



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

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



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

553 Cherry Lane, Holland, Michigan 49424  
e-mail: "cvanengen@lacmin.org"

Phone: 616-294-1190  
Cell: 626-862-1348

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A higher purpose.*

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

Jean and I are so blessed by your your loving personal interest and your faithful support of this ministry. Would you believe it? We have been sending this prayer newsletter out for 23 years now! Wow! Rejoice with us.

This past February, I was in Buenos Aires, Argentina, teaching a course in the Doctor of Ministry (D. Min.) program of the International Baptist Seminary (see photo below right). It was such a joy to be with Dr. Viviana Barron, the President of the seminary (pictured below, left). She has a Ph.D. in qualitative research from a national university in Argentina. She and her husband, Jorge, pastor a church on the outskirts of Buenos Aires. She is doing a wonderful job of leading the seminary, one of the oldest and largest evangelical seminaries in South America, with local and distance programs in church leadership, bachelor's, master's, and D. Min. studies. The bachelor's and master's programs are officially recognized and accredited by the Argentine government, a rare and prestigious status. Pastors from Uruguay, Chile, Argentina, Paraguay, and Korea were in my class.



"To you, O Lord, I lift up my soul; in you I trust, O my God....Show me your ways, O Lord, teach me your paths; guide me in your truth and teach me, for you are God my Saviour, and my hope is in you all day long." — Psalm 25:1,4-5 NIV

## **Please continue to pray for us.**

- June 3 — Jean and Chuck at Trinity Reformed Church, Orange City, Iowa
- June 6 — Jean and Chuck's 48th wedding anniversary
- June 7-12 — Jean and Chuck at RCA General Synod, Grand Rapids
- June 13-14 — RCA Missionary summer gathering
- June 14-17 — Jean and Chuck at American Society of Missiology, Notre Dame
- June 29-July 12 — Cruise on Rhine River from Basel to Amsterdam
- July 14-23 — Jean and Chuck in Seattle with daughter Amy and Mike and family
- July 29 — Chuck preaches at Fellowship Reformed, Holland
- Aug 13-17 — Chuck in Londrina, Brazil to teach a D.Min. course
- August 20-24 — Chuck possibly in Buenos Aires, Argentina, new group of LADPT students
- Sept. 3-17 — Chuck teaches a course at the Korean Presbyterian Seminary in Los Angeles, CA; Chuck & Jean see friends and visit Christ Community Church, Carmichael, Sacramento.



Jean and I are also praising God because this past December we saw another LADPT student successfully defend his dissertation! On page two we will tell you about him. 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

## **PRAISE GOD FOR THE NEWPRODOLA CONSORTIUM**

While in Buenos Aires, I met with Viviana Barron, Norberto Saracco, and Ruben Driedger (pictured below). Ruben is one of our graduates from Paraguay. They represented three of the six institutions that form the PRODOLA NETWORK, a consortium that has taken responsibility for the future long-term leadership, direction, and support of the Latin American Doctoral Program. You will remember that we wrote you about that last September.



We are hoping and praying to begin a new group of doctoral students this coming August. This new 2018 group would meet in Buenos Aires, hosted by Viviana and the International Baptist Seminary. We need your prayers. The leaders of churches, mission agencies, and seminaries throughout Latin America are all experiencing a deep financial crisis that makes Ph.D.-level theological studies difficult. We are praying that ten to twelve leaders will each be able to cover their travel and initial tuition costs in order to begin their studies. Please pray with us. This is your ministry. You have walked with us through this adventure. You have prayed, supported, and encouraged us. Join us in prayer and rejoicing.



