



***LATIN AMERICAN  
DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN THEOLOGY  
PRODOLA***

**Preparing leaders in God's service—Eph.4:12**

# **CATALOG**

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# ***LATIN AMERICAN DOCTORAL PROGRAM IN THEOLOGY PRODOLA***

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## **INTRODUCTION**

The Doctoral Program in Theology PRODOLA is an educational project leading to an academic doctorate in theology (Ph.D.) composed of an international, multi-denominational Christian community of Latin American professors. The program is oriented toward the formation of leaders who can articulate their faith with relevance, reflect on the new challenges facing society and help the people of God to respond contextually to those challenges.

## **PROGRAM HISTORY**

At the beginning of 2000, Professors Pablo Deiros, Ph.D., and Charles Van Engen, Ph.D., shared their concerns regarding the need to provide additional theological and missiological formation for those serving as faculty in Bible schools and seminaries throughout Latin America. As a result of this initial conversation, in consultation with other colleagues and through much prayer, Latin American Christian Ministries, Inc. was born. This non-profit organization would be the initiator of, and foundational support for, the program.

In March of 2001, LACM convened 37 Latin American Protestant professors in Miami, Florida. They came from twelve countries and represented twenty-three denominations, mission agencies and theological institutions. Together they prayed, dialogued and dreamed over how an advanced theological education program might be created. It was there that the vision for a doctoral program was formed to which they gave the name Programa Doctoral en Teología PRODOLA. (PRODOLA: Latin American Doctoral Program.)

As a result of the Miami Consultation, an administrative council was named, consisting of a dozen professors who represent the continent. Since May of 2001, the administrative council has met regularly in order to develop the infrastructure for PRODOLA, to formulate the program of study and to extend the networks of personal, institutional and financial cooperation. One of the key partnerships has been with the Universidad Evangélica de las Américas (UNELA) in San José, Costa Rica. In May of 2007, PRODOLA was officially recognized by the Ministry of Education of Costa Rica. Since that date PRODOLA has also developed an official partnership with the South African Theological Seminary.

## **THE NEED**

We are experiencing an extraordinary *kairos* moment in the development of the church around the world. The rapid growth and increasing maturity of the church and its impact on Latin America requires that its leaders articulate the faith with relevance, diffuse their ideas, reflect upon the new challenges, and help the people of God to respond to them. In addition, it is necessary to formulate new strategies in order to penetrate with the gospel the academic and cultural centers of information, opinion and socioeconomic and political realities. A generation of leadership is arising in Latin America that has the necessary background to carry out academic studies at a Ph.D. level. However, every day it is more difficult and costly for these persons to do doctoral studies outside the context of Latin America. The Doctoral Program in Theology PRODOLA seeks to respond to this need.

## **PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION**

The church of Jesus Christ has the fundamental responsibility for the development of Christian leaders. The church must train those called to this leadership and follow in a manner that seeks to be clearly faithful to the biblical models. As educators and Christian mentors we are at the service of the churches and mission agencies to help them fulfill their responsibility in the formation of leaders at the highest level, striving so that the theoretical content of the Christian faith may be in tune with the church's practice in ministry. Thus, we cooperate together in forming the kind of leaders that the church needs, persons who possess a biblical pastoral vision and demonstrate a high level of expertise in the fulfillment of its mission.

The pastoral vision of PRODOLA is anchored in an integrated understanding of the gospel and in a clear commitment to kingdom values. Emphasis is given both to the content of the faith as well as to its practice, giving special emphasis to pastoral praxis in the Latin American context.

Within this frame of reference, the relationship between teachers and students is characterized by collegiality, teaching by example, and participation in collaborative efforts, in an environment of mutual accountability and discipline. Both teachers and their disciples are active agents in the formative process in the construction of knowledge. It is hoped that both will experience substantive changes as a result of their life together; that is to say, that both will work for the integration of content with daily life. This means that the program aspires to that type of learning that gives priority to the formation of persons over and above the creation of programs and activities. These are the fundamental factors that will guide evaluation throughout the entire educational process.

## **THE VISION**

The vision of PRODOLA is a church equipped to participate in the mission of God in the redemption and transformation of Latin America.

## **THE MISSION**

The Mission of PRODOLA is to offer leadership formation that is holistic, biblical, theological and contextual.

