



Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne For the Life of the World

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From Kazakhstan to Fort Wayne to Odessa: Ukrainian Bishop a CTSFW Graduate

By Timothy C. J. Quill

Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation

By Don C. Wiley

A Bold Vision: Blessed by God Through Many Partnerships

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By Timothy C. J. Quill

In March 1991, the young man was confirmed. At the time, no one could have imagined what the Lord had in store for him—an adventure that would take him to America to study at Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, Indiana, and eventually to Ukraine where he would be consecrated as bishop of the German Evangelical Lutheran Church in Ukraine (GELCU).

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Most recently, Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, has expanded its service in Spanish Language Church Worker Formation with the inauguration of the Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos (BPFL) in August 2015. This new program recognizes God's hand in bringing Latinos to the United States where the LCMS can carry on international mission within our own communities. It also recognizes the need for continuity in handing on the faith to the saints across generations of immigrants.

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By Theodore Krey

Five years ago, 23 men were studying at Concordia Seminary Argentina. Now, thanks to the additional 20 scholarships from The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod and the joint certificate program with Concordia Theological Seminary, Fort Wayne, enrollment is at 65. With only 140 Spanish speaking pastors currently serving across all of Latin America, the Lord is making possible the opportunity to double the number of pastors in the coming five years.

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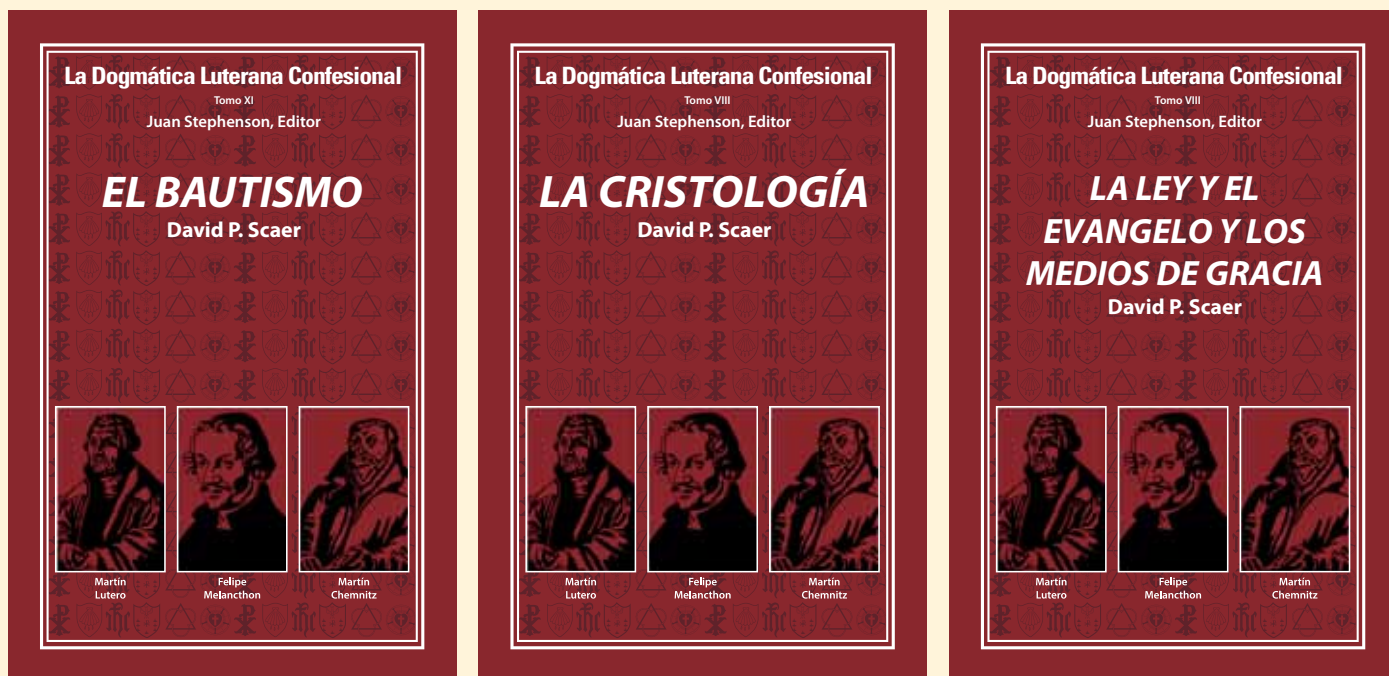
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Unless otherwise noted, all Scripture verses are from the English Standard Version (ESV).



The Spanish translations of Baptism, Christology and Law & Gospel and the Means of Grace by Dr. David P. Scaer, CTSFW professor of Systematic Theology, will be available soon from Luther Academy (www.lutheracademy.com).