**"Prayer makes a godly (person), and puts within (that person) the mind of Christ, the mind of humility, of self-surrender, of service, of pity, and of prayer. If we really pray, we will become more like God, or else we will quit praying."**

— E.M. Bounds [www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/31-prayer-quotes-be-inspired-and-encouraged.html](http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/31-prayer-quotes-be-inspired-and-encouraged.html)



**"I will praise you, O Lord, among the nations; I will sing of you among the peoples. For great is your love, reaching to the heavens; your faithfulness reaches to the skies. Let your glory be over all the earth. ...O my Strength, I sing praise to you; you, O God, are my fortress, my loving God. " -- Psalm 57:9-11; 59:17 NIV**



**Spotlight on Student Needs** (We will highlight a different student in each newsletter for your prayers and special gifts.) **Graciela Santa Cruz** (pictured at left with Chuck) is a psychologist, pastor, Bible school professor and mobilizer in missions in the Church of God in Argentina. She has extensive experience as a pastor and psychologist working with children, youth, women and men in public health and in the prisons in Buenos Aires. She plans to research the psychological, social, and spiritual perspectives of abandoned women in the prison system of Buenos Aires, to learn how the church can better reach out and serve them. Graciela has completed the first half of her doctoral program and is now ready for the research and dissertation-writing phase. She needs our help. Her personal salary barely makes ends meet. She needs \$7,000 dollars to pay for her tuition in order to continue in the doctoral program. Her research is very important for the ministry and mission of the church in Latin America. If you or someone you know is willing to sponsor Graciela, that would be wonderful! Will you help?



### **PRAISE GOD FOR ANOTHER RECENT GRADUATE**

**Dr. Rafael Vallejo** defended his dissertation last December and in April graduated (long-distance) from the South African Theological Seminary (SATS), one of our partners. Rafael's first language is Tagalog, his second is English, and his third is Spanish.

Rafael began his faith journey in the Philippines as a young boy, entering seminary at 13 and at 18 taking evangelical vows of poverty, chastity and obedience in a missionary congregation in Manila. He left the order in 1974 to pursue a degree in Philosophy and a career in International Business. He migrated to Canada in 1995. "I started out in Canada mopping floors at a local 7-Eleven in downtown Vancouver," Rafael tells us. "From there I became Food Service Director at Simon Fraser University. Back then when people asked me what I did for a living I said I fed 5000 kids every day. It was only later when I reflected on my own migrant experience that I became involved in on-the-ground advocacy for migrant justice."

After a career in food service, Rafael, a chef by trade, was accepted by San Francisco Theological Seminary (PC-USA) under care of the Filipino Community Presbyterian Church in Eagle Rock, California. Rafael studied at the Graduate Theological Union (GTU) in Berkeley while working as a chef in a nearby Mediterranean restaurant. Rafael continued his Masters in Theological Studies at Conrad Grebel College at the University of Waterloo. He completed his Master's of Divinity at Knox College, Toronto School of Theology, University of Toronto in May 2011. In Sept 2012, Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia awarded him the Reformed Theology Guthrie Scholar Award for Reformed Theology. Rafael served as Minister and Teaching Elder with two churches with Hispanic ministries in downtown Toronto. He is the first Filipino Hispanic person that the Presbyterian Church in Canada has ordained as Minister of Word and Sacrament in Ontario.

Using a social-science approach called "Lived Religion," Rafael explored faith perspectives and practices of Mexican Migrant Farmworkers in Canada from April to November under the Seasonal Agricultural Workers Program (SAWP). Approximately 20,000 migrant workers work in fields, orchards and greenhouses in Canada every year. Rafael listened as Mexican migrant workers described their faith journeys in their own words. Responses were coded and clustered into five themes: 1. *la salud* (Health) 2. *la familia* (Family) 3. *la fe* (Faith) 4. *las remesas* (Money sent back home) and 5. *la lucha* (Struggle).

Rafael suggests that religion is a dominant factor in migrant ways of believing, belonging, sense of purpose, health, and social cohesion. Based on his research, Rafael offers a number of important recommendations for the church's ministry among and with migrant workers and recent immigrants. Raphael is available for a new ministry opportunity. He can be reached at [raffyvallejo@gmail.com](mailto:raffyvallejo@gmail.com).



"The Christian life is not a constant high. I have my moments of deep discouragement. I have to go to God in prayer with tears in my eyes, and say, 'O God, forgive me,' or 'Help me.'" — Billy Graham: [www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/31-prayer-quotes-be-inspired-and-encouraged.html](http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/31-prayer-quotes-be-inspired-and-encouraged.html)  
"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: [www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/31-prayer-quotes-be-inspired-and-encouraged.html](http://www.crosswalk.com/faith/spiritual-life/inspiring-quotes/31-prayer-quotes-be-inspired-and-encouraged.html)

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

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