## **OBJECTIVES**

1. Form disciples and leaders who are committed to the mission of the church and the Kingdom of God in a ministry that is holistic and contextual (Eph. 4:12).
2. Form leaders capable of articulating their faith with relevance, communicating their ideas, reflecting on the challenges facing society and guiding the people of God in responding to those challenges.
3. Form investigators with the conceptual and technical abilities that would enable them to learn to investigate in different contexts and with different methodologies, leaders who are learning to learn, learning to investigate, learning to construct knowledge.
4. Prepare leaders able to develop new missiological and ecclesiological strategies that would let the Gospel penetrate the academic and cultural realms of society, as well as the centers of information, opinion formation and socio, economic and political power.

## **THEOLOGICAL FOUNDATION**

PRODOLA adopts the Lausanne Covenant as its theological foundation.

## **THE DIDACTIC PROCESS**

The educational process of PRODOLA consists of the following components:

1. Preliminary Proposal: The student will submit a preliminary research proposal as a prerequisite for admission to the program.
2. Modules: Each student will complete seven modules in the first two years of the program. These each include an intensive week of introduction with the professor, followed by 10 weeks of online instruction.
3. Mentor: Each student has a mentor who will guide the student through the last two years of the program, during the tutorial phase and in the elaboration of his/her dissertation. The mentor will be assigned during the first two years of the program.
4. Research and Dissertation Proposal: The student will present his/her Research and Dissertation Proposal upon completing the seven modules. Approval of the proposal is required for continuation of studies in the program.

5. Comprehensive Exams: Once the student has finished the seven modules and written the Research and Dissertation Proposal, he/she will take the comprehensive exams.
6. Integration Seminars. Students located near each other will be involved in an interdisciplinary collegial group whose purpose will be to enable students to share the progress of their research and to encourage one another personally and spiritually. These groups will meet at least once each year, convened by a coordinator named by the administrative council of the program. Participation in two of these seminars is obligatory.
7. Tutorials: Upon approval of the doctoral thesis proposal, and under the supervision of the student's mentor, the student will take three tutorials corresponding to the area of his/her specialization. Professors who are specialists in the area will direct this individualized research.
8. Preparation and Defense of the Doctoral Dissertation. The student will prepare and defend his/her doctoral dissertation under the guidance of his/her academic mentor following the guidelines provided by PRODOLA.

## THE STUDY PROGRAM

The PRODOLA program consists of 70 units of credit that are distributed in the following manner.

<b>Module 1: Doctoral Research Methodology 1 (TI10)</b>	<b>Year 1, Semester 1</b>	<b>5 credits</b>
<b>Module 2: Theological Perspectives of the Kingdom and People of God (ET30)</b>	<b>Year 1, Semester 1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Module 3: Biblical Perspectives of the Kingdom and People of God (TB10)</b>	<b>Year 1, Semester 2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Module 4: Historical Perspectives of the Kingdom and People of God (TH10)</b>	<b>Year 1, Semester 2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Module 5: Socio-Cultural Perspectives of the Kingdom and People of God (MC 30)</b>	<b>Year 2, Semester 1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Module 6: Missiological Perspectives of the Kingdom and People of God (TM10)</b>	<b>Year 2, Semester 1</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Module 7: Doctoral Research Methodology 2 (TP30)</b>	<b>Year 2, Semester 2</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Tutorial 1</b>	<b>Year 2</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Tutorial 2</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>Tutorial 3</b>	<b>Year 3</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>Integration Seminars</b>	<b>Years 3 &amp; 4</b>	
<b>Visiting scholar experience</b>		
<b>Publication of two academic articles</b>		
<b>Participation in two international congresses</b>		
<b>Doctoral dissertation</b>	<b>Year 4</b>	<b>18</b>
<b>TOTAL credits</b>		<b>70</b>

## **COURSE DESCRIPTIONS**

### **A. Modules (5 credits each)**

#### **1. *TI 10 – DOCTORAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 1 (5 credits) Sonia Abarca***

In this module students will consider the fundamental elements in the process of the construction of knowledge needed as a basis for doctoral level research in theology. The epistemological, axiological and methodological elements will be approached from different perspectives so that students will gain the conceptual foundations and practical skills that will facilitate their research processes.

#### **2. *ET 30 – THEOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE KINGDOM AND PEOPLE OF GOD (5 credits) Alberto Roldán***

This course will present theological perspectives relevant to doctoral research in the areas of the Kingdom of God and the people of God in the Latin American context. It will include research methodologies from the theological sciences.

