



# 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,

We love being able to report to you what the Holy Spirit is doing through your generous investment in the Kingdom by means of the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT).

Celebrate with us the four leaders we highlight on page 2. There is so much going on that we could write you about. But we love to highlight our graduates because that is what this ministry is all about. Our Articles of Incorporation say that we exist "to provide teaching and church leadership mentoring skills, programs and resources...in order to mentor the mentors who will form and develop a new generation of pastoral and mission leaders in Latin America." Your support is a direct investment in the formation of leaders. They are the fruit of our endeavors. Being a Ph.D.-level doctoral program, this formation process takes a lot of time — anywhere from 4 to 10 years. So your faithful support is essential for this ministry. Just think, over the next 20 years each of these graduates will touch the lives of hundreds of leaders who in turn will influence hundreds of others! What a joy to see our colleagues graduate. Give thanks with us!

By way of example, this past January Juan Cruz, one of our LADPT students and Chuck's mentoree, invited Chuck to offer a mission-related lecture on-line for CUMIBIN: Ibero-American Summit of Influencers, sponsored by INSTE Global Bible College and offered in English, Spanish, and Portuguese.



Nearly 20,000 persons in 28 countries were connected. INSTE was begun 35 years ago by Nicolas and Lena Venditti. Nick was one of Chuck's mentorees at Fuller. INSTE is a congregation-based, group-structured in-ministry leadership formation program in English, Spanish and several other languages. They have church leaders studying in 34 countries.

One of our greatest joys continues to be being grandparents! We are pictured left with Aubrey (1) and Evelyn (5). Their parents, Andrew and Andrea Van Engen, and 3 siblings live in Maumee, Ohio, a 3-hour drive from Holland. What great fun to be grandparents! We love it! Please know our deep gratitude for your partnership with us. We are humbled by your love. **Thank you for your prayers!**

**Love in Jesus, Chuck and Jean**



*"And foreigners who bind themselves to the Lord to serve him, to love the name of the Lord, and to worship him....These I will bring to my holy mountain and give them joy in my house of prayer....For my house will be called a house of prayer for all nations."*

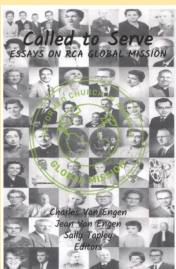
— Isaiah 56: 6-7 NIV

## THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS.

May 4 — LACM Board of Directors meet.  
May 22 — South Africa Theological Seminary (SATS) virtual graduation exercises for several of our LADPT graduates.  
June 6 — Chuck & Jean's 51st wedding anniversary.  
June 6 — Our son Andrew's ordination as a bivocational Minister of Word and Sacrament.  
June 10 — Chuck will participate as an outside evaluator as Elie Haddad (President of Arab Baptist Theol. Sem.) defends his dissertation virtually at the Free University of Amsterdam.  
Mid-July — Juan Daniel Espitia, LADPT student pastoring in San Diego, CA, defends his dissertation.  
July 18-25, Our 3 children, spouses, and 9 grandchildren will join us for a week at Outer Banks, North Carolina.  
August-September — Chuck completes his book on In-Ministry Leadership Formation.  
September — Chuck and Jean offer an intensive one-week course in Mission Theology with Grace Mission University (Korean).

## PRAISE GOD FOR PUBLICATIONS.

One goal of the doctoral program is to encourage the publication of new works that are helpful and motivational in mission and ministry throughout Latin America. So, we feel it is important to model that commitment. We are pleased to announce two of our books published since December. The book on the left, *Called to Serve: Essays on RCA Global Mission* is a collection of short chapters that highlight the Reformed Church in America's (RCA) global mission, beginning over 200 years ago. Each chapter tells how the RCA got involved in a particular country, who were the first ones sent, what the RCA did there, and what is the situation today.



The book to the right is a collection of chapters, each of which summarizes the history of one city (or city-state) mentioned in the Bible. It suggests a metaphor appropriate to that city, reviews how that city is portrayed in the Bible, and describes what could be a contextually-appropriate approach to participating in God's mission in that city. Praise God with us that both books have received very positive reception. Both would be great texts for a local church adult study and are available on Amazon.



