

# THE JOHN 17:21 FELLOWSHIP

(Note: this is a work in progress!)

By Clifton L. Holland, Director of PROLADES

Draft copy on 22 September 2009 / Updated on 8 February 2011

## PART I

It is generally agreed that one of the major ecumenical bridges worldwide between Roman Catholics and Protestants in the late 1970s and early 1980s was the John 17:21 Fellowship that was associated with the international ministry David du Plessis. However, until recently, little information has been available about how this organization actually came into being and how it developed. In correspondence with my friend Paul Northrup, one of the original participants in the John 17:21 Fellowship, a more complete picture of this story has now emerged.

### **The Historical context**

On February 4, 1976, Guatemala City and a large part of the country (16 of 22 departments) were severely shaken by a major earthquake that registered 7.5 on the Richter scale, which caused massive destruction and loss of life. According to Roger Plant (1978:5), "Of a total population of approximately 5,500,000, over 22,000 were killed, more than 77,000 injured and over 1,000,000 made homeless; it was the severest natural catastrophe in Central America during the twentieth century."

The response of Protestant denominations and service agencies, both national and international, to the survivors in the aftermath of this earthquake was swift and significant, both in terms of emergency assistance and more long-term community development activities. This produced a favorable reaction among those who received immediate as well as long-term assistance from evangelical organizations, with a resulting burst of growth in attendance and membership of evangelical churches.

### **How and why the John 17:21 Fellowship was founded (testimony by Paul Northrup)**

An initial meeting took place on the first anniversary of the quake in March of 1977 at "La Posada de Don Rodrigo" in Antigua, Guatemala. **David du Plessis** was there as well as **Bob Thomas, Ralph Wilkerson, Paul Finkenbinder, Hector Tamez, Bill Finke** and myself from California, and **Norman Parrish** and several members from his church in Guatemala City who were involved in the earthquake rescue and reconstruction effort. Several others from Central and South America whose names I don't recall right now.

This meeting was put together by Norman Parrish, senior pastor and founder of Calvary Church in Guatemala City, and members of his staff who had mobilized weeks before the earthquake because a woman in the church had prophesied that it was coming.

The idea for the meeting was suggested by a Catholic priest from Bogota, Colombia, who came to Guatemala to bring aid for the earthquake victims. This priest was popular for his daily radio and T.V. programs called "Minuto de Dios" broadcast carried by a national network covering Colombia. He was also well known for an outstanding community he formed in a garbage dump in Bogota. I visited him later and was truly amazed at the transformation of both people and place.

He planted the idea to come together on the anniversary of the earthquake because Jesus prayed for spiritual unity in the Body of Christ, just as a natural disaster unified Christians from all nations and denominations to bring help to Guatemala. The idea resulted in a meeting bringing together people who heard about it and came because they were drawn by the Holy Spirit. David du Plessis said it was the first time in his life that he came to a meeting without being invited. Actually there were no official invitations or special speakers or program.

David began speaking to us about our personal need to forgive one another as Jesus prayed "forgive us as we forgive others." This became the theme for the whole week. Both Catholics and Evangelicals were there and a great spirit of prayer came over all of us as we began forgiving each other. The meeting took place on Holy Week and there was a spontaneous desire to partake of the Lord's Supper. Some of the people excused themselves because they felt they could not do this with Catholics. Later they came back asking forgiveness for not participating.

John 17:21 was the name chosen following the meeting in Guatemala about a week later at Melodyland Christian Center in Anaheim, California. **Ralph Wilkerson, Bob Thomas, Paul Finkenbinder ("Hermano Pablo"), Hector Tamez**, myself and others attended. Hermano Pablo made office space available in his building in Costa Mesa, California, to coordinate meetings in the U.S., Latin America, Korea, and Singapore and beyond.

**Ralph Wilkerson and Bob Thomas made finances available to support Hector Tamez [coordinator] and myself [secretary] to serve full time, and Dr. David du Plessis (known as "Mr. Pentecost") became Honorary President.** Outstanding Christian leaders across the U.S. got involved in the "Vision" and it soon became a nationwide prayer network.

(E-mail correspondence from Paul Northrup to myself, dated 22 September 2009)

### **Introduction by Clifton Holland**

For a long time I have been interested in discovering more about the origin and development of the John 17:21 Fellowship because of its historical significance and due to my own limited involvement in meetings sponsored by this organization in Mexico, Costa Rica and Southern California. Some of my initial sources of information were the following:

Burgess, Stanley M. and Gary B. McGee, editors. "Charismatic Movement" (pp. 130-160) in *Dictionary of Pentecostal and Charismatic Movements*. Grand Rapids, MI: Regency Reference Library / Zondervan Publishing House, 1988.

Paul Northrup, correspondence with Clifton L. Holland via e-mail in May, July and September of 2009.

Research conducted by myself at the David du Plessis Collection archives at the Library of Fuller Theological Seminary in July 2009: box of information in folders about the John 17:21 Fellowship.

### **Commentary by Clifton Holland**

I attended one of these conferences in the early 1980s (check date) and got to know many of the leaders personally, including Fr. Navarro (died in 2003), Thomas (died in 1998), du Plessis (died in 1987), Finke and Ortiz. The meetings were held at the El Altillo Monastery of the Catholic Missionaries of the Holy Spirit in the southern part of Mexico City and at the Valle de Bravo Catholic Retreat Center in the state of Puebla.

Later, I was responsible for inviting Fr. Alfonso Navarro and Robert Thomas to Costa Rica to speak at a conference for evangelical pastors in San José, sponsored by the International Institute for In-depth Evangelization (IINDEF), and held in the IINDEF building in San Francisco de Dos Ríos (November 1981). However, there was a negative reaction against Padre Navarro because he was a Roman Catholic and the IINDEF team was criticized for sponsoring such a meeting and giving a Catholic priest such a platform to address evangelical leaders. Our team director, Rafael Baltodano, told me that I should not continue to attend UCELAM or John 17:21 Fellowship meetings, or any other meetings with Catholic charismatics, if I wanted to continue being on the IINDEF team. Consequently, I backed off from participating in these activities until the Missiological Institute of the Americas (IMDELA) was organized independently of IINDEF in 1983 with myself as its director.

