

LUIS FIDEL MERCADO

CURRICULUM VITAE

October 1989

Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico
776 Ponce de Leon Avenue
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I. PERSONAL DATA

Born in Barranquitas, Puerto Rico, April 22, 1925, to Marcelino Mercado and Juana Marrero.

Married Clara L. Sherman on September 1, 1947.

Children: Samuel (d), Sara Elizabeth (1949), Lydia Elena (1950), Carlos Fidel (1952), Ruth Esther (1953), Victor Samuel (1955). Ten grandchildren.

Ordained to American Baptist ministry - September 11, 1954.

II. ACADEMIC DEGREES

High school diploma	- Baptist Academy of Barranquitas	1943
B.A.	- Goshen College, Indiana	1949
B.D.	- Eastern Baptist Theological Seminary	1952
M.A.	- University of Pennsylvania (Latin American History)	1952
Th.D.	- Harvard Divinity School (New Testament)	1967

III. PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

1976-	President, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico Professor of New Testament and Spirituality
1975-1976	Visiting Professor of New Testament, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico
1972-1976	Executive Minister, Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico
1970-1972	Academic Dean, Hispanic Urban Center, Los Angeles, CA

- 1971-1972 Visiting Professor of New Testament, American Baptist Seminary of the West
- 1966-1970 Professor of New Testament, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico; Academic Dean, one semester
- 1964-1965 Pastor, Lincoln Park Baptist Church, West Newton, MA
- 1954-1961 Pastor, First Baptist Church of Caguas, PR
- 1956-1958 Visiting Professor of Theology, Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico
- 1953-1954 Principal, Baptist Academy of Barranquitas, PR
- 1952-1953 Pastor, Baptist Church of Barranquitas, PR
Teacher, history and social studies, Baptist Academy
- 1952 Pastor, Spanish Baptist Church, Philadelphia, PA
- 1950, 1951 Summer pastoral work with migrants, Pedricktown Baptist Church, NJ
- 1943-1946 U.S. Army

IV. DENOMINATIONAL AND ECUMENICAL POSITIONS

- President, Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico (1956, 1959, 1969, 1970).
- Member, General Council, American Baptist Churches (1969-72).
- Founding member, ABC Hispanic Caucus (1970).
- Member, Council on Theological Education, American Baptist Churches (1971-73).
- Member, National Staff Council, American Baptist Churches (1972-76).
- Member, Eastern Commission on the Ministry (ABC) (1972-present)
- Member, Board of Directors, Evangelical Council of Puerto Rico (1972-76).
- President, Evangelical Council of Puerto Rico (1978-80).
- Member and President, Board of Directors, Puerto Rico Evangelico, a non-profit corporation that sponsors publication

of books and other writings by Protestant authors in Puerto Rico, whose income is rent from an owned building and book sales (1972-1989).

President, American Baptist Churches' World Mission Campaign in Puerto Rico (1967-68). This effort raised more than 17 million dollars for American Baptist missions around the world. In Puerto Rico, \$150,000 were raised. ESPR received \$30,000 from this campaign.

Member, ABC National Committee of Fund for Renewal (1970-76). This campaign was to raise 7.5 million dollars for minorities. The goal was not reached, but ESPR received \$22,500.

V. ROLES IN THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION

Member and Chairman, Board of Directors of Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico (1972-76).

Member, American Baptist Association of Seminary Administrators (1976-present).

Member, Council on Theological Education, Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

Member, Council on Theological Education, United Church of Christ

Member, ATS Taskforce on Globalization of Theological Education (1980-present).

Member, ATS Committee on Underrepresented Constituencies (1978-80).

Member and Treasurer, Latin American Association of Institutions of Theological Education (ALIET), Northern Region (1976-present).

Member, Special Fund for Ecumenical Theological Education in Latin America (FEPETEAL) (1980-89).

