



# RCA Missionary Update

*Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT)*  
*Chuck and Jean Van Engen*



## 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 Martín. 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>

### Ministry:

*Theological Education and Leadership Formation*

Location: *The entire continent*

### Partners:

*The Evangelical University of the Americas, San José, Costa Rica; and Latin American Christian Ministries, Inc.*

### CONTACT:

**Chuck & Jean Van Engen**  
**948 S. Bradish Ave.**  
**Glendora, CA, 91740 USA**

[cvanengen@lacmin.org](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org)  
[www.lacmin.org](http://www.lacmin.org)  
[www.prodola.org](http://www.prodola.org)

**Dear intercessors and partners with us in Christ's mission,**

**June, 2010**



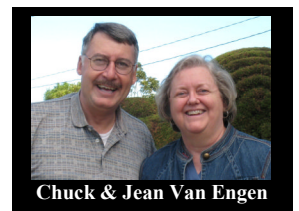
Chuck shaking the hand of the President of Lebanon

We continue to thank God for you — and to be humbled and amazed at your loving interest, faithful prayer, and generous support! God is so good!

In early March Chuck attended a meeting convened and financed by the International Council of Evangelical Theological Education (ICETE), gathering those who lead doctoral programs in Theology around the world. The meeting confirmed for us that we are on the right track — in fact we seem to be ahead of the curve. It also helped us 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 international scholars with the President of Lebanon, Dr. Michel Suleiman. 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, additional 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 for us!***



Chuck & Jean Van Engen

**REFORMED CHURCH IN AMERICA • MISSION SERVICES • 4500 60TH STREET SE, GRAND RAPIDS, MI 49512**  
**(800) 968-3943 • [www.rca.org](http://www.rca.org)**



### **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.

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."

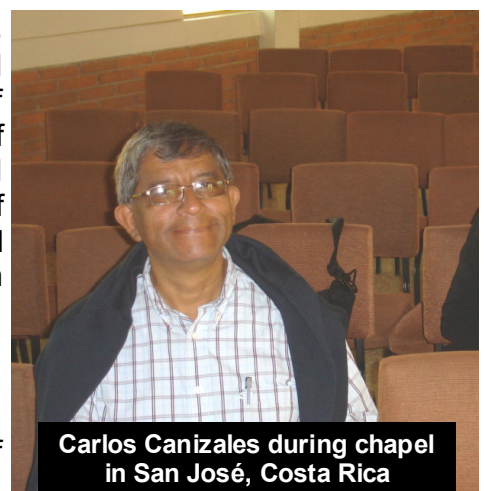
— 2 Chron. 20: 5-17 NRSV

### **Introducing Carlos Canizales**

Carlos 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. Even so, Carlos insists that his "great passion is to make disciples and form leaders." He hopes his research in PRODOLA will strengthen the work of the church in El Salvador.

Carlos is married to María Celsa, and the couple have three grown children.



Carlos Canizales during chapel in San José, Costa Rica