In September 1985, I attended another John 17:21 Fellowship meeting in San Clemente, CA, at Casa Romantica Retreat Center, where about 20 Catholic and Protestant charismatics meet for a half-day retreat. Some of the participants at that meeting included Robert and Margaret Thomas, Paul and Vera Northrup, Mel and Janie Green, Warren and Margaret Campbell, Roger and Lyn Story, Robert and Sue Grant, Mercedes Duncan, Pete and Eire Carlson and Glen Anderson.

Below is biographical information that I have obtained from a variety of sources about some of the major actors involved in the origin and development of this movement.

### **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION ABOUT KEY PLAYERS**

#### **(1) David Johannes du Plessis (b.1905 – d.1987)**

The General Secretary of the Apostolic Faith Mission (AFM) was in his office in Johannesburg, South Africa. As it was before 7.00 am he was surprised when Smith Wigglesworth burst into his office. "Come out here," he boomed. Pushing David firmly against the wall he, prophesied that a revival would come through the old-line denominations eclipsing anything previously known throughout history. Many of the leaders would change from strong opposition to accept the message and the blessing of the Pentecostal experience.

David too would have a very prominent part in this movement providing he remained humble and faithful. Smith bowed his head, asked God to prepare David and to keep him in good health, and he left his office.

Wigglesworth was in South Africa for the annual conference of the AFM (December 1936). David was his interpreter and Wigglesworth was staying in David's home. Ten minutes later Smith returned to David's office as though for the first time and inquired how he was. "Very puzzled," was David's reply. Smith explained he had seen a vision well before dawn. He had argued with the Lord about it saying, "This is not what my brethren expect." Smith told David that he should wait for confirmation from God and added, "It will not begin during my lifetime. When I pass away, then you can begin to think about it." Smith also told David that he would travel more than most men.

### **Uniting the Pentecostals**

Three weeks after Wigglesworth's prophecy in South Africa, David du Plessis was invited to minister the following year (1937) at the General Council of Assemblies of God (AOG) in Memphis, Tennessee. They discussed the benefits of a meeting of Pentecostal leaders in 1938/9 in London or some other European centre. Near the end of the conversation Donald Gee said it would be wonderful if David du Plessis could be secretary for such a meeting.

A European conference was held in Stockholm in 1938 primarily to resist any formation of an **International Pentecostal Movement**. It was at that conference that T. B. Barratt prophesied the coming of World War II.

### **The First World Pentecostal Conference**

Due to the war, the **First World Pentecostal Conference (WPC)** was not held until 1947. This was the year that Smith Wigglesworth died. The conference was held in Zurich Switzerland and organized by the Swiss pastor Leonard Steiner and assisted by David du Plessis.

David du Plessis ministered on the words of John Baptist, "I baptize you with water for repentance. But after me will come one who is more powerful than I ... He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire. His winnowing fork is in his hand, and he will clear his threshing-floor, gathering his wheat into the barn and burning up the chaff with unquenchable fire" (Matthew 3:11-12 NIV). God had shown David that one cannot grow wheat without chaff and that God would remove and burn it with the refining fire of the Holy Spirit.

### **A Severe Accident**

One foggy night in 1948 Paul Walker, who was head of the Missions Department of the Church of God (Cleveland, TN), was driving David back to Beckley, West Virginia. At 3.00 am they crashed into a shunting locomotive which had stopped on a rail crossing.

It was at this time that the **Pentecostal Fellowship of North America** was born. Their first action was to send David \$400 and they also agree to send \$250 a month until he recovered from the

accident. David du Plessis was now able to send his wife Anna more than \$1,000 because he wanted her to come to America.

In 1949, the family came to Beckley in time for their first Thanksgiving. David organized the 1949 PWC from his hospital bed. While he was in the hospital God told him the time of the fulfillment of Wigglesworth's prophecy had arrived. Although David was told that it would take two years to recover he attended the conference on crutches.

The Church of God offered him a professorship at Lee College in Cleveland, Tennessee. This enabled the family to obtain a residence visa in the United States. While teaching and with help from the students, the 1952 PWC was organized in London.

### **The Charismatic Renewal**

God showed David he needed to be near the centers of power of the established churches. He resigned from teaching at Lee College and moved to Stamford, Connecticut. Here David developed a friendship with Dr. John A. Mackay who was the president of Princeton Theological Seminary. At the end of the 1952 PWC, David resigned as secretary and travelled to Germany to attend the World Conference of the International Missionary Council at the suggestion of Mackay. At the conference he talked with 110 of the 210 delegates including Dr. Willem Visser 't Hooft, the Secretary General of the World Council of Churches (WCC). Dr. Hooft arranged for David to speak at the second assembly of the WCC in Evanston, Illinois, in 1954.

David changed his main message in two ways. First, he started to emphasize Jesus as the Baptizer in the Holy Spirit. He also started to confess his wrong attitudes and how he overcame them. This helped people to acknowledge their own prejudices.

### **Pentecostal Catholics**

At a meeting of the WCC in St. Andrews, Scotland, David met Professor Bernard Leeming, a Catholic priest from Oxford, England, who asked for the baptism in the Holy Spirit. **This was the start of David's ministry to Roman Catholics.**

Leeming knew Pope John personally and he arranged for David to visit Rome. God gave David a love for Catholics. First he met Dr. Robert Murray and then Dr. Thomas Strandsky, the secretary for Promoting Christian Unity. Strandsky had searched for a Pentecostal to talk to him and was told David was the only one.