#### **3. *TB 10 – BIBLICAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE KINGDOM AND PEOPLE OF GOD (5 credits) Mariano Ávila***

This course will present biblical perspectives relevant to doctoral research in the areas of the Kingdom of God and the people of God in the Latin American context. It will include research methodologies from the biblical sciences.

#### **4. *TH 10 – HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE KINGDOM AND PEOPLE OF GOD (5 credits) Pablo Deiros***

This course will present historical perspectives relevant to doctoral research in the areas of the Kingdom of God and the people of God in the Latin American context. It will include research methodologies from the historical sciences.

#### **5. *MC 30 – SOCIO-CULTURAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE KINGDOM AND PEOPLE OF GOD (5 credits) Rubén Tito Paredes***

This course will present socio-cultural perspectives relevant to doctoral research in the areas of the Kingdom of God and the people of God in the Latin American context. It will include research methodologies from the social sciences.

#### **6. *TM 10 - MISSIOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE KINGDOM AND PEOPLE OF GOD (5 credits) Charles Van Engen***

This course will present missiological and ecclesiological perspectives relevant to doctoral research in the areas of the Kingdom of God and the people of God in the Latin

American context. It will include research methodologies from the missio-ecclesiological sciences.

**7. TP 30 -- DOCTORAL RESEARCH METHODOLOGY 2 (5 credits) Sonia Abarca**

This course will lead the student through the process of designing their Research and Dissertation Proposal.

**B. Tutorials**

These individualized courses have as their focus the areas of specialization that the student has selected. Each course will contribute directly to the student's research toward writing the dissertation. The student will elaborate his/her research under the direction of the student's mentor and the assigned tutorial supervisor. The areas of investigation are the following:

ES 50/MS 50 – FIRST TUTORIAL (6 credits)  
EU 50/MU 50 – SECOND TUTORIAL (5 credits)  
ET 50/ MT 50 – THIRD TUTORIAL (5 credits)

**E. Dissertation (18 credits)**

Under the direction of the student's mentor, the student will present and defend his/her doctoral dissertation according to the norms and guidelines of PRODOLA.

## **ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS**

PRODOLA seeks to serve women and men who demonstrate a profound dedication to ministry and to their academic vocation. Thus, we invite persons who, in addition to possessing the appropriate academic background, are also highly esteemed in their faith community.

A candidate will need to fulfill the following requirements:

**ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS:**

1. A Masters degree in theology, or a related discipline. Given the diversity of nomenclatures and requirements for degrees in Latin American, PRODOLA reserves the right to accept or reject specific degrees.
2. In exceptional cases PRODOLA will accept students with a five-year undergraduate university degree ("licenciatura") and a solid theological foundation.

3. The Academic Council of PRODOLA will evaluate the level of theological competency of each prospective student in the areas of ecclesiology and missiology. If necessary it will ask the student to complete a course of study prior to being accepted into the doctoral program.
4. If the prospective student's degree comes from an institution that does not have governmental recognition, PRODOLA will give orientation on ways to accredit the degree.
5. Each prospective student needs to have the recommendation of a PRODOLA faculty member or a graduate professor under whom the candidate has studied. (Use the recommendation form provided on the PRODOLA web site.)
6. The prospective student must have a grade point average of at least 80% in his previous graduate studies
7. The prospective student should demonstrate an instrumental use of English and whatever other modern language that might be necessary for the student's research.
8. The prospective student should demonstrate an instrumental use of the biblical languages if that is essential for the area of research.
9. The prospective student must be able to commit 20 hours a week to studies in the doctoral program.

#### **MINISTERIAL REQUIREMENTS:**

The student must:

1. Be a member in good standing in a local church.
2. Be actively involved in the mission of the church, using his/her gifts and abilities in the service of the kingdom of God.
3. Be recommended by his/her pastor or a leader of a denomination. (Use the recommendation form provided on the PRODOLA web site.)

#### **DOCUMENTS TO PRESENT**

See the information and form found at  
[www.prodola.org/es/content/admissions/shtml](http://www.prodola.org/es/content/admissions/shtml).

#### **PROCEDURE FOR APPLICATION**

Download the admissions form from the PRODOLA web site above.



