



# **LATIN AMERICAN CHRISTIAN MINISTRIES (LACM)**

***Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT)***

*Forming gifted leaders for  
greater service — Eph. 4:12*

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## **Dear co-laborers in Christ's mission,**

It is always a joy for me to write to you and report on what the Holy Spirit is doing through your generous investment in the Kingdom by means of the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT). I always struggle to know how much — or how little — I should write. Jean encourages me to be brief — as it should be. I would love to write more and longer. Please notice above that we have been writing and sending this newsletter to many of you for 24 years! Wow!

In this issue, Jean and I would like to highlight one of our professors along with two of our doctoral students who recently defended their dissertations — a huge milestone for them and for us!

At present we have over 30 other LADPT students who are doing their research and, the Lord willing, will be writing their dissertations in the near future. Each candidate is supervised by a Latin American professor who serves as mentor. Along with the mentor, each student does 3 individualized, self-designed research units that involve one-on-one guidance and supervision of an expert in that field. So each student has potentially 4 Latin American professors accompanying her/his research. We charge each student tuition for each of these learning units and we contract each of the professors whom we pay an honorarium for their investment. This process represents a lot of administrative work for Jean and me. Thank you so very much for your prayers.

We are deeply grateful for your prayers, personal interest and support! We could not do this ministry without you! Please keep praying for us! We are so wonderfully blessed by the Latin American leaders we are privileged to work with! We are especially joyful when we watch our students graduate.

Give thanks with us! Please know our deep gratitude for your partnership with us. We are humbled by your love. **Thank you!**

**Love in Jesus,**

**Chuck and Jean Van Engen**



"Shout with joy to God, all the earth!  
Sing the glory of his name; make his  
praise glorious! Say to God, 'How  
awesome are your deeds...All the earth  
bows down to you; they sing praise to  
you, they sing praise to your name.'"

— Ps. 66: 1-4 NIV

## **THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS.**

- Nov. 11: LACM Board Meeting
- Nov. 27– Dec. 1: Chuck and Jean with family in Toledo, Ohio
- Dec. 11-14: Chuck teaches a course with Pentecostal pastors in Puebla, Mexico
- Dec. 20-28: Chuck and Jean with daughter Amy and family in Tacoma, Washington
- Jan. 16-18: Chuck and Jean attend Reformed Church Mission 2020 in Orlando, Florida
- Jan. 19-28: Chuck and Jean spent time with family in Orlando and Miami, FL

## **PRAISE GOD FOR OUR PROFESSORS**

Jean and I recently had the delight of hosting Jorge and Denise Barro from Brazil in our home. What a joy to see them once again. We took them to Ottawa Beach State Park to see the famous light house! Jorge is one of our faculty members in LADPT and mentors several of our doctoral students. In the 1990's, I accompanied Jorge as mentor in his



Ph.D. studies in Mission Theology in the School of World Mission of Fuller Seminary. Denise is a physical therapist. After graduating from Fuller, Jorge returned to Brazil to join his brother, Dr. Antonio Carlos Barro, in creating the South American Theological Faculty (FTSA). With over 2000 students, FTSA is one of the largest and most significant multi-denominational seminaries in South America, where Jorge serves as Academic Dean. Jorge has planted and pastored a number of Presbyterian churches in Brazil. He has taught, mentored, and encouraged hundreds of pastors in Brazil. He has written more than ten books in Portuguese, especially in the area of mission in the city. He is an outstanding Latin American scholar. He served as the President of the Latin American Theological Fraternity for a time. We are honored to have him as one of our LADPT professors and to count Jorge and Denise as friends.

**" To be a Christian without prayer is no more possible than to be alive without breathing."**

— Martin Luther

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May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, that your ways may be known on earth, your salvation among all nations. May the peoples praise you, O God; may all the peoples praise you. May the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you rule the peoples justly and guide the nations of the earth. — Ps. 67:1-4 NIV



Juan Shorack (right) showing an LADPT student what he can do on the computer.

### **PRAISE GOD FOR JOHN SHORACK**

Juan Shorack and his family live in Caracas, Venezuela as American crosscultural missionaries serving with InnerCHANGE, a Protestant missionary order that is committed to "journey long-term with people who face enduring poverty. Mission is about living and working alongside people-so we partner with local leaders to minister from the inside out....Our teams come alongside people who are on the margins of society....By living and working with local leaders, we can help to meet needs together."

Juan began his doctoral studies in the LADPT in 2012. His research topic was, "Aspects of a Pentecostal christology of missional identification with the other as one's neighbor in the context of Venezuela."

In Latin America, most of the available publications associated with Juan's research topic tend to focus on Pentecostal theology, evangelization, spiritual warfare, socio-political liberation, or general mission concepts. Very little research has been done at the congregational and local level, and even less that bridges the various disciplines that Juan brings together in an interactive and interdisciplinary way. Although Spanish is not Juan's first language, he chose to write the dissertation in Spanish. In Latin America, this work will be considered new and pace-setting.

In our doctoral program, once the mentor approves the dissertation, we invite two outside readers to evaluate the work. If their feedback is positive, we convene a 2-hour defense that includes our Academic Dean, Dr. R. Tito Paredes, the mentor, the two reader-evaluators, and the doctoral candidate. On Nov 21, Juan defended his dissertation by internet, with the participants located in 4 countries! What a joy it was to see Juan complete his doctoral studies in the midst of his ministry demands in a country that is in such turmoil!



Juan (right) with a fellow student, a pastor and university professor from Mexico

Jean and I use AmazonSmile for all of our internet purchases. AmazonSmile donates a percentage of each purchase to registered nonprofit organizations. Our ministry receives donations to the Latin American Christian Ministries account from purchases in AmazonSmile when we are the designated nonprofit. Please consider using this as a way of supporting the LADPT. You can go on AmazonSmile and designate "Latin American Christian Ministries Inc." for your donation.

### **PRAISE GOD FOR ANGELA DURIGAN!**

In Latin America, most of the available publications in pastoral counseling focus on personal, individual, or family counseling, with little or no attention given to the local church. Angela is a Church of the Nazarene ordained pastor and seminary professor. Her husband, George, is a retired accountant and businessman. Ten years ago, Angela traveled from central Brazil all the way to San José, Costa Rica, to begin her studies in the LADPT. Angela studied



Angela Durigan, with Chuck Van Engen (far left) and her husband, George, far right.

how a local congregation can become a therapeutic community committed to helping people experience restoration and healing in their physical, psychological, spiritual and social well-being. This is considered ground-breaking work in Latin America. Angela drew from her own pastoral and counseling experience, along with long-term friendships and ministry associations. She is an excellent writer, having written several books about spiritual disciplines, pastoral issues, mental and emotional health, and the mission of the church prior to her doctoral studies. Her husband, George, helps her publish her writing. This past August, the South American Theological Faculty in Londrina, Brazil, hosted them and the examining professors for her dissertation defense.



Angela (left) with LADPT students and Jean Van Engen (far right)

**"True prayer is neither a mere mental exercise nor a vocal performance. It is far deeper than that - it is spiritual transaction with the Creator of Heaven and Earth." — Charles Spurgeon**

— <https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/>

**Note: Your gifts and contributions go directly to fund the doctoral program itself.**

**DONATIONS MUST BE POSTMARKED DEC. 31, 2019, TO BE APPLIED TO 2019.**

**E-MAIL NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE:** If you wish to receive the newsletter via email, write us at [cvanengen@lacmin.org](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org).