Spanish-Speaking Pastoral Formation

By Don C. Wiley

There is a wonderful equilibrium in God's kingdom of grace. Ultimately, every good flows from the goodness of God. The Church is the blessed conduit of that goodness. God uses local congregations, as well as the institutions of the Church, where and when He pleases for dispensing His mercy and His Gospel so that the Holy Spirit may do His work of creating and sustaining believers in Jesus Christ. At some times and places there is an abundance to be shared where there is lack. While encouraging the Corinthians in their giving, St. Paul noted: "For I do not mean that others should be eased and you burdened, but that as a matter of fairness your abundance at the present time should supply their need, so that their abundance may supply your need, that there may be fairness. As it is written, 'Whoever gathered much had nothing left over, and whoever gathered little had no lack'" (2 Cor. 8:13–15).

For decades Concordia Theological Seminary (CTSFW) has been assisting in theological education around the world. Enthusiastic to share the abundant blessings of our heritage of faithful Lutheran theology, CTSFW has repeatedly provided aid in the formation of pastors and church workers when called upon by Lutheran church bodies in fellowship with The Lutheran Church—Missouri Synod (LCMS)—and even by some who were not yet in fellowship, but longed for the confessional Lutheran theology for which the LCMS and CTSFW are known worldwide.

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In 2014, CTSFW began an exciting new phase in service to the Church with the appointment of the Rev. Dr. Arthur A. Just Jr. as director of Spanish Language Church Worker Formation and the development of an international Spanish language pastoral formation program. In a joint effort with the seminary of our partners in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Argentina, *Seminario Concordia* in Buenos Aires (SCBA), CTSFW launched Pastoral Formation for Hispanic-America and Spain (PFH) in early 2015. This online program represents an adaptation of the Specific Ministry Pastor Program curriculum used in the LCMS since 2007. With the help of our experienced brother professors in Argentina, we have developed a course of training that is well suited to the Hispanic context while providing quality Lutheran theology and practice.

In a four-year course of theological studies coupled with ongoing local

fieldwork mentoring, men are being prepared for ordination into Word and Sacrament ministry in the Lord's Church in those places. Thirty-one students are enrolled currently—men from Argentina, Peru, Venezuela, Panama, Guatemala, Mexico and Spain. Although they are separated by thousands of miles and across eight time zones, these men are learning in their native Spanish language the truths God has revealed in Holy Scripture, the correct exposition of that Word in our Lutheran Confessions and writings, and the art of faithfully teaching and proclaiming Law and Gospel to a world of people who desperately need what Christ alone can give: forgiveness, life and salvation. What was lacking in those places is being supplied by the abundant grace of God through CTSFW and SCBA.

Most recently, CTSFW has expanded its service in Spanish Language Church Worker Formation with the inauguration of the Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos (BPFL) in August 2015. This new program recognizes God's hand in bringing Latinos to the United States where the LCMS can carry on international mission within our own communities. It also recognizes the need for continuity in handing on the faith to the saints across generations of immigrants. The Church must proclaim the Gospel not only in the language of those who have more recently arrived, but also to their children and grandchildren who are baptized into the Christian faith and who live *both* in the culture of their Hispanic heritage and language *and* in the culture and language of the United States.



The Bilingual Pastoral Formation for Latinos program intends to form pastors who can build that bridge because they live it. The Church has long needed a program such as this one. That need will rise over the next decades. According to projections, those who identify as Hispanic will increase from the current 15% to nearly 30% of the U.S. population by 2060. CTSFW is excited and proud to be of service to the Church in preparing men to fill this present and future need.

I have the great privilege of aiding this effort as assistant director of BPFL while I complete my Ph.D. in Missiology studies here at CTSFW. Here we see yet another way that God provides a divine equilibrium in His one, holy, Christian and apostolic Church. I am in the unique position not only of serving the Seminary and our fellow Hispanic Lutherans while I finish my degree, but also of being the associate pastor of Christ the King Lutheran Church, Redlands, California. The congregation has deployed me to CTSFW as their contribution to this vitally important aspect of the ministry of CTSFW to teach the faithful, reach the lost and care for all. They provide my salary so that CTSFW is not burdened with additional cost as the programs are established.

How that came about is a story in itself. Seemingly it began out of need—a small congregation unable to continue Word and Sacrament ministry. In truth, it was born out of God's unexpected work through our congregations to extend the Gospel beyond the communities of Redlands and Colton around the world ... in Spanish. My senior pastor, the Rev. Wiley Smith, describes the story this way:

The joy that was experienced when our two congregations lighted upon a path together to expand the reach of the Gospel was truly heavenly. The strong sense of divine blessing was both pervasive and uplifting. To be able to consolidate our resources and then implement a plan that would have such far-reaching repercussions for Christ's Church was to see God at work through His humble servants. That joy continues to this day as we maintain a mutual commitment to bringing the Gospel to bear on our respective communities.

Rev. Smith views my deployment to CTSFW as an encouragement to the church-at-large regarding the unique possibilities that exist to further Christ's kingdom by the innovative use of resources. Moreover, it is a blessing to the congregation since this collaborative effort brings the mission of the Church out of the abstract into the concrete for the saints of Christ the King as we see our own contribution to the Seminary's mission bear hearty fruit. Christ's abundant goodness overcomes every lack—often in ways we would never expect. Readers can learn more about the partnership of Christ the King Lutheran Church with CTSFW in an article by Dr. Charles Gieschen on page 28. [📖](#)

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