1. Send the complete documentation listed above, by certified mail to:

**Programa Doctoral en Teología PRODOLA**  
**Attn. Dr. Rubén Tito Paredes**  
**Centro Evangélico de Misiología Andino-Amazónico**  
**Apdo. 12-C-403**  
**Lima 12, Peru**

2. Include US\$100.00 with the admission form, and send to the above address. This payment is non-refundable.
3. Address any questions to Dr. Rubén Tito Paredes ([tparedes@prodola.org](mailto:tparedes@prodola.org)) or to Dr. Charles Van Engen ([administracion@prodola.org](mailto:administracion@prodola.org))

## **ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE**

### **ACADEMIC COUNCIL**

The Academic Council is composed of:

Dr. Charles Van Engen, Director of PRODOLA  
Dr. Enrique Guang Tapia, President of UNELA (*Ex-Oficio*)  
Prof. Jean Van Engen, Executive Administrator  
Dr. Sonia Abarca  
Dr. Mariano Ávila  
Dr. Antonio C. Barro  
Dr. Pablo Deiros  
Dr. Rubén Paredes  
Dr. Alberto Roldán  
Dr. Norberto Saracco  
Dr. Harold Thomas  
Dr. Nancy Thomas

### **FACULTY**

#### **Full Professors:**

##### **ABARCA, Sonia, Ph.D.**

Costa Rican; educational psychologist; Ph.D. in Education from the Universidad Estatal a Distancia, San José, Costa Rica; professor in the School of Psychology of the National University of Costa Rica; director of the Department of Psychology of the National University for 11 years; professor of psychology at the University of Costa Rica for 4 years; lives in Costa Rica. Selected Publications: *Psicología del niño en edad escolar*, *Psicología de la motivación*.

**ÁVILA, Mariano, Ph.D.**

Mexican; Professor of New Testament at Calvin Theological Seminary, Grand Rapids, Mich.; received his doctorate in Hermeneutics from Westminster Theological Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; received a doctorate in the social sciences from the Universidad Autóctono Metropolitano of Mexico; local church pastor, Bible professor and advisor in theological institutions in Mexico and other countries; member of the translation team for the Spanish *New International Version* of the Bible and *The Bible in Simple Language*. Selected Publications: *La comunidad en que vivo*; *Historia social y política de la iglesia evangélica en México*.

**BARRO, Antonio Carlos, Ph.D.**

Brazilian, missiologist, professor of missiology in the South American Theological Faculty in Londrina, Paraná, Brazil; pastor of the 8<sup>th</sup> Presbyterian Church in Londrina; Ph.D. in missiology from the School of World Missions, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California; lives in Londrina, Brazil. Selected Publication: *Orlando Enrique Costas: a Mission Theologian at the Crossroads and on the Way*, *Ministerio pastoral transformadora* (editor, with Manfred Waldemar Kohl); *Educação teológica transformadora* (editor, with Manfred Waldemar Kohl).

**BERGSMA, Pablo, Ph.D.**

American; professor of Bible, theology and missions; Ph.D. in Philosophy from Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; Assistant professor of Bible, theology and missions at the Evangelical University of the Americas, Costa Rica. Selected Publications: *The Compulsion of the Spirit*; *Misión transcultural: Iglesia en misión*.

**BULLÓN, H. Fernando, Ph.D.**

Peruvian-Costa Rican; professor of ethics and social sciences at the Nazarene Seminary of the Americas and the Evangelical University of the Americas, both in Costa Rica; visiting professor of the post graduate program of the Nazarene Seminary and the Evangelical University of the Americas in Latin American countries of Mexico, Guatemala, Cuba, Ecuador, Peru, Brazil; postgraduate studies in anthropology, economics and educational administration; Ph.D. from the School of Economic and Social Studies of the University of Manchester, Great Britain; specialized studies in theology and development at the Oxford Center for Mission Studies, Great Britain; consultant in development; lives in Costa Rica. Selected Publications: *Enfoques Teológicos y Técnicos en torno al Desarrollo en América Latina*; *Misión y desarrollo en América Latina: Desafíos en el umbral del Siglo 21*.

**DEIROS, Pablo Alberto, Ph.D.**

Argentine; historian and theologian; professor of Christian history at the International Baptist Theological Seminary in Buenos Aires; professor of history of mission in the School of World Mission, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California; Ph.D. in church history from Southwestern Baptist Seminary, Fort Worth, Texas; pastor and counselor; lives in Argentina. Selected Publications: *Historia del cristianismo en América Latina*; *Latinoamérica en llamas*; *Protestantismo en América Latina*.

