



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,

Thank you once again for your personal interest, love, and commitment to partner with us in this ministry of forming a new generation of biblically-grounded, theologically-informed, and missionally-committed leaders for the churches and mission agencies of Latin America.

Jean and I are so blessed! Our three children, their spouses and 8 grandchildren like to get together every two years for a week. In April, we gathered in San Diego, California. What great fun! Many of you pray for us. Give thanks with us for our adult children and their families who love the Lord, are active in their churches, and are busy ministering and serving people.

While in Southern California recently, I met with four of our LADPT students who live and minister there. In the photo below (left to right) are Margarita Flores, Gabriel Raimondo, Maribel Zacapa, Chuck, Leticia and Juan Daniel Espitia. The three students on the left are Fuller M.Div. graduates. Juan Daniel is an M.Div. graduate of Princeton. Their areas of interest range from (left to right), Catholic-Protestant ecumenical leadership; history of the 1990's revival in Argentina; pastoral formation and theological education; and pastoral congregational care of persons suffering psychological disorder.

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**



"Paul...to the church of God in Corinth, called to be holy, together with all those everywhere who call on the name of our Lord Jesus Christ—their Lord and ours....I always thank God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus."
— I Cor. 1:1-2,4 NIV

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

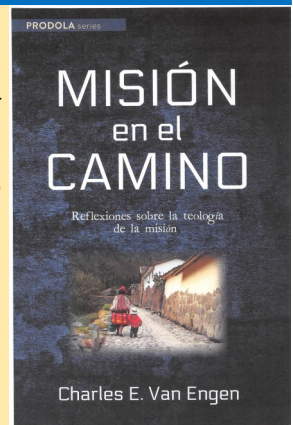
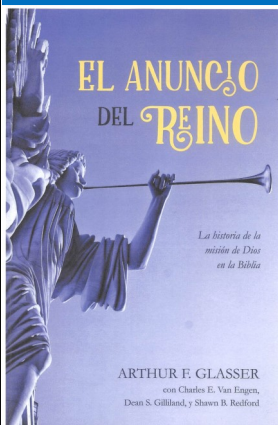
- May 29-June 3: Chuck teaches Biblical Perspectives of God's Mission in Ontario, California
- June 13-16: Chuck attends the Association of Professors of Mission and the American Society of Missiology at Notre Dame.
- June thru Sept.: Chuck finishes writing his book on "Bible and Mission" for Baker Publishing.
- Oct. 28-30: Chuck speaks in Midland, Michigan, at the annual gathering of the Asian-American pastors' conference of the United Methodist Michigan Annual Conference.



PRAISE GOD FOR PUBLICATIONS

We want to share with you a great joy! For several years we have had the dream of having a pathway to publish selected works written by our LADPT faculty, graduates, and students in order to make those works available for the over 7000 Bible schools and seminaries throughout the Americas. After lengthy conversations, Wipf & Stock Publishers of Eugene, Oregon, has graciously agreed to create the PRODOLA SERIES as part of their publications both as paper print-on-demand and as e-books.

To set up and begin the series, Jean and I submitted the Spanish translations of two of my Missiology books. The photos you see here are the covers of the printed copies of these books. We praise God for this new step in the life of the LADPT! Please pray for us! Jean helped me prepare these works as camera-ready for publication. We are now working on a third volume.



"Joy is prayer; joy is strength; joy is love; joy is a net of love by which you can catch souls." — Mother Teresa

Prayer is talking with God. God knows your heart and is not so concerned with your words as He is with the attitude of your heart." — Josh McDowell

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/prayer>



Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of compassion and the God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our troubles, so that we can comfort those in any trouble with the comfort we ourselves have received from God.
— 2 Cor. 1:3-4

Spotlight on Our Students

Because the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT) is a Ph.D.-level research program, it is a long-term endeavor. It takes our students 6 to 8 years to complete the program. Considering that they are full-time pastors, teachers in their seminaries, and/or leaders of mission agencies, while doing their doctoral studies, some take as much as 10 years to complete. Given the nature of the program, it is good for us to take a moment once in a while to reflect on how we and our students are doing. The picture to the left was taken several years ago. Pictured here are



- ◆ 8 LADPT faculty and staff;
- ◆ 3 who have since graduated;
- ◆ 3 in the process of defending their dissertations;
- ◆ 8 researching and writing their dissertations; and
- ◆ 5 are inactive.

In traditional, residential Ph.D. studies in the humanities, in the U.S, a completion rate of 35-40% is considered high. We praise God that 73% of the students in this group are either graduated or actively pursuing their doctoral studies, in the midst of so many other demands. We keep encouraging them. By the way, apart from our LADPT faculty pictured here, 11 are seminary presidents, deans, or faculty members in their own institutions.

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

PRAISE GOD FOR THE MINISTRIES OF OUR STUDENTS!

In late May, I was in Ontario, California, teaching a group of 20 Pentecostal pastors – impressive folks. One woman pastor was just back from Chile where she attended and spoke to over 400 women at a women's congress there. Another pastor was just back from Nicaragua where the women of her church had finished building a house for a pastor and his family. Another pastor, a man, leads a church of around 500 and they are doing a lot of refugee ministries with Central American immigrants in southern California. Other pastors, men and women, came in from the Bay Area of California; Phoenix, Arizona; and Tijuana, Mexico, to take the course. I was quite amazed at all the various ministries these leaders and their churches are doing. It was great fun being with a group of such enthusiastic, committed, compassionate, and missionally activist church leaders. They reminded me that so much of RCA mission activity around the world — including in Chiapas, where I grew up — was begun, stimulated, supported, and mobilized by the women of the RCA.



I taught a course on God's mission as it is portrayed in the Bible from Genesis to Revelation. The course is part of a Master's in Ministry program. It is a hybrid combination of intensive face-to-face and distance on-line formation, modeled after our Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT). The creator and Dean of this Master's program is Rev. Maribel Zacapa, a Fuller Seminary M.Div. and D.Min. graduate, and one of our LADPT students. Maribel is pictured above, front row, middle, with the grey Brooklyn t-shirt. She leads the theological education programs of her denomination: locally, regionally, and globally. This master's program is actually under the auspices of the International Baptist Seminary of Buenos Aires, Argentina, whose President and two others of their professors are faculty members in our LADPT program. Small world! What a delight and privilege to walk alongside these folks.

I pray to start my day and finish it in prayer. I'm just thankful for everything, all the blessings in my life, trying to stay that way. I think that's the best way to start your day and finish your day. It keeps everything in perspective. — Tim Tebow

<https://www.brainyquote.com/topics/prayer>

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

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