

**Dr. Esdras Betancourt**

**Church of God**

## **BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION**

**Church of God Center For Ministerial Care**

**P. O. Box 2430**

**Cleveland, TN 37320-2430**

(423-479-8125 (H) – (423) 478-7378 (O)

(423) 478-7162 FAX

### **Personal Information**

- Born in Ponce, Puerto Rico on April 21, 1935, to Rev. Angel and Emma Betancourt
- Married to Mary Brannon Betancourt
- Children: Angelo, age 46 and Damaris, age 42
- Brothers and sister: José Ángel, Benjamin, Eliezer and Dámaris (Esdras is the second of five children)
- Date of birth: 4/21/35                      Spouse Date of Birth: 5/13/35
- Date of Conversion: 3/23/58              Began Ministry: 6/6/63              Ordained: 1967

### **Educational Background**

- 1979      C. P. E. Baptist Memorial Hospital, Houston, Texas
- 1976      Doctor of Ministry, New York Theological Seminary, New York
- 1973      C. P. E Belvue Hospital , New York, New York
- 1973      Master of Sacred Theology, Church and Community, Union Theological Seminary
- 1972      Master of Divinity, New York Theological Seminary, New York
- 1971      Master of Religious Education, New York Theological Seminary
- 1963      Bachelor of Arts in Biblical Education, Lee College, Cleveland, Tennessee

## **Work Experience**

Present	Hispanic Coordinator for Ministerial Care, Church of God International Offices, Cleveland, Tennessee
1996 – 2006	Director of Hispanics Ministries/Editorial Evangelica, Church of God International Offices, Cleveland, Tennessee
1988 – 1992	Hispanic and Ministerial Internship Program Coordinator, Office of Ministerial Development, Church of God International Offices, Cleveland, Tennessee
1986 – 1987	Hispanic District Overseer, Church of God Western Hispanic Region, Fresno, California
1986 - 1987	Academic Dean, West Coast Christian College, Fresno, California
1980 - 1983	President, Hispanic Institute of Ministry, Houston, Texas
1977 –1980	Adjunct Faculty, Gordon Cornwell Theological Seminary, Boston, Massachusetts
1977 –1983	Adjunct Faculty, Church of God Theological Seminary, Cleveland, Tennessee
1973	Adjunct Faculty at Empire State College, (SUNY) New York, New York
1973	Academic Counselor, Adelphi University, Garden, City, New York
1972 –1975	Dean of Hispanic Studies, New York Theological Seminary, ( Director of a College Program for minority ministers; facilitator of an integration seminar, teacher in lay education and the college program)
1972 – 1974	Director of Christian Education and the Golden Age Club, Good Neighbor Presbyterian Church, New York, New York
1969 – 1971	Tutor of Reading Program and Pastor of the Hispanic Group, Reformed Church in America, New York, New York
1968 – 1969	Pastor, Newburgh Church of God, Newburgh, New York
1966 – 1968	Director of Youth and Christian Education, Church of God Eastern Hispanic Region
1964 – 1966	Bible Teacher, International Bible Seminary, Rorschach, Switzerland
1963	Pastor, Church of God, East Harlem, New York

## **Interdenominational Activity**

- Multicultural Education Committee of AABC
- President of the National Association of Evangelicals Hispanic Commission
- Member of the Accrediting Commission of Bible Colleges
- First Vice-President of the Civic Action Commission of the Puerto Rican and Hispanic Churches of New York
- Member of the A. A. T. Committee for the Theological Education of Hispanic Ministers
- First Vice-President, Christian Children's Parade, New York, New York
- Field Studies, Reformed Church in America and Presbyterian Church

## **Honors and Recognition**

1996 Distinguished Educator Leadership Award

## **Published Works**

Pastoral Counseling Manual/Spanish

Ethnic Americans: History and Missions, The Power and the Promise (Dr. Donald Bowdle, editor)

Building Cities of Refuge, Evangelism in Urban America/English & Spanish

Hispanics: Their History, Their Presence, Their Mission/English & Spanish

Manual: Making Disciples/Spanish

Sermons for Holy Week: Calvary, Eternal Life Fountain/Spanish

Christian Joke Book: Occurrence of the Christian Life/Spanish

Editor: Manual for Ministerial Care In the Local Church/ Spanish

Ministering to Diverse Culture, editor: Homer Rhea

Church of God Cell Group Manual: M-18:20

Church of God Cell Group: Leadership School

Translated various books into Spanish. Written many articles for publication.

## **Most Courses Taught**

- Urban Ministry
- Methodical Bible Study
- Church History
- Old and New Testament
- Counseling Alcoholics
- Personal Evangelism
- Theory and Practice in Religious Education
- Ministerial Care (Community Service Chaplaincy)

## **Additional Information**

Languages: Spanish and English: speak, read and write fluently. Greek (Koine), Hebrew and German: Have a reading knowledge with the help of dictionaries.

Travel: All Central and South American Countries. Caribbean: Puerto Rico, Saint Thomas, Dominican Republic. Europe: most European countries. Africa: Ceuta, Morocco. Asia: Philippines, Korea. Canada, Israel. Almost every major city in the U.S. (including the state of Hawaii).