



**June 2023**

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

It is always a joy for me to write to you and report on what the Holy Spirit is doing through your generous personal, prayerful, and financial support of this ministry. You have partnered with us in ministry for many years! It is such a delight to prepare each "Prayer Newsletter" because it calls us to look back and recognize the amazing goodness of our Lord Jesus and celebrate your faithful partnership with us in this endeavor.

This past April, Jean and I were in southern California. We were able to visit the Hope Builders class that is part of Shepherd's Grove Church. The Hope Builders have existed as a "church-within-a-church" since the late 1970s. They have supported our ministry almost from the beginning, for over 20 years.

Being with them made me think about the two main ways North American churches participate in cross-cultural, international mission endeavors: short-term and long-term. Short-term mission teams of a few days or a couple of months, or 1-year or 2-year mission assignments are an important way to do cross-cultural mission. But research has shown that short-term missions have the most impact on those doing the mission. They tend to have some, but limited influence on the place and ministry they went to help.



Long-term mission endeavors involving the same personnel in the same place for more than 5 years tend to have the greatest influence on the people and place to which they were sent. Long-term mission endeavors tend to transform the missionary personnel, but they are especially impactful and influential in their cross-cultural context.

As a Ph.D.-level doctoral program in theology, the LADPT is of necessity a long-term endeavor. Because our students are working full-time, supporting their families, pastoring their churches, teaching in their seminaries, and leading mission agencies—and simultaneously doing their doctoral studies—their study program takes them anywhere from 5 to 9 years. As an example, I will tell you more about Enoe Cortazar in this letter. He began in 2009. We praise God that just a couple of months ago, he sent his first dissertation draft to his mentor.

*Would you like to receive these updates digitally? Please email Kelli at [kgilmore@rca.org](mailto: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.*

Many of you who receive this newsletter have walked with us for most of the 22 years of the program. We love that, because walking with us for the long term, you can see the fruit of your prayers and support in the lives of our graduates. And during that time, our graduates, even while they study, have a remarkable impact on their seminaries, denominations, and mission agencies.

**Thank you again for your prayers and your personal and financial support!**

**Love in Jesus,  
Chuck and Jean**

*"We praise you, God, we praise you, for your name is near; people tell of your wonderful deeds . . . I remembered my songs in the night . . . I will remember the deeds of the Lord; yes, I will remember your miracles of long ago." - Psalm 75:1, 77:6, 11 (NIV)*

### **Please pray for our students**

While in southern California, Jean and I had lunch with two of our students and one of our graduates. Maribel Zacapa (front left in the photo below) is from Honduras. She pastors a church and is the leader of theological education and pastoral formation for her denomination. She is researching what obstacles to further leader formation are experienced by pastoral leaders in her churches in Southern California.



Gabriel Raimondo (next to Chuck) is originally from Argentina. He pastors a church that he planted in Southern California and teaches at Azusa Pacific University. His dissertation will tell the story of the phenomenal revivals that occurred in Argentina in the 1990s. Many amazing and unusual “signs and wonders” were experienced by people in Argentina—the kind of phenomena that have been common in mass revivals down through the history of the church.

Dr. Juan Daniel Espitia and Leticia, his wife (at the end of the table), originally from Mexico, have a background in psychology and cross-cultural ministries. He did his research on how a local congregation can best serve Hispanic-Latino folks who experience clinical depression or other psychological trauma. He is an associate pastor at Solana Beach Presbyterian Church near San Diego and is also on the staff of a local hospital as a counselor and chaplain.

### **Thank you for your prayers**

- May 1 – Praise God that Chuck completed his part in co-authoring a small book on the role of the local church in forming leaders in ministry.

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- June 16-18 – Chuck and Jean will attend the American Society of Missiology (ASM). Chuck is to receive the “Lifetime Achievement Award.”
- July 16-23 – Chuck and Jean, along with three children, three spouses, and nine grandchildren will vacation for a week in Outer Banks, North Carolina.
- August through December – Chuck hopes to finish writing a book on the relationship between biblical studies and mission theory.
- September 18 – Latin American Christian Ministries Board of Trustees meeting via ZOOM

**PRODOLA Graduates by Country as of June, 2023**



The fruit of your support of this doctoral program is seen in the lives of the leaders who are formed in it. In turn, during the coming decades, our graduates will influence hundreds of other leaders all over Latin America. We thought you would like to know the countries where our graduates continue to lead and minister. Together, they represent 29 national denominations.

“There is a distinction between general prayer and definite prayer. . . . (General prayer) is the duty of us all (I Tim. 2:1-2). . . . It is good and right to pray, vaguely, for all people, all lands, all things, at all times. . . . But definite prayer is a very different matter. It is in a special sense ‘the prayer of faith.’ A definite request is made in definite faith, for a definite answer. — Mrs. Howard Taylor. *Behind the Ranges: Biography of J.O. Fraser* (China Inland Mission). Chicago: Moody, 1964, 144.

**Enoe Cortazar** was born in 1965 and grew up in a large family in the state of Tabasco, in southeastern Mexico. He was 1 of 16 siblings in a poor, rural farming family. He writes that his parents were adamant that the children

achieve an education. He and his family were nominal members of a local Pentecostal church. Enoe tells the story that on April 19, 1978, late at night he was praying. He says he told the Lord, “If you will heal me of the severe rheumatic pain in my legs, I will give you my heart and life forever.”

When he finished praying, he felt that someone had placed their hand on his head and a strong warmth began to flow through him from the top of his head to the bottom of his feet. When the warmth subsided, he realized that the pain in his feet was completely gone. He gave his life to Christ and became a Sunday school teacher, youth leader, preacher, and missionary in his community and the local jail.



In 1993, he received a general bachelor’s degree from the University of Tabasco. In 1996, he received a bachelor’s in Theology from the Tabasco Bible School of the Church of God, Mexico. In 2007, he was awarded a master’s degree in Theology from the Nazarene Theological Seminary in San Jose, Costa Rica. From 2005 to 2008, he served as the President of the Gilgal Bible Institute of the Church of God, Mexico in Santiago, Nuevo Leon, in Mexico’s northeast. Presently, he is the President of Church of God, Mexico’s seminary in Hermosillo, in Mexico’s northwest. Enoe’s research topic is, “The Church of Ephesians as a Contextual Model of Growth in Five Churches

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in the District of Hermosillo, Sonora, Mexico.” He hopes to defend the dissertation by the end of this year.

"(Everyone's) life is a plan of God; we make or mar it. Our disappointments are (God's) appointments. All things work together for good to those who love God and are called according to (God's) purpose. If you will observe providences, you will find providences to observe. . . . The daily round, the common task is the wheel of God's providence. He is the Potter and we are the clay." Samuel Zwemer, *Studies of Old Testament Characters in New Testament Light*. G.R.: Baker, 1951, 163-164.