

# FOCUS on Puerto Rico Baptist College



OFFICIAL BULLETIN OF PUERTO RICO BAPTIST COLLEGE

## Dr. Bacilio Alfaro Named Interim President

by Doug Cowan, Chairman of the Board



On October 24, 2014, Pastor Doug Cowan, Chairman of the Board of Puerto Rico Baptist College, announced the Board's unanimous approval of Dr. Bacilio Alfaro as the next president of the college. Dr. Alfaro will serve in this leadership position in the capacity of interim president. Dr. Alfaro has been a friend of the now-retired founder, Dr. Miguel Casillas, and of the college for 32 years.

The Lord has used Dr. Alfaro in many various positions throughout his years of ministry. He and his wife, Eunice, have planted churches in both the United States and in Mexico. He also served as a Bible institute president for several years in Mexico. God has allowed Dr. Alfaro to have an international ministry throughout the Spanish-speaking world as a preacher at Bible conferences and local church ministries. His mission

board has called upon him to hold several director positions on behalf of the work of missions across many borders.

Dr. Alfaro's background has allowed him extensive contact with both the Hispanic and American cultures. This has given him in-depth perspective and experience for leading a Bible college located in Puerto Rico. When asked what he saw as the most important needs of churches he responded, "First, churches need men trained for the ministry. The heart that is willing to serve is the beginning. The called-man then needs to get the training that will help him stay true to the Word of God. Secondly, churches need to have good quality, biblical music that lifts up the Lord."

Dr. Alfaro further stated that Colegio Universitario Bautista (PRBC in Spanish) is uniquely positioned to train Christian workers because it is not in the USA, but its training is of high quality which allows graduates to enter graduate schools as the Lord leads those individuals. He said, "CUB is a balanced institution in its purpose to train men and women for the Lord's work and to develop a quality product."

The Board and staff of PRBC look forward to the leadership that Dr. Alfaro will provide the college as it moves on in the expansion of its ministry. We invite you to join with us in prayer and financial support to help make this new leadership fruitful and effective!

## Song of Peace

### Luke 2:13-14

by Suni Ponce, Professor

How much did we prepare in these last weeks of the year for the special activities celebrating the incarnation of our Lord? What a joy! We were able to take advantage of many opportunities to proclaim the gospel.

Can you imagine the excitement of the "multitude of the heavenly host" (Luke 2:13b) when, from the Supreme Throne went forth the divine order of that special mission to earth to proclaim that God would take human form? Every angel in heaven wanted to be part of that unique mission. But, if the angels that brought the news were special, their message was even more special because God Himself added to His command that the message was to be sung. This means that the message was composed with words chosen so that the angels would know what to sing and when to sing it: As it is written, "And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host" (Luke 2:13a). (continued on page 2)



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The song was clear and powerful, “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men” (Luke 2:14). No one can doubt that the message is about reconciliation (peace). No one can doubt that the message is about good will. Although the peace that the Jewish people expected was more political—liberation from the bond of the Roman Empire, God in His wisdom knew that what was more needful was peace with God. “Therefore being justified by faith, we have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ” (Romans 5:1). That’s why Jesus Christ came.

The prophet Isaiah declared, “For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there shall be no end” (Isaiah 9:6-7). Today, every believer can proclaim, “Thanks be unto God for his unspeakable gift!” (2 Corinthians 9:15).

## Stephanie Huber

### 2011 Graduate

At PRBC I was able to learn Spanish, which is the language I use on the mission field. I became a teacher in Mexico, using the skills learned from my degree in Elementary Education.

Most importantly, PRBC helped me gain experience on a “mission field” and meet many missionaries and pastors and learn from their experiences. Through the extension ministry at PRBC I gained experience working in churches and living in the homes of people of a different culture.

Right now I am working in various ministries of Iglesia Bautista del Norte in Monterrey, Mexico, including: leading a Bible club, teaching music and English in the church’s Christian school, participating in evangelism, discipleship, and the church’s music ministry, teaching piano lessons, and working with youth ministries. I praise the Lord for the many people I have had the privilege of leading to Christ this year.

To anyone who is considering supporting PRBC, I would say that **any donations to PRBC go farther in their impact than just helping a student complete college.** A student who graduates from PRBC typically goes on to be a missionary, pastor, or Christian worker. The impact that students have in their country or in the place God leads them will be, in part, thanks to those who helped them receive their training.



## PRBC Foundation

### The PRBC Foundation

by Joseph Smith, President of the PRBC Foundation



The PRBC Foundation manages endowment and special project donations that help keep the Ministry of Puerto Rico Baptist College alive for future gener-

ations. Since a college’s endowment is central to its financial support, the Foundation board is comprised of an insurance professional and tax specialist. By utilizing relationships with established investment advisors, the Foundation seeks to maximize the value of our donor’s gifts. If God has provided financially,

stewardship is an important service and that is the mission of PRBC Foundation - to provide individuals and businesses a way to give of God’s provision to God’s commission, God’s way.