"Most high, all-powerful, good Lord (God). Yours are the praises, the honor, and all blessing. To you alone, Most High, do they belong....Praised be you, my Lord, with all your creatures....Praise and bless my Lord and give him thanks and serve him with great humility." — St. Francis of Assisi, "The Canticle of Brother Sun" in Gerald L. Sittser. *Water from a Deep Well: Christian Spirituality from Early Martyrs to Modern Missionaries*, pg. 196.



On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area and began driving out those who were buying and selling there....And as he taught them, he said, "It is written: 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations.' (Mk. 11:15,17; Mt. 21:13; Lk. 19:46 NIV)....Have faith in God....Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

— Mk. 11:22-25 NIV



## **PRAISE GOD FOR DR. PATRICIA ADRIANZEN DE VERGARA IN PERU**

On December 2 Patricia defended her dissertation. Professors in Spain, Peru, and Michigan were connected via ZOOM. Patricia is a writer and poet. She has published several books. She and her husband created and run a Christian publishing house. Patricia and her husband, Roger, also a PRODOLA graduate, pastor the second-largest Christian and Missionary Alliance (C& MA) church in Lima, Peru. She leads the church's women's ministries. She teaches at the C & MA Seminary in Lima. They have 3 grown children. Her dissertation is a theological examination of two important philosopher-theologians of Peru and the significance of their thought for the mission of the church locally and globally.

## **PRAISE GOD FOR DR. MÁXIMO ALVAREZ IN SPAIN**

On December 21, 2020, Máximo defended his dissertation via ZOOM. Máximo is the Director of Evangelism in Depth in Spain. He lives in Seville, in southern Spain. He interviewed a large number of people in the local Protestant churches and outside the church in the larger society, seeking to understand the factors of resistance and/or receptivity that influence, hinder or facilitate evangelical Christian conversion in the Seville-Spanish context.



During this time of social distancing, it seems we are all making more internet purchases. Jean and I use **AmazonSmile** because it donates a percentage of each purchase to registered nonprofit organizations. Latin American Christian Ministries receives donations from purchases in AmazonSmile when it is the designated nonprofit. Please consider using this as a way of supporting us. Go to [AmazonSmile.org](https://www.amazon.com/smile) to designate "Latin American Christian Ministries Inc." for donations. Purchase options are the same as in Amazon.



## **PRAISE GOD FOR DR. DANIEL MORENO IN BRAZIL!**

On January 25, 2021 Daniel Moreno defended his dissertation via ZOOM. Daniel Moreno is a young Presbyterian pastor ministering in Santa Luz, Piauí, northern Brazil. He and his church partner with ChildFund International in Brazil. Daniel researched the biblical and theological foundations of best practices in creating sustainable development projects in communities of extreme poverty.

## **PRAISE GOD FOR DR. JORGE LOPEZ IN GUATEMALA!**

On January 26, 2021 Jorge López defended his dissertation via ZOOM. Jorge is an Assemblies of God pastor and seminary professor in Guatemala. He researched the expectations of church members, leaders, and pastors in relation to best practices for forming a new generation of pastors and leaders appropriate to today's issues facing the church in Guatemala.

Jorge (bottom right), celebrated with members of the examining committee after the successful defense. The jury for the defense were: Dr. Chuck Van Engen (top left, clockwise); Dr. Alan Martin, Dean of the theological education program of the Assemblies of God; Dr. Tito Paredes, Dean of LAPDT; Jorge; Dr. Oscar Franco, one of our graduates serving the Church of the Nazarene in El Salvador; and Dr. Marcelo Vargas, Director of a Center for Missiological Training in La Paz, Bolivia.



"The early church followed a daily rhythm (of prayer), especially in the first years of its existence....Luke tells us that believers gathered together daily for prayer and fellowship."

— Gerald L. Sittser. *Water from a Deep Well: Christian Spirituality from Early Martyrs to Modern Missionaries*, pg. 100.

**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](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org).