Strandsky's boss was Cardinal Bea who asked David, "What do the Pentecostals want to say to Rome?" David's hesitating response, "I have to say, the Pentecostals have no intention of talking to Rome." Betraying no emotion Bea asked, "What do you want to say to Rome?" David replied, "Make the Bible available to every Catholic in the world in his own language. The Holy Spirit will make that book come alive and that will change lives and renew the church." Bea was taken in and said, "That is what the Holy Father wants to know, write it down," he said to his secretary.

In 1964 David was an observer at the historic Second Vatican Council originated by Pope John XXIII and completed by Paul VI. At Horgen in Switzerland in 1972, David represented the Pentecostals as co-chairman with Fr. Kilian McDonnell at the first of ten "Dialogues" between Catholics and Pentecostals, including Charismatics.

According to Cecil M. Robeck, Jr., in Cooperation and the Promotion of Unity, A Pentecostal Perspective:

“To date, the most significant place where broader ecumenical engagement has taken place is at the bilateral level. An international dialogue between the Catholic Church and certain Pentecostal churches and leaders has existed since 1972, co-founded by David du Plessis and Fr. Kilian McDonnell, OSB. It has made some important findings during its thirty-five years of existence.”

Source: <http://www.towards2010.org.uk/downloads/t2010paper08robeck.pdf>

**(2) Bill Finke:** an independent Pentecostal missionary trained at the Assemblies of God Bible College in Seattle, WA.

In 1972, while living in Chilpancingo, Mexico, God also gave [Bill] the finances to purchase a new Cessna Turbo-charged six place 210 aircraft. This was a time when Bill taught and trained bishops, priests, nuns and lay workers throughout Latin and South America.

Seven years later [1979], Bill and Janice moved to San Jose, California. Bill's ministry expanded into conducting leadership training conferences through out Asia, Africa, and Latin America, as well as in the United States. Bill and Janice also worked with another couple to plant a church in Sunnyvale, California, where Bill was the senior pastor for ten years.

Source: <http://www.northwestu.edu/financialaid/scholarships/endowed/finke.php>

**(3) Robert Bluford Thomas** (b.1919-d.1998)

Thomas was born on November 2, 1919 in Woodland, CA, and raised in California. According to his wife, Bob had a missionary mind since he was a young man, and he had a heart to tell others about Jesus' saving name. After he and Margaret were married on June 25, 1939 in Santa Maria, CA, they began to prepare to go to the mission field. Both attended Glad Tidings Bible Institute in San Francisco, CA, from January 1940 to December 1942. Later, they were sent by the Assemblies of God via a cargo ship to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where they served as missionaries from 1945 to 1950. According to Margaret, they held many evangelistic meetings and developed a true love for the Latin American people.

In 1947 the missionary work of the Assemblies of God was organized nationally under the name “Unión de las Asambleas de Dios en Argentina” (UADA), under the leadership of missionary Niels Sorensen, superintendent. In 1948, the UADA acquired legal status and formed its first board of directors, which was composed of the following members: Erling Andersen, superintendent; Kermit Jeffrey, assistant superintendent; Robert Thomas, secretary; Samuel Sorensen,

vice-secretary; and Eduard Fazzini, member at large. By 1949 the UADA had 20 affiliated churches.

While in Buenos Aires Bob worked with fellow missionary Kermit Jeffrey (who served with his wife Erna in Argentina from 1943 to 1950) in conducting evangelistic meetings and church services in Argentina and Uruguay, and several new churches were started that were pastored by these two missionaries. Kermit and Bob also began a Bible School in a local church in 1947 to train national workers from Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay; and they also traveled outside of Buenos Aires to workers in other locations. This Bible School became the Río de la Plata Bible Institute in 1948, with Bob as its first director (1948-1950). Initially it was located in the Colegiales district of Buenos Aires. Later, the Bible Institute moved to City Bell and Robert Edward Miller became its director. In 1952, Paul Sorensen became the director and Paul Brown was the assistant director.

After returning to the USA in 1950, Bob became a minister in an Assemblies of God church in Fresno, CA. He and his family began a long journey of ministry in the traditional church until he began working with a group of people who were new believers in Santa Clara, CA. From 1966 to 1973 Bob was Associate Pastor at the Congregational Church of the Valley. He was given full freedom to preach the Word of God in all its fullness.

The members of the congregation would question all kinds of life issues. Bob was excited and challenged to pray and learn with this group and to open up to all kinds of believers from different backgrounds. This was when he began to question his continued ministry in a traditional denominational-type church. Weren't Catholic believers Christian, too? Weren't other denominations valid? Shouldn't we partner with each other and join efforts rather than work separately? Can we all work together in our evangelizing efforts?

In 1974, Bob accepted a pastorate at a church in Palo Alto, CA, which had its roots in the Assemblies of God denomination but had recently decided to become interdenominational. Bob had kept up his contacts in Latin America. In 1976 the church bought property in Los Altos-Cupertino and built a beautiful sanctuary with offices and Sunday school rooms. The church, renamed Foothill Christian Center, was filled with people on the first Sunday.

Very soon after the 1976 Guatemala earthquake, Foothill Christian Center raised money to buy a new heavy-duty truck to be used in relief work. Bob and former missionary Paul Northrup (who served in Cuba from 1953 to 1959) drove the truck loaded with equipment and supplies to Guatemala. While they were in Guatemala City, Bob and Paul and others began an organization called the John 17:21 Fellowship.

Through the John 17:21 Fellowship they began ministering to and with believers [both Protestants and Catholics] in Mexico and Guatemala, believing that we are all one in Jesus' name. At this time Bob met Father Alfonso Navarro [a member of the Catholic religious order "Fathers of the Holy Spirit" and a key leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement in Mexico] and began working closely with him and his Catholic charismatic believers in Mexico City. Bob spent much time flying back and forth to participate in meetings that united Catholic and Protestant believers in Latin America.

