

## **Practical books on the family, economic ministries and Christian radio provided to encourage the church in Latin America**

By Kenneth D. MacHarg

LAM News Service

Miami, (LAMNS)—Three books written by missionaries with the Latin America Mission are proving useful for churches in Latin America and throughout the developing world.

In response to the needs of Latin American churches to reach out to families, LAM missionary Carlos Pinto has written an acclaimed handbook destined to be of help.

Titled *Nuestra Familia: Sus Distintos Momentos (Our Family: Its Different Stages)*, the book is designed to be an educational tool for those who work with families. It addresses the issue of the mission of the church and the family and its development as a unit through different stages. It is intended as an educational guide for pastors, cell groups and parents.

“As I travel around Latin America, I have seen the great necessity to provide material about the Christian family today for serious ministries and professionals,” said Juan Wagenveld, Associate Director in Latin America for the Bible League. “This book of Carlos Pinto is a great support for not only the families but also for the leaders and pastors who are looking for well organized resources for their pastoral work with families.”

The book is divided into two parts. The first discusses topics such as “The mission of the church and the family,” and “The current situation of the family.” The second part presents a series of specific cases that reflect situations in family life in Latin America.

Chapter titles include, “The process of creating a married couple,” “Mommy, why does my brother act different,” “Adolescence and pornography,” “Sexuality and adolescence,” and “Alternative forms of disciplining children.”

The book’s content is contemporary and is presented in a flexible manner so that it can be used individually or as a textbook for a course or workshop.

*Nuestra Familia* is 190 pages long and is published cooperatively by Compassion International and the Education Division of HCJB World Radio in Quito.

The book focuses on the challenges facing Latin American parents and families. It is also a biblical guide with questions for thought and discussion complete with pertinent scriptures. In Ecuador the book will be used to work with 200 churches that are associated with Compassion. Compassion Peru and Compassion Bolivia also have agreed to use this book for leadership training with children’s workers. “The book is part of a larger program with the aim of strengthening Ecuadorian and Latin American families,” Pinto said.

Carlos Pinto is a Peruvian who, with his wife Rebecca, serve as missionaries with the Latin America Mission, assigned to HCJB in Ecuador. Carlos was born and raised in Peru and is a Presbyterian pastor.

*Nuestra Familia* is bringing a strong, positive response from pastors and counselors in Latin America. “This fabulous material fills a vacuum that exists related to the development of the family,” said Alejandro Pimentel, Director of World Literature Ministries/Editorial Desafio.”

The book may be purchased for \$15 online at <http://www.vozandes.org>, then clicking into the “education” section, or by mail from HCJB, Box PO Box 39800, Colorado Springs, CO 80949-9800.

Pinto’s book joins two others authored by LAM missionary personnel that are designed as handbooks for church leaders and missionaries.

LAM President David Befus has just published a revised Spanish language edition of his popular guide, *Kingdom Business, The Ministry of Promoting Economic Activity*. The book, available in both Spanish and English, recognizes that productive economic activity is a valuable tool of the church. Befus argues that economic development should be added to the ministry toolbox of the church along with health, education and other traditional ministry disciplines.

In addition, missionary journalist Ken MacHarg has written *Proclaiming the Gospel; Guidelines for Local Christian Radio Programming Around the World*. This usable handbook, also available in either Spanish or English, is designed to help Christian broadcasters develop compelling and effective programming.

The books by Befus and MacHarg may be ordered for \$6 each plus \$2 shipping online at <http://shop.gospelcom.net/cgi-bin/lam.storefront/EN/catalog/1001>, or by writing to LAM, Box 52-7900, Miami, FL 33152.

Latin America Mission works in partnership with churches and Christian agencies throughout Latin America and supports missionaries and projects in many Latin countries as well as in Spain. LAM is seeking to place new missionaries throughout the region. The U.S. headquarters can be reached at Latin America Mission, Box 52-7900, Miami, FL 33152, by e-mail at [info@lam.org](mailto:info@lam.org), or by calling 1-800-275-8410. The mission’s web site may be found at <http://www.lam.org>. LAM’s Canadian office is at 3075 Ridgeway Drive, Unit 14, Mississauga, ON L5L 5M6.

*Information for this story was supplied by ALC News Service and HCJB World Radio*

**Practical books on the family, economic ministries and Christian radio provided to encourage the church in Latin America, LAM News Service, Nov 20, 2003**