

The FTL, Edinburgh, Lausanne III, and CLADE V: A Forty-Year Journey

Víctor Rey

The Fraternidad Teológica Latinoamericana (FTL, Latin American Theological Fellowship) celebrated its fortieth anniversary in December of 2010. Countless meetings, dinners, forums, panels, and conferences were held within almost all of the FTL's local chapters throughout Latin America commemorating the occasion. We thank God for those twenty-five pioneers in Cochabamba, Bolivia who planted the seed in December of 1970 that has since been scattered all over the continent and beyond, influencing, motivating, and giving hope to so many Christians, churches, and institutions in their mission to be more original, coherent, and radical in their service to the kingdom.

The FTL was founded as a result of the first Latin American Congress on Evangelism (CLADE I, its acronym in Spanish), which



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took place in Bogota, Colombia in 1969. Over forty years later, the FTL is now preparing for CLADE V, to be held in July 2012 in San José, Costa Rica, with the theme, “Following Jesus in God’s Kingdom of Life. Guide us, Holy Spirit!” Our desire remains to identify ourselves with the people of God, with Latin American and Caribbean society, and with churches that strive to be faithful to the gospel in the midst of hardships. CLADE V will undoubtedly mark a turning point in the history of the church in Latin America.

CLADE V will also provide a space to carry on with and contextualize the Third Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization (Lausanne III), which took place in October of 2010 in Cape Town, South Africa with the theme, “The Whole Church Taking the Whole Gospel to the Whole World.” Since 1974, when the First Lausanne Congress on World Evangelization (Lausanne I) took place in Switzerland, the FTL has felt like heirs to the Lausanne Covenant. The FTL has promoted this document so integral to the life of the church and included it as one of their foundational documents. Now we have the challenge of providing a channel for spreading it along with the Cape Town Commitment, a document produced in Lausanne III, through CLADE V.

To better understand these historical and theological movements, we should not forget that the FTL is a fruit of the first CLADE, and the FTL’s life and mission are closely related to that of the CLADEs’. We should also understand why the FTL was created and what its purpose is:

The *Fraternidad Teológica Latinoamericana* is an evangelical movement that, since the 1970s, has promoted spaces for theological reflection contextualized in our colorful and wounded Latin America. The diversity of the evangelical community and a commitment to the Kingdom of God and its expression in the life and