Whether you intend to fund scholarships, building campaigns, special projects or even honor alumni, the Foundation team can assist you in planning your gift.

#### HOW CAN YOU GET INVOLVED?

- You can send your tax-exempt donation to

**PRBC Foundation**

**Box 2247 Norfolk,**

**Nebraska, 68702**

- You can contact Joseph Smith for more information at

**(402) 379-7818**

## Simeon's Faith

### Luke 2:25-35

by David Keiser, Professor

What is Christmas? For many in our western culture, Christmas is just another holiday. It represents time with family and, for the little ones, exciting gifts! For retailers it's the season to make their profits for the fiscal year, and generally, it's a time of happiness for all. But for the Christian, there's a big difference. That difference is faith. Our faith allows us to experience the true joy and meaning of Christmas.

The Bible tells us of a man who, over 2,000 years ago, personally discovered the meaning of Christmas. Luke introduces Simeon saying, "The same man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel: and the Holy Ghost was upon him" (2:25). The passage then goes on to narrate that special moment when Simeon first met Joseph, Mary and little Jesus. Through this story we can learn several lessons on faith this Christmas season.

In the first place, faith eagerly anticipates the promises of God. Simeon was "waiting for the consolation of Israel" (v. 25) because the Holy Ghost had revealed to him that he would not die "before he had seen the Lord's Christ" (v. 26). How Simeon looked forward to the day that he would see the promised Messiah of the Old Testament! Christmas is special to us because by faith we believe the promises of God and celebrate our Savior's birth.

Secondly, faith allows us to praise the Person of God. Eight days after the shepherds received the angelic birth announcement, the Holy Spirit led Simeon to the temple. Here he would meet Joseph and Mary as they brought Jesus for his circumcision. Luke records that as Simeon took Jesus in his arms he "blessed God" (v. 28). His first reaction to the fulfillment of God's promises was praise.

## The New Focus

### FOCUS: A New Quality Product

by Doug Cowan, Chairman of the Board

The FOCUS has been the newsletter of Puerto Rico Baptist College for several decades. This new format that you are holding in your hands is an example of the college's vision and dedication to excellence.

This new 4-page layout will give you a broader look at different facets of the col-

lege. These pages will introduce you to our classroom instructors and allow you to keep up with news of what's happening on campus and in the student's lives. Look for those areas where you can participate in this ministry by pointing a potential student towards PRBC, by praying for us, or by becoming a financial partner with a gift to the college.

If your heart is encouraged by the news and example of this issue, then we need you to help us. Let the Lord show you where you can get involved today!

## Campus Life

A typical day at PRBC includes attending classes and chapel, cleaning up the kitchen after meals, studying in the evenings, and holding dorm devotions at night.



On weekends, students serve together in local churches and put in practice what they learn in the classroom. They also have opportunities to serve and enjoy spe-

cial activities such as Bible Conference, Soul Winning Day, Mission Emphasis Week, Day of Prayer, concerts, social activities, banquets and graduation. There is always time for fun such as weekly soccer games, student chapel and our annual Pasadía (outing).



Students at PRBC not only train for life-long service, but also make life-long friends.

As we remember our Savior's birth may we likewise praise God for the miracle of the incarnation.

Lastly, faith rejoices in the work of God. Simeon specifically glorified God for Who he held in his arms. As Simeon rejoiced that first Christmas he recognized that Jesus is "thy salvation" (v. 30) and that He would be "a light to lighten the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people, Israel" (v. 32). Through faith Simeon was

able to rejoice in the future salvific work of the long-awaited Messiah. Because of Jesus' work, we now enjoy the light of salvation.

As we see Simeon's faith, we can learn to trust God in every situation, worship God with our praise, and unashamedly rejoice in Him this Christmas season.

# The Casillases



## Mike & Linda Casillas Founders of PRBC

### More than Classroom Education

Forty four years ago, the Lord led Dr. and Mrs. Mike Casillas to start Puerto Rico Baptist Institute, which became Puerto Rico Baptist College in 1980. Few people know the sacrifices that they made, not only to begin, but also to keep the doors open year after year. Dr. Casil-

las foresaw that the day would come when he wouldn't be able to travel and preach the gospel, so he paved the way for his legacy to continue through the lives of the many PRBC graduates. Puerto Rico Baptist College has been much more than a place of teaching. Even more important has been the Casillases' living example of the passion for lost souls and the care of all the churches (2 Corinthians 11:28). No classroom would have been able to teach the spontaneous generosity, the steadfast faith, the firm allegiance to sound doctrine, the selfless sacrifice, and the unconditional love that both Pastor Casillas and his wife Linda demonstrated to the students. Through their lives they founded a place that teaches much more than classroom education.



Linda entered the presence of her Lord on April 24, 2014. She was Dr. Casillas's faithful helpmeet for over 50 years.