

Friends of the Casa

Newsletter
BAPTISTA EDITORIAL
Mundo Hispano
Casa Bautista de Publicaciones

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Volume 11—Number 4

A Cat with Eight Lives...

The International Board of Trustees of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House named me General Director in November 2001, and I began functioning as such immediately. However, the installation was held in May of 2002 at Mountain View Baptist Church, located in northeast El Paso. Dr. Joe T. Poe was asked to give a brief presentation of the new General Director.

Dr. Poe organized his ideas around the saying that a cat has seven lives. I must confess that I was somewhat surprised because in some countries the saying is known as “the cat has nine lives.” Whatever the case, the analogy served its good purpose. Thus, ten years later I want to briefly look at what has happened in the life of this old cat who is now adding number eight: “My life as a retiree.”

On December 8, 2012, the Board of Trustees will have the installation of the new General Director, who will begin her duties on January 1, 2012. This means this old cat will be able to dedicate himself to hunt the mice he always wanted to catch, but because of other responsibilities, he was not able to do so.

It seems there is an ongoing tradition among those who have served as General Directors of the Publishing House. It’s a tradition of service! Each one concluded his official position in order to dedicate himself to other creative activities that support this significant ministry.

J. Edgar Davis, the founder of the Publishing House, actively served for 39 years and upon retirement continued to perform editorial tasks.

Frank Patterson served for more than 27 years and when he retired he dedicated his time to writing Sunday School lessons in Spanish, wrote several books, and served as Consultant and adjunct professor in Brazil and Mexico. He was a living inspiration for the personnel of the Publishing House. When this “cat” (me) was named General Director, Dr. Patterson sent a letter saying: “Brother Diaz, this position requires you to have the thick and hard skin of a rhinoceros, and the tender and humble heart of a deer. I trust you will develop both.”

Tom W. Hill did not retire when he ended his service as General Director, for the Lord guided him to other ministries. But from those positions and after retirement, he dedicated a great deal of effort to relate the Publishing House to other organizations and churches. He recently established a “partnership” between the church he and his wife Connie attend and the Publishing House.

Aldo Broda became the first Latin General Director. After retirement, he became an “ambassador” and a generous donor to the ministry of the Publishing House. I remember when he gave a check for \$500.00 and told me: “Jorge, I wish I could give more to this ministry which I deeply love.”

Robert Tucker brought to the Publishing House his pastoral heart. When he was called by the Lord to serve in Canada, Russia and other countries, he always talked about the Publishing House with enthusiasm. In retirement, he is dedicated to relate the Publishing House with churches and other organizations, emphasizing the importance of this ministry.

Roberto Garcia Bordoli was the second Latin General Director, also an Argentine. His time at the Publishing House was short, but important. He returned to Argentina and later went to Spain as pastor and “friend” of the Publishing House.

Joe Tom Poe has served at the Publishing House since 1961. He has literally done a little of everything. After serving as General Director, he has continued to serve as a volunteer. At present, at 83 years of age, he reports to work every day as a living example to the current employees of the Publishing House.

Ted Stanton became the General Director of the Publishing House after a productive period of missionary service in several countries of South America. He decided to retire because of health reasons, but not before making a very wise decision, to create and promote the Foundation of the Baptist Spanish Publishing House. His dedication and faithfulness to this project for more than twelve years have begun to bear fruit. For now, this cat named **Jorge E. Diaz** has fulfilled the task of being

the ninth General Director of the Baptist Publishing House. As I said before, I now want to hunt, or at least chase, some mice that up to now have managed to escape. These “mice” are things related to the Publishing House and which I think a volunteer cat can help with.

I attended the retirement celebration of a friend of mine. At first I was amused with the gift the company gave him: a rocking chair, a high-tech television set, with a remote control. However, as I thought about it, and even though I like to sit in a comfortable rocking chair to watch a football game or listen to the music of the great hymns of the Christian faith while I read a book, that is not all I desire to do. There are so many things that can be done for the Kingdom of God! And one of them is to do something for the ministry of the Publishing House.

The passion (also called Mission) of the Publishing House says: “Communicating the message of Jesus Christ and developing disciples through printed and electronic resources.” Each time I read it, I am touched because it expresses a commitment to evangelize, so that many people can be saved. It also expresses a commitment to help believers be the best disciples of Jesus. All of this through the printed page (books, periodicals, tracts and brochures), and through electronic media (e-books, flash-books, and other formats that can be used to read books).

It’s possible you are already living the “extra time” that God’s loving grace is giving you. I want to encourage you to begin looking for “other mice” with which to make a significant contribution to the ministry of the Publishing House. If you don’t know what you can do, write me an e-mail and together we will think how we can catch some mice.

Dr. Jorge Enrique Diaz
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“The Publishing House ‘para el mundo’ (for the World)”

A special feeling usually emerges from within me each time “Casa Bautista de Publicaciones” or “Editorial Mundo Hispano” is mentioned. That’s because I have had special ties to that ministry for most of my life.

As I look back through the years, I have come to realize that “Casa Bautista” is the link that has made it possible for missionaries and other people who love and serve the Lord to have the printed materials they need, for “Casa Bautista” made them available and within their reach.

I can look back to my years as a youth and remember the wonderful books from “Casa Bautista” I used to read. And today, I am able to share that experience with many women who need to understand that reading good books strengthens our spirit.

Through the two ministries that God has given me to direct, Christian Education and Women’s Ministries for the State of California, under the Hispanic Baptist Alliance, doors have opened for me which allow me to motivate women to achieve a higher education that can later be committed to better serve the Lord. My desire is to reach as many women as possible with the training workshops we offer and, at the same time, make them aware of printed materials that complement the workshops.

When I present the books from “Casa Bautista,” I know we are not only providing help to the women who want to better prepare themselves to serve the Lord, but we are also contributing to further Christ’s Kingdom. When we promote materials from “Casa Bautista/Editorial Mundo Hispano,” we are enriching people’s lives. It’s very satisfying to be able to share with the people we come in contact with that “Casa Bautista/Editorial Mundo Hispano”

provides adequate material for every need, situation and ministry, and is accessible to the people wherever they live.

It’s also been very rewarding to hear the women share the blessings they received after having read a book from “Casa Bautista” which we recommended. It’s very encouraging and a privilege to be a part of this great ministry.

The slogan “La Casa para el Mundo” (The Publishing House for the world) is fulfilled each time we participate in a mission trip to other countries and use the materials from “Casa Bautista.” It’s a wonderful experience to walk into a bookstore in a different country and city and find “Casa’s” books, because they represent the heart of the missionaries who began the ministry in a kitchen in Toluca, Mexico, and today, after more than 100 years, that ministry continues to serve thousands of people throughout the Hispanic world.

I encourage you to persuade others to read and to develop the habit of reading, which will become their companion wherever they go.

I invite you to become a partner in the wonderful task that Casa Bautista is doing, and thus invest in the Kingdom of Christ, a bank that will never betray anyone that wishes to be a part of it, and whose profit is assured, for Jesus promises He will supply all of our needs, and His blessings will be abundant.

Thank you for partnering with us in this important ministry.

Lidia Parra
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The Baptist Spanish Publishing House
Foundation has a Web site at:
www.bsphfoundation.org
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