



# RCA Missionary Update

## Latin American Doctoral Program in Theology Chuck and Jean Van Engen

“**Argentina** (ärjuntē'nu, Span. ärhāntē'nā) officially Argentine Republic,...(2008 est. pop: 40,677,348), 1,072,157 sq mi (2,776,889 sq km)....Languages: Spanish (official), English, Italian, German, French. Ethnicity/race: white (mostly Spanish and Italian) 97%, Religions: nominally Roman Catholic 92% (less than 20% practicing), Protestant 2%, Jewish 2%, other 4%.” (The Columbia Electronic Encyclopedia, 6th ed. Copyright © 2007, Columbia University Press. All rights reserved.)

“Second in South America only to Brazil in size and population, Argentina is a plain, rising from the Atlantic to the Chilean border and the towering Andes peaks. Aconcagua (22,834 ft, 6,960 m) is the highest peak in the world outside Asia. Argentina is...bordered by (Chile to the west), Bolivia and Paraguay on the north, and by Uruguay and Brazil (on the northeast, and the Atlantic Ocean to the east). The northern (Gran Chaco) area is....swampy and partly wooded....South of that are the rolling, fertile Pampas,...rich in agriculture and sheep- and cattle-grazing....Further south is Patagonia, a region of cool, arid steppes with some wooded and fertile sections....First explored in 1516 by Juan Díaz de Solís, Argentina developed slowly under Spanish colonial rule. Buenos Aires was settled in 1580; the cattle industry was thriving as early as 1600. Invading British forces were expelled in 1806–1807, and after Napoleon conquered Spain (1808), the Argentinians set up their own government in 1810. On July 9, 1816, independence was formally declared....On December 10, 2007, First Lady Cristina Fernández de Kirchner took over the presidency from her husband, Néstor Kirchner....(She) has shown interest in forging closer ties with the United States, Europe, and Brazil.”

—Source: <http://www.infoplease.com/ipa/A0107288.html>

### Facts about Latin America:

Population:  
About 550 million

Countries:  
Latin America is divided into 33 independent countries and 13 other political units.

Languages Spoken:  
French, Spanish, Portuguese, English, Creole, and hundreds of ancient native-American languages

Ministry:  
Theological Education and Leadership Formation

Location:  
The entire continent

Partners:  
The Evangelical University of the Americas, San José, Costa Rica; and Latin American Christian



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**Dear intercessors and partners with us in Christ's mission:**

**September, 2009**

Our gracious Lord Jesus is so good! We are so blessed and honored by your personal interest and love. During the past five months we have been amazed at the remarkable commitment and support that folks have demonstrated for this ministry. The global financial crisis is real and deep. It has affected all of our doctoral students in their ability to cover the cost of tuition. As a response to the situation, we have decided to freeze tuition for 2010, and, in faith, we have raised slightly the maximum scholarship assistance we hope to offer, based on need.

One of our operating principles is that vision and commitment come first. The Lord has honored that over the years, and we don't plan to back off from that faith commitment. As much as is humanly possible, we are committed to seeing that no one be prohibited from studying solely because of financial need. At the same time, we are seeking to educate the churches, denominations, mission agencies, theological institutions, and individuals throughout Latin America of their responsibility and privilege to help fund the study programs and leadership development of their present and future leaders.

We praise God for your willingness to walk with us in this wonderful opportunity to build the Kingdom of God and further the maturing of the Church in Latin America. **Please keep praying for this ministry!**



**Chuck and Jean Van Engen in the beautiful Pacific Northwest on a rare 'sunny' day.**

## Feb. 2009 San Jose, Costa Rica



During the first two weeks of February, 2009, we gathered for our intensive courses at the Nazarene Seminary and Conference Center in San José, Costa Rica. As you can see in the photo (above), the weather was perfect the day we took the picture! We had several days of strong, cold winds and drizzle. The seminary is a beautiful location with excellent housing, classrooms, and food. It was a joy to see those who had begun in February 2008 (now the “old-timers”) welcome the eleven new students who were able to begin their studies this past February. The warmth, caring, mutual support and sense of group cohesion and collegial encouragement is really wonderful. During the second week of classes, Dr. Sonia Abarca, one of our professors, underwent surgery in San José, for which we were all in prayer.