During this time there was an exchange of meetings between Mexico and Foothill Christian Center. Small groups were always traveling between Bob's church in Los Altos and Padre Navarro's parish in Mexico City. There was a spiritual revival in these churches, both among Catholics and Evangelicals who praised God together. A young people's group began at the Foothill Christian Center that grew and united both Catholic and Protestant youth.

After Bob and Margaret began their "official" retirement in 1985, they moved from San Jose, California, to Prescott, Arizona. However, Bob kept up his love of communicating with his Latin American friends in Argentina and Mexico. During 1987, he and Margaret returned to minister in the Buenos Aires church that he formerly pastored in the 1940s and renewed many friendships.

Bob passed into the Lord's presence on September 28, 1998 in Chandler, Arizona. He was survived by his wife Margaret and his three daughters -- Deborah (Debbie) Raber, Brenda Griffith and Elizabeth (Anne) Theodosis -- who together have six children and three grandchildren. Margaret currently lives in a retirement home in Chandler, Arizona, and is still active in the Lord's work.

Source: Document written by Margaret Thomas and her daughter Debbie Thomas Raber, with editorial assistance from Clifton L. Holland.

Date e-mail document received: May 11, 2009 (revised on May 16, 2009).

Note: New information for this biographical sketch was obtained by Holland from a variety of sources, including Luisa Jeter Walker's book, *Siembra y Cosecha*, Volume 2: *Reseña histórica de las Asambleas de Dios en Argentina, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay, Perú and Uruguay*. Deerfield, Florida: Editorial Vida, 1992.

**(4) Hector Tamez** (coordinator for Latin America)

**(5) Paul Northrup (b.1930 – d.2011)**

In 1953, Paul and Vera Northrup planted a church in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba, which became the first church of the Buenas Nuevas (Good News) Church Association. God graciously blessed this apostolic ministry and today, in spite of a repressive communist regime, the association has grown to include 43 organized churches and more than 300 house churches.

In 1959, Paul and Vera left Cuba after the Revolution to serve the Lord in Mexico, California and many other locations under the sponsorship of Gospel Relief Missions (GRM), which was founded in 1959 by Paul's beloved Aunt Elizabeth Thompson in Fresno, CA to support Paul, Vera (married in 1953) in their missionary endeavors. Since then, the GRM has worked effectively to implement training, assistance and relief programs in Latin America.

Source: <http://www.gospelrelief.org/index.html>

Paul and Vera Northrup's son John wrote the following tribute in February 2011 after Paul went to be the Lord.

Paul was a treasured dad, grandpa and mentor. Just as he was a treasure to so many who knew him. Paul served as an elder at Mission Hills Community Church in Rancho Santa Margarita, CA, for nearly 30 years. He led outreaches across Latin America. He counseled and discipled generations of believers world-wide to be unwavering in their devotion to following Christ and relentless in pursuing unity in the Body. Paul was a gentle, fearless witness. He was a visionary, pioneer missionary.

- 1930 Born
- 1935 to 1942 Lived in Hawaii
- 1945 to 1948 Lived in Venezuela (his parents served with New Tribes Mission)
- 1949 to 1951 Attended Bible College (SCC Costa Mesa, CA)
- 1951 to 1959 Missionary in Sancti Spiritus, Cuba
- 1953 Married Vera Seals in Fullerton, CA
- 1959 Gospel Relief Missions founded in Fresno, CA
- 1961 to 1978 ABC Bible Training Center Puebla, Mexico
- 1954 to 1961 5 children--Ruth, Connie, Celeste, John & Randy
- 1978 to 2011 Served with the John 17:21 Fellowship for unity in the Body of Christ
- 1979 to 1981 "Jesus 80" Anaheim Stadium
- 1979 to 2011 Missions Elder, Mission Hills Community Church
- 1979 to 2011 Lived in Tustin & San Clemente, CA

Source: <http://1000memories.com/paul-northrup/biography>

## Pastor returns to see Cuban Evangelical church thriving

By John Rice, *The Associated Press* - Posted 11/23/2003 12:27 PM

CAMP CANAAN, Cuba — Paul Northrup raised his hands and shouted "Alelujah!" A congregation of more than 1,000 Cubans echoed back.



Pastor Paul Northrup celebrates at the Cuban missionary church he founded 50 years ago.

By Jose Goitia, AP

The small church that Northrup planted in central Cuba 50 years ago has grown and thrived since he left in 1959, becoming a small part of a broad movement that Cuban evangelicals have built across their socialist nation.

"They told us when we left, the work would fail," Northrup said. "There were seven churches then. Now there are 53."

Northrup, now 71, and his family came down from southern California to join with Cuban church members for a 50th anniversary celebration this month at a borrowed Methodist center called Camp Canaan, some 170 miles east of Havana.

For hour upon hour, they sang, clapped, prayed and preached in a big brick church whose wide-open sides let breezes cut the tropical heat.

"It makes me happy. It's kind of like our kids and grandkids," Northrup said.

Northrup came to Cuba with his wife, Vera, in 1953 as an independent [Pentecostal] preacher, carrying only "our clothes and an accordion." In Sancti Spiritus, he found a radio station that sold him time for \$6 a minute and he began to preach.

Soon he managed to establish a small church called Buenas Nuevas — "Good News."

A milkman who regularly passed by grew curious and decided to enter one day. "I didn't know that by entering, my life was going to change," said Eliseo Leon, who is now president of Buenas Nuevas.

As Northrup built the church, Fidel Castro was building a revolution against the dictatorship of Fulgencio Batista.

Northrup recalled seeing rebels that Batista's men hanged from streetlights. Another day, "Batista sent his planes in at night. One had a searchlight and the other planes would strafe where they thought the rebels were."

"Not that it would have done any good against a .50-caliber (gun), but we took all the mattresses we had, piled them on a bed" and hid underneath, he said.

