Update from Chuck and Jean Van Engen

Dear co-laborers in Christ’s mission,

It is always a joy for us to write to you and report on what the Holy Spirit is doing through your generous investment in the Kingdom by means of the Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology (LADPT).

Praise God with us! It is harvest time! Celebrate with us the seven leaders we highlight here. Your investment is yielding fruit. Over the next 20 years, each of these graduates will touch the lives of hundreds of leaders who will in turn influence hundreds of others! What a joy to see them graduate. Give thanks with us!

Getting to the stage of defending their dissertation is a huge accomplishment for our students. After four to six years of courses and individualized research, our students write their dissertation, guided by a Latin American scholar as a mentor. Once the mentor approves the dissertation, it goes to three readers/evaluators who will also be part of the jury for the defense. If any of the three have reservations, the student revises the dissertation. Once approved, the defense is scheduled. Due to COVID-19, we do all our defenses via videoconference. This process takes a lot of communication on everyone’s part. Please pray for the students highlighted below.

It has been a delight for Chuck to offer mission-related lectures online in August and September for educational institutions in San Dimas, CA; San José, Costa Rica; and a Presbyterian church in San Diego, CA.

One of our greatest joys continues to be being grandparents! Ella (left) is three years old. Her parents are Anita and John Bateman. They live in Toledo, Ohio, a three-hour drive from Holland, also the home of Andrew, Andrea, and their five children. 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

PRAY FOR UPCOMING DISSERTATION DEFENSES

Roberto and Dilma Yahiro are copastors of the Japanese-Brazilian Holiness Evangelical Church of Londrina, Brazil. They are major leaders among the large Japanese-Brazilian population in Brazil. Roberto researched pastoral leadership formation in his denomination. Dilma studied missional ministries among the 2nd and 3rd generation Japanese-Brazilians in Holiness churches in Brazil.

Luis Gonçalo Silverio (right) is a pastor, psychologist, and part of the faculty of the South American Theological Faculty in Londrina, Brazil. He researched issues of power on the part of fathers in Christian family systems in southern Brazil, as related to Jesus’ teaching in John.

Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at kgilmore@rca.org to be added to the email list. You will receive more timely updates from the missionary you support and help us be good stewards of our resources.
Patricia Adrianzén de Vergara (left) pastors the second-largest Christian & Missionary Alliance Church (C&MA) in Lima, Peru, with her husband, Roger (also an LADPT graduate). She is a writer and publisher of numerous books on spirituality and the Christian life. She is on the faculty of the C&MA Seminary in Lima, Peru. She examined how the theologies of two Peruvian philosophers, José María Arguedas and Gustavo Gutiérrez, contribute to a Peruvian Evangelical mission theology.

David Horta (right) is a Brazilian Presbyterian pastor in São Paulo, Brazil. He researched a biblical theology of stewardship in terms of God’s missional commission to humanity to care for God’s creation.

PRAISE GOD FOR DR. LUIS CRUZ VILLALOGOS of CHILE
We praise God that Luis successfully defended his dissertation on June 22 with the Free University of Amsterdam (VU). Luis improved his fluency in English to write his dissertation in English. He did very well with English during his defense. He was allowed to have a “friendly supporter” participate in the defense with him. Only a couple of times did that person have to translate a question or comment to Spanish during the defense, with the permission of the Dean. At the end of the defense, I was allowed as a mentor to offer a “Laudatio” summary and congratulations to the candidate.

Luis is a psychologist, pastor, and poet in Chile. He has published several books of poetry. He teaches psychology in one of the national universities in Chile as well as maintaining a counseling ministry. He is an ordained minister in a Presbyterian denomination there. Luis worked on the integration of psychological perspectives on posttraumatic resilience and coping with Paul’s perspectives regarding his coping responses to his suffering and trauma. The VU co-promotor, Dr. Ruard Ganzevoort, specializes in applied pastoral theology. Dr. Ganzevoort is also the Dean of the Faculty of Religion and Theology of the VU. I served as the PRODOLA co-promotor. The dissertation had to be printed and published in Amsterdam before the defense.

PRAISE GOD FOR DRS. RUBÉN AND MÓNICA FERNANDEZ IN COSTA RICA!
We praise God that during the summer two of our doctoral students finished writing their dissertations and sustained their defenses. They will be granted official diplomas by the government of Costa Rica, via the Evangelical University of the Americas (UNELA) with whom we began partnering in 2004.

Rubén and Mónica (seen left with their 2 sons) are Argentine missionaries with the Church of the Nazarene in Costa Rica. Rubén is the President of the Nazarene Theological Seminary (SENDAS) in San José, Costa Rica, where we have held numerous intensive courses for PRODOLA. Mónica is the Academic Dean of SENDAS. Rubén did his doctoral research on John Wesley’s perspectives on leadership as a pattern for the formation of pastoral leaders in the Nazarene Church in Central America. Mónica researched how the millennial generation of young people are and can increasingly be involved in church revitalization and mission among the Nazarene churches in Latin America. They are major leaders in the Church of the Nazarene in Central America and have a significant influence in the revitalization and mobilization of Nazarene churches there.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PRAYERS
Jan 15-Feb 28: Jean and Chuck will be working from Florida.
Jan, Feb., March: please pray for our LADPT students. We hope to see five or six more defend their dissertations in these coming months.