



# **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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*A higher standard.  
A higher purpose.*

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## **Dear sisters and brothers, colleagues and partners in Christ's mission,**

These are exciting times for Latin American Christian Ministries. We have just completed the first meeting of our expanded Board of Directors. The article on page 2 will give you more details about that. This is a transition time to more leadership from among our Latin American professors in the program. We are working to accept students for a new cohort to begin in February 2016. God is bringing some amazing people to study with us.



We are making a move of our home and the LACM office from California to Michigan in September. We have spent many hours sorting through files, book cases, and many other things to prepare for this move. God has led us to this point over the past several years. Jean retired from her work at City of Hope last December, and Chuck will become a Senior Professor at Fuller Theological Seminary effective September 1. This means he will be teaching on a contractual basis when needed, and whenever it will fit into his new schedule. He has several writing projects to complete during the next year, and we are excited about this new phase of our lives, although we have so many friends and opportunities in California that we will miss.

—Chuck and Jean Van Engen

### **New address as of September 1:**

553 Cherry Lane E-mail: [cvanengen@lacmin.org](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org) (no change)  
Holland, Michigan 49424 Cell phone: 626-862-1348

**"Very early in the morning, while it was still dark, Jesus got up, left the house and went off to a solitary place, where he prayed." — Mark 1:35 NIV**

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

June 6-13, 2015: VanEngen family reunion in Holland, Michigan  
July 6-10, 2015: Chuck teaches a one-week intensive course at Fuller Seminary in "Doing Theology in Global Contexts"  
July 13-24, 2015: Chuck teaches a two-week intensive course in Spanish at Fuller Seminary in the Hispanic Program: "The Practice of Mission."  
August 3-14, 2015: 2-weeks of LADPT doctoral classes in Londrina, Brazil  
August 16-20, 2015: Chuck speaks at Korean Latin American missionary conference in Iguazu, Brazil  
September 3-7, 2015: Chuck and Jean with Amy, Mike and family in Tacoma, WA  
September 8-15, 2015: Travel to Michigan

## **Honorary Doctorate Conferred on Rev. Roberto Aldana**

Rev. Roberto Aldana, one of our students from Guatemala City, was recently honored for his dedicated effort in his studies in our program and his life-long ministry for the advancement of the Kingdom of God. Beginning his doctoral studies with our program in 2007, Roberto has served as a regional director for the Foursquare Church in Central America, overseeing and mentoring hundreds of churches and pastors. He personally planted a dozen churches in El Salvador and Guatemala. By 2007, he had been fighting cancer for some time, and became an example of dedication and spiritual support for all of his fellow students. He completed the first two years of studies in our program and hopes to continue with his research and dissertation writing.

To recognize Roberto's dedication to theological research, an honorary doctorate in Theology was conferred on him on March 29, 2015, by Dr. Enrique Guang of Costa Rica and Dr. Charles Van Engen, Dean of the LADPT, during a celebratory worship service in Guatemala City. Rev. Aldana was able to give testimony to the many times that the Lord had preserved his life, encouraging everyone present to continue to grow in the knowledge of the Lord, of the Bible, and of Christian thought. He expressed his profound gratitude for LADPT and what it has meant in his life. Roberto continues to be committed to completing his formal Ph.D. in the LADPT, as the Lord gives him life.



**Dr. Charles Van Engen, Dean of  
PRODOLA and Dr. Enrique Guang,  
President of UNELA,  
confer the Honorary Doctorate  
in Theology on Rev. Roberto Aldana  
of Guatemala**

**"Prayer is not asking. Prayer is putting oneself in the hands of God, at His disposition, and listening to His voice in the depth of our hearts."**

—Mother Teresa ([www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/prayer](http://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/prayer))





**"Now, Lord, ...enable your servants to speak your word with great boldness. Stretch out your hand to heal and perform miraculous signs and wonders through the name of your holy servant Jesus. After they prayed, the place where they were meeting was shaken. And they were all filled with the Holy Spirit and spoke the word of God boldly." — Acts 4:29-31 NIV**

### **Enlarged LACM Board of Directors Meets for First Time**

The first meeting of an enlarged and enhanced Board of Directors of Latin American Christian Ministries met in Miami on May 21-22. The new Board membership was increased from 9 to 13 and incorporates members of the former Academic Council, a body of faculty that has met two times each year since 2001 to plan curriculum and oversee the academic activities of the program. The new Board of Directors is comprised of two Teams, the Academic/Program Team and the Administration/Development Team. The teams worked separately during part of the Board meeting and brought proposals and resolutions back to the whole Board for final decisions. This new organizational structure provides for more Latin American involvement on the Board and more efficient use of the time and talents of these capable and dedicated individuals.



**Front row:** Dr. David Roldan, Dr. Pablo Deiros, Dr. Cathy Barsotti, Dr. Viviana Barron, Jean Van Engen. **Back row:** Dr. Chuck Van Engen, Dr. Mariano Avila, Dr. Neal Johnson, Dr. Antonio Barro, Dr. Tito Paredes, Art Hurtado, Dr. Norberto Saracco. **Not present:** Dr. Rob Johnston.

### **A Financial Update and Challenge**

Latin American Christian Ministries (LACM) was incorporated as a 501(c)3 nonprofit institution in 2000. With a generous gift from a foundation and support from the Reformed Church in America, we held the Miami Consultation in 2001 with 35 theological education leaders from Latin America in attendance. Then we spent three years with a chosen group of Latin American scholars planning the curriculum, determining entrance requirements and getting ready to start the Latin American Doctoral Program. The first group of students started classes in February, 2004. Since then we have been faithfully supported by many individuals, by local churches, by the Reformed Church in America, and by multiple foundations who have responded generously and repeatedly to our applications. We are extremely grateful and humbled by all of this. We remain convinced that God wants this program to continue because God is bringing capable students who are strategically placed in important ministries and places of influence. One other important source of income is the tuition that students pay. We work hard to keep this at a reasonable amount due to low salaries paid to pastors and professors in Latin America. Many of our students need scholarship assistance.

As we strengthen the infrastructure and the Board of Directors of LACM (see article above), we are also looking to strengthen our financial basis for long-term sustainability. We have learned that two of the foundations who have committed funding to LACM for multiple years in the past are no longer able to participate. God has impressed upon us that one of the ways to have on-going support is through an endowment fund, proceeds of which would help support the doctoral program in future years. This would help to fill in when donations from other sources, like foundations, are not available.

We have started a fund with ~\$100,000 of seed money. We need this fund to grow to \$8 million in order to adequately support the program. Would you pray with us that God would bring forward individuals who can provide large gifts designated to this endowment fund? There might be individuals who could give between \$500,000 and \$1 million. Or, there might be others who could give \$10,000 to \$25,000. If you would be interested in speaking with us about this giving opportunity, please contact us via telephone (626-963-9399) or e-mail ([cvanengen@lacmin.org](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org)). Our response card that is included with this newsletter also has a line to check to indicate your interest. Your prayers are definitely needed and highly valued as we seek to make this ministry sustainable for years to come. Thank you and bless you.

**"I have been driven many times upon my knees by the overwhelming conviction that I had nowhere else to go. My own wisdom and that of all about me seemed insufficient for that day."**

— Abraham Lincoln ([www.goodread.com/quotes/tag/prayer](http://www.goodread.com/quotes/tag/prayer))

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

**E-MAIL NEWSLETTER AVAILABLE:**

If you wish to receive our newsletter by email, write us at [cvanengen@lacmin.org](mailto:cvanengen@lacmin.org).