After toppling Batista, Castro's revolution veered toward socialism. Relations with the United States soured and the atmosphere grew uncomfortable for many Americans.

Northrup said he left because his presence could make some think of Buenas Nuevas as a U.S. church: "We felt we'd hurt them more by staying." He later went on to establish Gospel Relief Missions in Mission Viejo, Calif.

Hundreds of other pastors, both foreign and Cuban, also left the country.

For the next 25 years, all religions struggled under an explicitly atheist government that discouraged all sorts of religious faith. Believers were barred from important jobs and were viewed with hostility by officials who oversaw just about all aspects of life.

"They were trying to make ends meet. There were some places they lost membership," said **Marcos Antonio Ramos**, a Miami-based Baptist preacher and historian of Cuban Protestantism.

But the wall was starting to crack by 1984, when Castro attended a Protestant service with Jesse Jackson. The collapse of the Soviet Bloc later led the government to abandon official atheism and to openly, if warily, accept religious faith.

The arrival of Pope John Paul II in Cuba in 1997 drew attention to the island's Catholics, but many analysts estimate that attendance at Protestant churches has long exceeded that at Catholic services.

The 1990s brought what Northrup called "a great awakening."

Ramos estimated that weekly Protestant church attendance has roughly tripled since 1989 to 300,000 people, with an additional 100,000 Jehovah's Witnesses, though he said the Protestant growth appears to have stalled in the last few years. He estimated Catholic attendance at about 150,000.

Northrup's decision to register his new church with the government in 1954 turned out to be fortunate: After the revolution, no new churches were recognized and unofficial churches, often operating out of houses, ran the risk of being shut down.

It's still hard to get permission to build new churches and Buenas Nuevas has about 200 home-based worship centers. They are among thousands of such home churches that Assemblies of God, Presbyterians, Methodists and other Protestants have sown across Cuba.

Among them are a few churches served by Carlos Rumbaut, of Ciego de Avila. He said he was a priest in the African-based Palo Mayumbe spiritualist religion before following his father to Christianity.

"I felt something strange" one day and went out walking aimlessly, he said. When he wandered across a church, Rumbaut said, he went in and found his father there, praying for him.

For Northrup, perhaps the best thing about the 50th anniversary ceremony was realizing he was not really needed for the church to develop.

"The work for a missionary," Northrup said, "is to plant a seed, get it growing and then move on."

SOURCE: [http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-11-23-pastor-cuba\\_x.htm](http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2003-11-23-pastor-cuba_x.htm)

(6) **Friar Alfonso Navarro Castellanos** (b.1935-d.2003)

### **Renovación Cristiana Católica en el Espíritu Santo, Arquidiócesis Primada de México**

En México se inicia en 1970 con la autorización del Sr. Cardinal Miguel Darío Miranda en un grupo de 30 personas en el secretariado de la Pastoral Social con asesoramiento de Mons. Carlos Talavera, actual obispo de Coatzacoalcos, Veracruz. El Papel del **Padre Alfonso Navarro Castellanos** y los Padres del Espíritu Santo en el Desarrollo de la Renovación Carismática de México y otros países.

El Sistema Integral para la Nueva Evangelización (SINE), fundado en México por el Padre Alfonso Navarro Castellanos, intenta llevar al cumplimiento las expresiones del Santo Padre procurando que los planes diocesanos de Misión y Pastoral se realicen a través de las comunidades parroquiales, y el párroco como cabeza.

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The "Centro de Renovación del Altillo" (Monasterio de San José del Altillo) in southern Mexico City, led by **Friar Alfonso Navarro Castellanos** (b.1935-d.2003) of the Mexican Catholic religious order Congregation of Missionaries of the Holy Spirit (Congregación de Misioneros del Espíritu Santo), became the major center of the Catholic Charismatic Renewal movement in Mexico.

Navarro was born in Guadalajara, Mexico in October of 1935. He joined the Missionaries of the Holy Spirit and was ordained to the priesthood in 1962. He earned a doctorate in philosophy from the University of Fribourg in Switzerland and an advanced degree in theology in Rome. As a young priest, he was present during the opening of the Second Vatican Council.

Following his time in Europe, he taught philosophy and theology at various seminaries in Mexico and Peru. **Beginning in 1971, he was assigned the post of Secretary of the General Com-**

**mission for Pastoral Work for his order. He also began his role as leader of the CCR in Mexico during that year.**

Constantly studious of the documents of Vatican II, post-conciliar documents, and books on missiology -- especially topics on evangelization and catechesis -- he started a center for evangelization and catechesis in the Archdiocese of Mexico City in the mid-1970s.

This center evolved into a missionary and pastoral process for a parish in northern Mexico in 1979 and a pilot "parish" in the Archdiocese of Mexico City in 1980. The pilot "parish," a new territory for a parish, officially became **Parish of the Resurrection in 1984**. Soon this process spread to other parishes in Mexico City, Mexico and then throughout Latin America. Since 1985, it has been implemented in several Hispanic parishes in the USA -- initially Texas and California. In 1989, the first all English-speaking parish began implementing the process in Quincy, Illinois, under the leadership of Rev. John Beveridge. The process has begun implementation in Nebraska, New Jersey, Florida, Oregon, West Virginia, Pennsylvania, New York, Washington, Ontario, and other places in the USA and Canada.

Distinctive of this process are its evangelization retreats, which is a renewal of the Initiation Sacraments and a deeper renewal of one's relationship to God, its small Christian community follow-up, involvement with neighborhood ministries, outreach to those in need, missionary outreach to all in the parish territory, and social transformation. Navarro had a keen sense of looking at all ministries and social action through the lens of evangelization.

This process has been presented to CELAM and has the support of many bishops throughout Latin America. Several bishops and priests in this country have been very supportive of this process as well.