VI. MEMBERSHIP IN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETIES

Society of Biblical Literature
Shalem Institute for Spiritual Formation
Alban Institute
Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

VII. FUND-RAISING ROLE

- 1977 - Conceptualized and implemented development program for
present the Evangelical Seminary, tailored to multiple con-
stituencies: six denominations, local churches, in-
dividuals and foundations. This plan was started in
1977 and has been constantly updated.
- 1985 - Participation in Focus Five Capital Funds Campaign,
1989 initiated by UCC Connecticut Conference to support the
five seminaries that relate to the conference: Yale
Divinity School, Hartford Theological Seminary, Bangor
Theological Seminary, Andover Newton Theological School
and Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico.

Formed part of Presidents' Council, the advisory body
that helped in conceptualization of the campaign, in
developing the case and agreements on distribution;
also participated in fund-raising visits. Campaign
goal was 2.5 million dollars, with more than 2 million
raised or pledged as of October 1989. ESPR will
receive about \$400,000 from this effort.

VIII. CONTINUING EDUCATION & OTHER TRAINING EXPERIENCES

A. Institutes

- 1979 - Case Study Method Institute, Fuller Theological Seminary
(ATS sponsored). Two-week development of skills in case
writing and teaching.
- 1982 - Warren H. Deem Institute for Theological Education Manage-
ment. Three-week institute for seminary CEOs and deans
with 1-day follow-up seminars at 1984 and 1986 ATS bien-
nials.
- 1987- 18-month Extension Program on Spiritual Direction. An
1988 - intensive, practical and theoretical exploration of
spiritual direction given by Shalem Institute for Spir-
itual Formation, Washington, DC.

B. Workshops and Consultations as Participant

- 1979 - ATS Seminar: Evaluating the Seminary Curriculum, Wash-
ington, D.C. (May 7-8)
- 1981 - North American Conference on Christian Philanthropy,
Green Lake, Wisconsin. (April 27-30)

- 1982 - AGB Workshop for Trustees and Chief Executives of Theological Schools, Chicago. (May 25-26)
- 1985 - Convocation, "Theology by the People." WCC, Programme on Theological Education, Mexico City. (April)
- 1986 - Heritage and Horizon Convocation, sponsored by United Church of Christ to celebrate 350th anniversary of Harvard College and UCC past, present and future involvement in higher education in USA, Cambridge, Massachusetts. (June 25-27)
- 1986 - Sesquicentennial Higher Education Forum. Focus: Educating Ministry for the Coming Age. Division of Higher Education, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, St. Louis. (November 4-6)
- 1986 - Consultation with Theological Institutions regarding Evangelism, sponsored by General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church. Held at Princeton Theological Seminary. Major issues on evangelism in Presbyterian Church USA included: declining membership, motivation for doing evangelism, evangelism in seminary curricula. (April 16-18)
- 1988 - ATS Workshop on Financial Development in Theological Education, Indianapolis. (April 24-27)

C. Workshops and Consultations as Leader and Facilitator

- 1983 - Workshop on the Management of Institutions of Theological Education. ALIET, Alajuela, Costa Rica. (May 24-28)
- 1986 - Consultation/Workshop on Curriculum in Theological Education, ALIET-PTE, Antigua Guatemala. Major paper presented. (May 30-31)
- 1989 - Three-hour Conference/Workshop, "The Spirituality of the Religious Leader," at annual meeting of Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) of Puerto Rico.
- 1989 - Preaching on "Obstacles to Prayer" and workshop on prayer, Christian Church, Toa Baja, Puerto Rico. (February 26)
- 1989 - Ten-hour workshop/retreat for 60 teachers and principals of Caguas Baptist Day School, focused on self-knowledge and spiritual growth. (March 20-21)