**GUANG, Enrique, Ph.D.**

Ecuadorian; psychologist, professor of psychology and theology; pastor; director of the Evangelical University of the Americas (UNELA); dedicated to family therapy practice; lives in Costa Rica. Selected Publications: *El enfoque sistémico-comunicacional de la familia*; *Tecnología educativa y educación teológica popular*.

**PAREDES Alfaro, Rubén, Ph.D.**

Peruvian; anthropologist; professor of anthropology and mission; director of the “Orlando Costas” Faculty of the CEMAA in Lima, Peru; Ph.D. in anthropology from the University of California, Los Angeles; lives in Peru. Selected Publications: *El evangelio: un tesoro en vasijas de barro*; “Cambio social y conversión” en *Misión* #9, junio 1984; “Evangelio y cultura” en *CLADE III: Quito, 1992*; *Con permiso para danzar*.

**ROLDÁN, Alberto, Ph.D.**

Argentine; professor of theology in seminaries in Guatemala, Brazil and Argentina; pastor; Ph.D. in theology from the Superior Evangelical Institute of Theological Studies (ISEDET), Buenos Aires, Argentina; lives in Buenos Aires. Selected Publications: *El Dios que adoramos*; *El mundo al que Dios me ha enviado*; *La ética cristiana en un mundo en cambio*; *Señor total*; *¿Para qué sirve la teología? Una respuesta crítica con horizonte abierto*.

**SARACCO, Norberto, Ph.D.**

Argentine; pastor of the Good News Church, Buenos Aires; co-founder of the Pastoral Council of Buenos Aires and vice president of the National Evangelical Council; founder and director of the International Faculty for Theological Studies (FIET) in Buenos Aires, Argentina; Ph.D. in theology from the University of Birmingham, England; specialist in Pentecostal studies and Latin American theology; lives in Buenos Aires. Selected Publications: “El evangelio de poder” en *CLADE III: Quito*; *History and Theology of the Argentine Pentecostal Movement*; *Palabra y Espíritu en la comunidad evangelizadora*; *Las opciones liberadoras de Jesús*.

**THOMAS, Nancy J., Ph.D.**

American; professor of missiology; pastor; co-director of the Center for Intercultural Studies in the Evangelical Bolivian University in Santa Cruz, Bolivia; Ph.D. in Missiology from the School of World Missions, Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California; has a vocation as a writer and trains writers; lives in Bolivia. Selected publications: *Of Deity and Bones* (poetry); *El hogar que Dios bendice*; *Footprints of God* (co-editor); *The Secret Colors of God* (poetry); articles and poetry in many journals.

**VAN ENGEN, Charles E., Ph.D.**

Mexican; missionary to Chiapas, Mexico; professor of biblical theology of mission in the School of World Missions in Fuller Theological Seminary, Pasadena, California; Ph.D. in missiology and theology from the Free University in Amsterdam, the Netherlands; lives in California. Selected Publications: *The Growth of the True Church*; *You are My Witnesses*; *Hijos del Pacto*; *God’s Missionary People*; *Mission on the Way*;

*Evangelical Dictionary of World Missions (co-editor), Communicating God's Word in a Complex World (coauthor), Announcing the Kingdom (coauthor).*

**Adjunct Professors:** Adjunct professors will be invited as needed

## **FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH OTHER INSTITUTIONS.**

PRODOLA maintains fraternal and academic relations with other theological institutions, serving them in the formation of teachers at a doctoral level.

## **LIBRARIES, COMPUTERS AND THE INTERNET**

It is expected that each student will have access to the resources of the Internet. PRODOLA maintains a website at [www.prodola.org](http://www.prodola.org). Students of PRODOLA will have access to various theological libraries on the continent.

## **REGISTRAR'S OFFICE**

Attn. Dr. Carlos Van Engen  
Programa Doctoral Latinoamericano en Teología PRODOLA  
948 S. Bradish Ave.  
Glendora, CA 91740  
U.S.A.  
[administracion@prodola.org](mailto:administracion@prodola.org)

## **FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE**

Latin American Christian Ministries  
948 S. Bradish Ave.  
Glendora, CA 91740  
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[administracion@prodola.org](mailto:administracion@prodola.org)

## **FINANCIAL INFORMATION**

See the document, "Política Financiera de PRODOLA," at [www.prodola.org](http://www.prodola.org).

## **DATES OF COURSES,**

See the website: <http://www.prodola.org/es/content/calendar.shtml>.