with Editora Academia Cristã de São Paulo. Érico has published several books. He is presently on the faculty of an Adventist university in northern Brazil.

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Chuck and Jean Van Engen
For more information and ways to be involved:
www.rca.org/vanengen

"We constantly pray for you, that our God may count you worthy of his calling, and that by his power he may fulfill every good purpose of yours and every act prompted by your faith. We pray this so that the name of our Lord Jesus may be glorified in you, and you in him, according to the grace of our God and the Lord Jesus Christ."
— II Thess. 1:11-12NIV

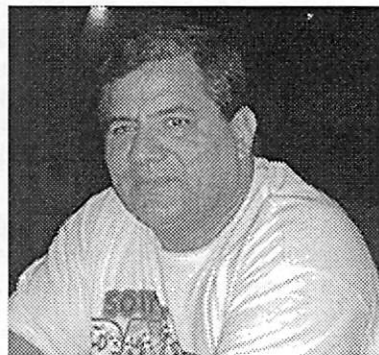
More from the RCA:

- [Give a Gift of Hope Year Round](#)
- [RCA Today, Winter 2015](#)

Dr. Horacio R. Piccardo is from Buenos Aires, Argentina. Prior to studying in the LADPT, Horacio had completed a Ph.D. in Electronic Engineering in Leiden, the Netherlands. For a number of years, he has served as a pastor in a small church at the outskirts of Buenos Aires among the very poor. He has also served as a professor in the Bible Institute of Buenos Aires and several other seminaries and Bible schools in Argentina. For many years, Horacio also taught Robotics in one of the national universities in Buenos Aires. He has a number of books published, including a 3-volume commentary on the New Testament published in digital form in LIBRONIX/LOGOS. He tells us that recently he has felt called to pastor his church full-time, and to teach Bible and Theology in a number of Bible schools and seminaries throughout South America. This past October Horacio and his wife, Maria de Jesús, a lawyer, were in Ecuador where Horacio lectured.



Dr. Rafael Enrique Brenes Sanchez came to faith in the Roman Catholic charismatic movement and later became associated with an evangelical Pentecostal church. He has served as the director of the Pastoral Ministries Department and a professor in the ESEPA seminary in San José, Costa Rica. Dr. Brenes pastors the Iglesia Cristiana La Carpa, an evangelical church in Grecia, one of the wealthy suburbs of San Jose, Costa Rica. In his doctoral research, Enrique explored the dynamics of revitalization and new missionary vision and commitment for older established — and stagnated — churches in Grecia. Enrique is on the faculty of the Evangelical University of the Americas (UNELA), our partner in Costa Rica. He continues to pastor his church and is committed to mobilizing his and other churches in Costa Rica to new ministries and mission outreach locally and globally.



There are now around 600 Latin American mission agencies sending over 9000 cross-cultural missionaries both in-country and internationally. Churches and mission agencies throughout Latin America are especially committed to sending cross-cultural missionaries to the Middle East and other Muslim contexts. Possibly as much as 40% of Spanish is derived from Arabic, the fruit of centuries of rule by the Moors over Spain. Many of these mission agencies are led and administrated by pastors, church leaders, and executives with little or no training at all in missiology, contextual analysis, or mission principles and practice. There are a few mission-training programs and institutions throughout Latin America, but these are very few. Many churches and mission agencies are looking to our Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology, with its emphasis in missiology, to help them to research, study, and learn what they need to know in order to better lead their churches and agencies in mission.

Please continue to pray for us.

The next three months are going to very busy ones for us. We would value your prayers.

Dec 12-14 — Chuck and Jean are at First Reformed, Sioux Center, Iowa, to report on the John and Mabel Kempers biography project.

Dec 15-19 — Chuck and Jean are in Holland, Michigan, in conversation with folks from the RCA Historical Series regarding the Kempers biography.

Dec. 26 - Jan. 5 - Chuck and Jean are in Miami for a Van Engen Reunion with Chuck's 2 sisters, two of our children/families, and nieces and nephews.

Jan 12-16 Chuck team-teaches in a Korean-language Doctor of Missiology course at Fuller.

Feb. 2-20 — Chuck and Jean are in Yucatan, Mexico for Chuck to teach an intensive course with the LADPT students who began in 2014.

Mar 23-28 — Chuck teaches Biblical Theology of Mission in San José, Costa Rica.

Chuck and Jean

Note: Your gifts and contributions go directly to fund the doctoral program itself. To make a contribution go to www.rca.org/vanengen. If you wish to receive our newsletter by email, write us at cvanengen@lacmin.org. [View the most recent LADPT letter.](#)

Chuck and Jean's ministry

Unprecedented growth among the Protestant churches in Latin America has created an urgent need for leaders who can mentor other leaders, disciple new believers, help transform society, and engage in cross-cultural mission. The Latin American Leadership Development Program (LALDP), a multinational and multi-denominational community of Latin American scholars, churches, and educational institutions, helps meet the need for advanced theological education in

Spanish and Portuguese. This four-year doctoral program, which is directed and taught by Latin Americans, serves Latin American churches, missions, seminaries, and Bible schools. Chuck Van Engen, who was instrumental in starting the program, serves as president of Latin American Christian Ministries. His wife, Jean, is accountant and chief financial officer for the LALDP.

Pray - Engage - Connect



The RCA has been called to partner with our brothers and sisters in Latin America and the Caribbean to "declare the glory of God among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples!" (Psalm 96:3) Together with your congregation and with our long standing partners, the RCA has been maximizing global impact serving God's kingdom holistically in the southwestern hemisphere.

Join us in what God is already doing! As Global Mission, we can come alongside those who are striving to make a difference with the Gospel of Christ.

I am available to your congregation for consulting on mission visioning; organizing a vision trip to the field you support; organizing a mission committee or re-envisioning it; and resourcing your congregation in the different areas of the mission.

Luis Ruiz, supervisor of RCA mission in Latin America and the Caribbean
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