Since the 1980s, Navarro has conducted seminars on this missionary and pastoral process, called **SINE (Systematic Integral New Evangelization)** for many parishes and dioceses in the USA, Latin America and Europe. It has had a tremendous impact upon many lives, many families, and many parishes -- helping all to realize that evangelization is the essential mission of the Church and of their everyday lives.

The Rev. Alfonso Navarro Castellanos, MSpSC, was pioneer in Catholic Evangelization. He died of a heart attack at age 67 on Monday evening, June 2, 2003. His funeral was at Holy Spirit Parish in Mexico City on Wednesday, June 4, 2003, where he was a pastor.

Sources: <http://sinecentral.org/principal.html> - [http://sinecentral.org/palfonso\\_1.html](http://sinecentral.org/palfonso_1.html)

### **(7) Juan Carlos Ortiz (b.1935)**

Over thirty years ago, Billy Graham invited a number of key ministers from around the world to an evangelism conference in Germany. It was during that conference that Dr. Robert H. Schuller first heard a speaker that he would never forget -- Dr. Juan Carlos Ortiz of Buenos Aires, Argentina (born in 1935).

Juan Carlos began his career as pastor and evangelist at the surprising age of sixteen in Argentina. His dynamic and vibrant messages were so effective that a seminary granted him a special exemption and accepted this underage student with God's fingerprint on his life into their school. In 1956 Ortiz was ordained in the Christian Assemblies of God in Argentina. By age twenty-three, Juan Carlos was preaching the gospel of Jesus Christ at crusades throughout Argentina.



At age twenty-six, Juan Carlos married Martha Palau (evangelist Luis Palau's sister) in 1961 and later became the senior pastor of one of the largest evangelical churches in Buenos Aires, Central Assembly of God, from 1966-1978. He was one of the leaders of the Argentine Charismatic Renewal movement between 1968 and 1978.

He was also a contributor at the International Congress on World Evangelization held in Lausanne, Switzerland, in 1974 along with such prominent Evangelical leaders as Billy Graham, Samuel Escobar, Francis Schaeffer, Malcolm Muggeridge, John Stott and Ralph Winter.

Since then, Juan Carlos' ministry has expanded greatly as he ministered at conventions, religious congresses, universities, seminaries, and churches across five continents. He has taught in a Bible College -- Instituto Biblico de la Plata -- in Argentina, and at present is a professor at the Fuqua School of Communications, which operates on the campus of the Crystal Cathedral, in Garden Grove, California. He is also Pastor of the Hispanic Ministry at the Crystal Cathedral.

For five years, Dr. Ortiz produced the television series, "La Hora de Poder," which was aired in a dozen Latin American countries. He has also produced two radio series, one in Argentina ("La Hora de la Fe") and one in Southern California ("Una Cita con Juan Carlos Ortiz").

Some of his books including *Discipleship*, *Call To Discipleship*, *This Gospel Will Be Preached*, *The Cry Of The Human Heart*, *Living With Jesus Today* and *God Is Closer Than You Think* have been translated into other languages establishing him as a world- renown author.

In 1990, sixteen years after they first met, Dr. Schuller asked Juan Carlos to pastor Crystal Cathedral's newly forming Hispanic Ministry, which started with twelve people and quickly grew to five hundred, then to over 2,000 people. At the height of this church growth, Juan Carlos was diagnosed with less than a twenty percent chance of survival due to a malignant form of cancer that was spreading rapidly. After leaving his position (after 2003) at the Crystal Cathedral due to his illness, Juan Carlos experienced a healing miracle. He has recently returned to the ministry as the Crystal Cathedral's interim Senior Pastor and as a speaking pastor for "America's Television Church," the *Hour of Power*.

In November 2008, the Executive Team of Crystal Cathedral Ministries received and accepted the resignation of Rev. Robert Anthony Schuller as Senior Pastor of the congregation. When the Senior Pastor position became vacant, Crystal Cathedral Ministries asked Dr. Juan Carlos Ortiz to serve as Interim Senior Pastor. Juan Carlos is an internationally known evangelist and founder of the Crystal Cathedral Hispanic Ministry. As we begin our search for a Senior Pastor, Dr. Juan

Carlos Ortiz and the California Classis of the Reformed Church in America will continue to provide leadership and assistance for the pastoral staff and congregation.

Located in Garden Grove, California, the Crystal Cathedral is the home base for the international Crystal Cathedral Ministries, including a congregation of over 10,000 members and the internationally televised "Hour of Power."

Adapted from:

[http://www.crystalcathedral.org/hour\\_of\\_power/pastors/index\\_lc.php?contentid=3641](http://www.crystalcathedral.org/hour_of_power/pastors/index_lc.php?contentid=3641)  
[http://www.crystalcathedral.org/events\\_news/media/press\\_releases/press\\_112908b.php](http://www.crystalcathedral.org/events_news/media/press_releases/press_112908b.php)  
[http://crosslifebooks.com/authors\\_author.php?authorid=91](http://crosslifebooks.com/authors_author.php?authorid=91)

By Mike Reynolds: I thought you might like some background information on the man who is at least temporarily replacing Robert A Schuller as the Interim Pastor of the Crystal Cathedral. I personally don't believe he will become the Senior Pastor as Schuller will be looking for a "name" pastor that matches his theology. As to just what that is I will deal with that tomorrow afternoon.

Ortiz was for many years the pastor of a large Pentecostal congregation in Buenos Aires, Argentina. He became internationally known through the 1974 Congress on World Evangelism in Lausanne, and the publication of his first book, "Disciple" in 1975.

Ortiz believed that the Church must reform its structures and rebuild into flexible "new wineskin," in order to do the job of forming a united world community of believers. Here is a quote from his book.