D. Development of Systemic Educational Events

- 1984 - Colloquia Program in ESPR M.Div. curriculum designed and implemented with faculty team. It is a model of theological education that integrates students' academic and ministerial experiences and facilitates self-knowledge and spiritual and professional growth. In weekly hour-and-a-half sessions, guided by a faculty facilitator, the student goes through a six-semester sequence: (1) the pastor as a person, (2) the pastor and his/her call, (3) the pastor as leader, (4) the pastor and the local church, (5) the pastor, the local church and the community, (6) integration of academic knowledge with practical demands of ministry in context of the student's special gifts for ministry. The Colloquia Program is called the "inbuilt conscience" of the curriculum (systemic educational methodology and philosophy).
- 1986 - Conceptualization, development and implementation with to Director of Continuing Education of a systemic model for evangelization. Four-day workshop with participation of ESPR faculty and denominational leaders to diagnose, theologize, explore functional models of evangelization and to project evangelistic goals for local churches and denominations for 3 to 5 years. Workshop given to pastors of United Methodist Church (1986), pastors and lay leaders of Christian Church Disciples of Christ (1987), United Evangelical Church (1988), and Presbyterian Synod (1989).

VIII. LITERARY PRODUCTION

Unpublished doctoral thesis:

The Language of Sojourning in the Abraham Midrash in Hebrews 11:8-19: Its Old Testament Basis, Exegetical Traditions, and Function in the Epistle to the Hebrews

Articles published in Spanish in El Boletín, former theological journal of the Evangelical Seminary of Puerto Rico:

"Theological Foundations of Ecumenism" (1959).

"Catholic and Protestant Scholars Revise Spanish Translation of New Testament" (1965). A similar report in English appears in Foundations, vol. IX, no. 1 (1966), pp. 92-96.

"The Authority of the Bible" (1967).

"The Concept of Resurrection in Rudolph Bultmann" (1969).

"An Invitation to Radical Obedience" (1969).

"Jesus and the Kingdom of God" (1970).

Twenty-six articles in Spanish in El Nuevo Evangelista, official organ of Baptist Churches of Puerto Rico (1969-1976).

Bible translations, exegesis and other articles (a few of many):

Formed part of team of Catholic and Protestant scholars, who translated the first Ecumenical New Testament from Greek into Spanish. Translation financed by Taizé Community in France and published by Herder, 1967. More than a million copies distributed free throughout Latin America in Catholic and Protestant congregations. This project was an outgrowth of the ecumenical spirit generated by Vatican Council II.

Translated into Spanish Introduction to Greek New Testament (Bible Societies, 1971).

Articles for Spanish Dictionary of the Bible (Editorial Caribe, 1975) on: "Asia," "Bithynia," "Cappadocia," "Phrygia," "Galatia," "Epistle to the Galatians," "Epistle to the Hebrews", "Lycia," "Pamphylia," "Pontus."

Eight lessons for United Methodist adult Sunday School manual in Spanish, Lecciones Cristianas: four on Gospel of Matthew (1975); four for Easter season (1977).

Four exegetical articles on the Gospel of Luke (English and Spanish) for Baptist Leader, 1989.

Writings in English on spirituality for Shalem Extension Spiritual Guidance Program:

"God and Image" (1987)

"On Discernment: Discerning my Spirit" (1987)

"The Light Inside and the Light Outside" (1988)

"Christian Conversion and Spiritual Direction" (1988)

Writings and translations on spirituality in Spanish for use in seminary programs and churches:

"The Most Difficult Task: To Love God Without Ulterior Motives"

"Obstacles to Prayer" (graduating class, School of Theology, FBC, Carolina, PR, 1987)

"Guidelines for the Spiritual Life" (Lutheran pastors, 1985)

"The Four Dimensions of Being Human"

"The Transforming Moment--Criteria to Evaluate the Christian Nature of a Religious Experience of Sudden Transformation or Ecstasy" (based on Loder)

"Exercise in Contemplative Meditation", based on Learning the Art of Prayer, trans. LFM (1987) from "The Road to Recollection and Inner Peace," Benedict Groeschel

"Integral Development of the Pastor: Administrative Spirituality" (Disciples pastors, 1989)

"Teachers of Prayer" (ESPR graduating class, 1986)

"Holy Obedience" by Thomas Kelly, trans. LFM (MAR colloquium, 1986)

"Inner Light" from A Testament of Devotion, Thomas Kelly, 1939, trans. LFM (MAR colloquium, 1986)

"Prayer and the Theologian" (ESPR graduating class, 1987)

"The Triangle of Growth: My Relation to God, to Myself, to Others" (Laypersons' Day, ESPR, 1987)

Major addresses in English at denominational conventions, workshops, and other meetings:

"Theological Education for the Present and Future American Baptist Hispanic Pastor: Its Context and Content," Los Angeles, May 1972. Research project for American Baptist Advisory Board for Theological Education (adjunct to ABC Board of Education).