### Ángela Durigan de Souza

Compassion and commitment shine from Ángela Durigan’s face as she speaks of her life. Currently associate pastor of the 1500 member Church of the Nazarene in Itatiba, Brazil (a city near Sao Paulo), she gives one day a week to pastoral counseling, and also teaches in a Nazarene seminary in the areas of leadership, pastoral care, family and spiritual formation. She is frequently called on to speak in other churches and denominations, and spends much of her time writing. She has published a series of what she calls “pocket books,” short works on different aspects of Christian living.



Part of Angela’s story is her experience of 17 years of sickness, beginning with the birth of her first child. Doctors told her there was no cure for the strange combination of migraines, allergies and depression that caused her and her family much suffering. But God’s touch and miraculous deliverance over the space of two years has given her a heart full of gratitude and helped make her to be the energetic and compassionate leader she is today.

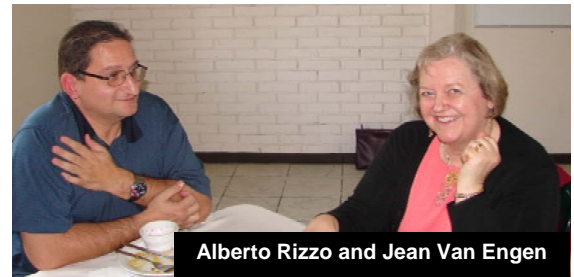
Angela and her husband Jorge have two married daughters. She is in the doctoral program because, as she puts it, “I want to learn more about the Kingdom of God, become a better teacher, and broaden my own horizons.” She wants to do her doctoral research in the area of pastoral counseling, in part stemming from her concern that the structure of the church today is producing pastors who are more administrators than spiritual guides or healers. She hopes her contribution will make a difference. She will investigate in the area of ecclesiology, seeking a relational model of the church for facilitating care and healing for all believers within the church.

## Introducing Alberto Rizzo

As senior pastor of the Centro Cristiano Kyrios, a renovated Baptist church of 1200 members in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Alberto Rizzo leads a team of 18 pastors that includes his wife, Silvia Monica. This missionary church has already planted 28 daughter congregations, mostly in Argentina, but also extending to Uruguay, Peru and Spain.

What is not obvious about Alberto is his past record as eight-time national champion for Argentina in taekwondo, a sport that Alberto describes as “Korean karate.” One year he was Pan-American champion. During some 27 years, while he was busy pastoring and building up the church, he earned his living teaching taekwondo in some 12 different gymnasiums in Buenos Aires. As the church grew, Alberto cut down on his involvement in sports, and today he gives full time to the ministry.

Growing up in a Roman Catholic family, Alberto came to a personal knowledge of Jesus at 18 years old. At that time, economic pressures forced him to quit school and go to work. In spite of the fact he wasn’t able to graduate from high school until the age of 28, Alberto comes to PRODOLA with high academic recommendations, including three masters degrees and a D.Min.



Alberto Rizzo and Jean Van Engen

### Pray for Digital Library Project

Rev. Freddy Guerrero, President of the



Nazarene Theological Seminary in Quito, Ecuador, and Rev. Paschoal Piragine, Pastor of the First Baptist Church of Curitiba, Brazil and Coordinator of the Federation of Baptist Seminaries in Brazil, are

both doctoral students in the LADPT. They have personnel with the appropriate technological and computer skills and the computer hardware and servers available to create this bibliographic collection. They have offered to coordinate this project. Pray for Freddy, Paschoal, and their staff as they identify, collect, digitize, and organize this digital library as a service to us all.



Left to right: Freddy Guerrero and Paschoal Piragine.