*"God is going to have a new community. Things are starting to happen in the Church. The world generally doesn't know it yet, but it's coming. We are going to be like a city on a mountain, an example of a community that loves one another... once it starts with the pastors, it will spread quickly to the other parts of the Body of Christ in our cities. When Jesus looks at your city, he sees his shepherds and sheep as all one unity. If we are in Jesus, we will see the same thing. Not all of us have the "right" doctrine, but that doesn't seem to stop Jesus from loving us anyway. Neither should it stop Jesus' servants." (Pp 55, 59, "Disciple")*

Source: <http://obadiah1317.wordpress.com/2008/12/18/juan-carlos-ortiz-replaces-robert-a-schuller-as-interim-pastor-of-crystal-cathedral-by-tricia-tillin/>

#### **ADDITIONAL HISTORICAL INFORMATION:**

Charles Simpson, "Covenant, The Cornerstone of Community," in *New Wine Magazine*, Vol. 13, No. 9, September 1981: <http://www.csmpublishing.org/pdf/newwine/09-1981.pdf>

"I am privileged to be a member of a Christian organization called **John 17:21**, which is led by **David Du Plessis** and **Ron Haus** and is dedicated to the pursuit of unity among Christians."

\* \* \* \* \*

(8) **Ron Haus**, Pastor of the Church on the Hill, in Vallejo, California, and chairman of the conference, informed all present of the purpose of the gathering--"reconciliation." He then introduced **David du Plessis**, who shared the testimony of his many years in Pentecost and spoke on the need for unity and forgiveness. – also, Des Evans, a Ft. Worth pastor was on the John 17:21 planning committee...

One of the John 17:21 conferences was held in Dallas, TX, from February 7-9, 1980, called Charismatic Leadership Convocation, with about 400 participants. The featured speakers included **David du Plessis**, **Ralph Martin** (a leader in the Catholic Charismatic Renewal), **Juan Carlos Ortiz**, **John Johnson** (a black charismatic leader), **Larry Christianson** (a Lutheran pastor) and **Bob Mumford**.

Don Basham, "A Time to be Reconciled," in *New Wine Magazine*, Vol. 12, No. 5, May 1980:  
<http://www.csmpublishing.org/pdf/newwine/05-1980.pdf>

See: "Final Report" in [Pneuma](#), Volume 12, Number 1, 1990, pp. 97-115(19).

See: "An Exercise on the Frontiers of Ecumenism": Almost Thirty Years of Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue" by Kärkkäinen, Veli-Matti in [Exchange](#), Volume 29, Number 1, 2000, pp. 156-171(16).

## **PART II**

Notes on my research at the David duPlessis Collection archives at the David Allan Hubbard Library at Fuller Theological Seminary on 23 July 2009: Mrs. Nancy Gower, Associate Archivist. Review of documents.

### **1. August 1, 1977 report:**

#### **Board of Directors formed in the USA**

Ron Haus, President  
Bob Bush, VP  
Paul Northrup, Secretary  
Bob Thomas, Treasurer  
Hector Tamez, Coordinator  
Elmer Bueno, Latin American Ambassador  
Ralph Wilkerson, Ambassador-at-large

**Coordinators named for Latin America:** Hector Tamez with the assistance of Elmer Bueno, Bill Finke and Roger Leyton.

Meeting for Central American leaders scheduled for August 22-24, 1977, in San José, Costa Rica.

Minutes taken by Paul Northrup, Secretary

### **2. Officers of the John 17:21 International Fellowship: August 16, 1977.**

President: The Rev. Ron Haus (Benecia, CA)  
Secretary: The Rev. Paul J. Northrup, Costa Mesa, CA  
Honorary Chairman: The Rev. David duPlessis

Slogans: "John 17:21 is you in demonstration of unity with every member in the Body of Christ." – "A new concept in Renewal, Unity and Evangelism."

### **3. Minutes of the John 17:21 Executive Board Meeting, held Friday, January 6, 1978**

Present: Ron Haus, Bob Bush, Bob Thomas, Paul Northrup, Paul Finkenbinder, Hector Tamez, Bill Finke and Hobart Vann.

- Plans were made for rallies in the following cities: Montreal, Toronto, NYC, Louisville and Atlanta with David duPlessis as the main speaker.
- Doug Weed and Bill Carmichael are writing the philosophy of the John 17:21 Fellowship.

- Agreed to invite Juan Carlos Ortiz to minister in John 17:21 Fellowship encounters worldwide.
- Hold a fundraising rally in Orange County, CA, on May 1, 1978, at South Coast Plaza Hotel in Costa Mesa, to be coordinated by Paul Finkenbinder, Paul Northrup, Ed Cole and Allen Porterfield.
- **The Latin American coordinator is: Hector Tamez.**
- Scheduled encounters in Latin America:
 

Mexico City, Mexico:	January 12-14, 1978
Managua, Nicaragua:	February 22-25, 1978
Honduras:	March 16-19, 1978
- Possible speakers: Father Tom Forrester and Father Alfonso Navarro.
- 1978 budget:
 

Latin American administrative costs	\$37,000 @ 3,083 monthly
LAM encounters	20,000
U.S. Administrative costs	<u>18,000</u>
TOTAL	\$75,000

Minutes taken by Paul Northrup, Secretary

#### **4. Charismatic Conference held April 14-16, 1978, at Bethel Temple, Sacramento, CA.**

English Program Speakers:

- The Rev. Jerome Bevilacqua, OSA (San Diego)
- The Rev. Glen Cole, Assemblies of God (Washington State)
- The Rev. David duPlessis, Assemblies of God (Oakland, CA)
- Herbert E. Ellingswood, Assemblies of God (lawyer)
- The Rev. Ronald C. Haus, Vallejo's Church of the Hill (TV personality, Concord, CA)
- The Rev. Ray Mossholder
- The Rev. Ralph T. Techenor, SJ (Charismatic since 1970)
- The Rev. Paul G. Tralin, pastor of Trinity Church (Sacramento, CA)

Spanish Program: Saturday, April 15, 1978

Main Speaker: Bishop Nicholas D'Antonio, OMF, who spent 30 years in Honduras and was expelled by the Honduran Government because of his human rights activities; he was reassigned to the Archdiocese of New Orleans, LA, as vicar for Spanish-speaking people; he heads the Latin American Apostolate for the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

#### **5. Letter to Dr. David duPlessis, dated April 19, 1978, written by Paul J. Northrup, Secretary:**

“Present at the next Latin American Committee will be Elmer Bueno, Paul Finkenbinder and Hector Tamez who will be reporting on recent John 17:21 activities in Latin America.”