"Responsibilities of Freedom." Address at ABC Biennial in Atlantic City, NJ (1975).

"Baptist Witness in Puerto Rico, 1899-1981." Address to Ohio delegation at ABC Biennial, San Juan, PR (1981).

"Church Ministry Colloquia: A Model of Theological Education at the ESPR". Workshop on Models of Theological Education Beyond North America, ATS Biennial Meeting, Kansas City, MO (1986).

"Walking in the Light." Keynote Address at New England Conference on Mission, UCC, Geneva Point Center, NH (1987).

"Hispanics: Reality and Challenges." Address at Workshop on Hispanics and the Church, Louisville Presbyterian Seminary (1989).

Three Bible studies on Colossians 1-2 at American Baptist Biennial, Milwaukee (1989).

Major addresses in Spanish at denominational conventions, workshops and other meetings:

"Hearing the Voice of God Today, Hebrews 3:7-19." (Convention, Baptist Churches of P.R., 1955)

"Understanding of Faith in the Gospel of John." (Convention, Baptist Churches of P.R., 1977)

"Profile of Theological Education in the Context of Puerto Rican Realities." (Installation Service as President of ESPR, 1977)

"The Resurrection of Jesus, Vital Center of Christian Faith." (ESPR, 1979)

"The Church of Jesus Christ: Community of Hope." (Convention, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, 1981)

"A Pilgrim People as a Model for Growth in Understanding the Faith." (Convention, Baptist Churches of P.R., 1982)

"The Pilgrim People according to the New Testament." (Convention, Christian Church Disciples of Christ, 1982)

"ESPR Today and Three Years Hence." (ESPR Directors' Workshop, 1983)

"Leadership in the Local Church." (ESPR Directors-Faculty Workshop, 1983)

"Reconciliation." (Commission on Evangelism, Baptist Churches of P.R., 1984)

"ESPR, 1919-1984: A Glimpse of the Past, Present Realities, Challenges of the Future." (ESPR 65th Anniversary, 1984)

"Priorities in Curricular Design: A Research Model." (Theological Consultation, ALIET meeting, Antigua Guatemala, 1986). Published in Pastoralia, Dec. 1986, pp. 63-90.

"Grace, Spirit and Gifts." Major address for Evangelization Workshop (ESPR Continuing Education Program, 1986)

"Gratitude: Gift and Challenge." Address at Thanksgiving Banquet of Board of Trustees of Interamerican University (San Juan, 1987). This university was started as Polytechnic Institute in 1912 by the Presbyterian Church. Today it is a secular university with 38,000 students and multiple campuses. It still respects its Christian heritage.

"Missionary Challenges Awaiting Puerto Rican Baptists in the next Decade." (Convention, Baptist Churches of P.R., 1988)

Radio and television messages:

Weekly half-hour radio broadcast for seven years while pastor of First Baptist Church of Caguas, PR, 1954-1961.

About 75 radio messages on Bible and prayer for ESPR's weekly program on radio station of First Baptist Church of Carolina, PR, 1983-1985.

Several televised messages as President of Evangelical Council of Puerto Rico on a weekly TV program, 1978-1980.

Case Study, distributed by Intercollegiate Case Clearing House, Boston, 1981:

"Christianity: A Jewish Sect or a Worldwide Community of Faith?" (English and Spanish)

Many Bible studies, sermons, technical papers, addresses on administrative matters, chapters for ESPR self-studies for accreditation, reports to Board of Directors and diverse judicatories.