**6. Latin American Committee meeting to be held on May 2, 1978 in Costa Mesa.**

**7. November 1978:** John 17:21 meetings were held in Argentina with David duPlessis, Bob Thomas, Bill Finke and Juan Carlos Ortiz.

**8. Meetings in Chicago on October 27, 1978:**

U.S. National Committee  
International Committee

- Participants: Ron Haus (president), David duPlessis, Ron McConnell, Don Riling, Don Stout, Hector Tamez, Cecil Humphrey, Glen Anderson, Rod Lensch, Tommy Reid, Bennie Hinn, Stanley Sjoberg, Bob Thomas, Elmer Bueno, Paul Northrup, Des Evens, Juan Carlos Ortiz, Dr. Paul Yonggi Cho and Joe Baumgartner.

**9. Executive Committee Meeting was held on January 2, 1979, at the Airport Hilton in San Francisco, CA.**

Reports:

- Bill Finke (Bolivia): ECCLA meeting to be held in Lima, Perú; Finke is the only Protestant delegate invited.
- Tentative Acapulco Continental Summit to be held September 17-21, 1979.

New business: Chairman appointed entire Latin American Committee (members were not named), which will include Tommy Reed and Ron Haus.

**10. Latin American Executive Committee Meeting on April 5, 1979, at the Airport Hilton in San Francisco, CA, chaired by Elmer Bueno.**

- Brochure presented about John 19:21 Fellowship.
- El Bueno gave report on Central American meetings held in January 1979:

“Church Growth International (Paul Yonggi Cho) and Hermano Pablo (Paul Finkenbinder), united in the Spirit of John 17:21, produced successful seminars for leaders and public meetings were held in Costa Rica and El Salvador for leaders from six countries in the region. Most Christian groups were represented.”

Costa Rica public meetings: 11,000 attended the first night and 25,000 the final night.  
El Salvador public meetings: 15,000-18,000 nightly attendance.

Minutes taken by Paul Northrup, Secretary

**11. Latin American Subcommittee has held on April 5, 1979, at the Airport Hilton in San Francisco, CA.**

Present: Elmer Bueno, chairman  
Bob Thomas, Bill Finke, Hector Tamez, Joe Baumgartner and Paul Northrup

Reports:

- Hector Tamez reported on contacts with Cardinal Corripio in Mexico City regarding cooperation for a summit conference in Mexico City.
- Bill Finke reported that he had requested a meeting with the Archbishop of Bolivia on May 18 or later. Bill plans on meeting with Charismatics in La Paz and Santa Cruz.
- Budget request: \$30,000

Minutes by Paul Northrup, Secretary.

**12. Executive Committee Meeting on August 18, 1979, in Baltimore, MD.**

Present: Ron Haus, President  
Ron McConnell, David duPlessis, Tommy Reid, Joe Baumgarner and Des Evens

Proposed Summit Conference to be held in Dallas, TX, on September 7-9, 1979.  
Speakers to include: David duPless, Juan Carlos Ortiz, James Johnson, Ralph Martin and Larry Christianson.

**13. Executive Committee Meeting on October 1-2, 1979, in Vancouver, BC.**

Reading of the minutes of the July 10, 1979, meeting:

Executive Committee members appointed:  
Ron Haus, President  
Ron McConnell, Executive VP for Asia  
Elmer Bueno, VP for Latin America  
Ed Cole, VP for Europe  
Des Evans, Secretary  
Joe Baumgartner, Treasurer

(the existence of members at large were mentioned but not named)

Plans made for 1980 Executive Committee Meetings:

Albuquerque, NM	January 8
Anaheim, CA	April 8
San Francisco, CA	July 8
Palm Springs, CA	October 8

#### **14. Executive Committee Meeting on November 8, 1979, in San Francisco.**

Present: Ron Haus, David du Plessis, Ron McConnell, Des Evans, Joe Baumgartner, Elmer Bueno and Richard Lovelace.

Plans were made for holding three-day Convocations in 1981 in the U.S. and Canada

**Central Committee Members:** members of executive committee plus the following – Tommy Reid, Paul Northrup, Bob Bush, John Lindvall, Warren Campbell and Ed Cole.

**Committee-at-large (reference council) members named:** Bob Thomas, Bill Carmichael, Roy Harthern, Hector Tamez, Paul Finkenbinder, Ralph Wilkerson, Rod Lysch, Father John Conner, Glen Anderson, Dave Longobordo, Greg Tingston, Colton Wickramanatne, Bill Finke, Paul Yonggi Cho, Juan Carlos Ortiz, Hobart Vann, Michael O'Shangnessy, Don Riling and Don Stout.

International Office:

Ron Haus' house in Beneticia, CA  
David du Plessis house in Oakland, CA

**Note: these were all the notes that I took at Fuller Library due to time limitations. However, there is much more material available in the storage box at that location.**

Also, Paul Northrup (board secretary) told me that he had a box of stored materials regarding the John 17:21 Fellowship, and that he would be willing to donate them to the library of Vanguard University in Costa Mesa (his alma mater) at some time in the future. Unfortunately, he passed away before this could take place. I have been in correspondence with Paul's son John about this.

Compiled by Clifton L. Holland

Draft copy on 22 September 2009 / Updated on 8 February 2011

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