



## Sowing the Seed of Full Salvation

Vic Reasoner

**R**ichard Watson was the first early Methodist to write a systematic theology. He was also a general secretary to the Wesleyan Missionary Society from 1821 to 1827 and again as resident secretary from 1832 until his death in 1833. He was a blend of academic scholarship and passion for global missions. In his sermon, “Excitements to Missionary Effort,” based on Ecclesiastes 11:1–6, he advocated liberal benevolence based on the doctrine of stewardship. But this benevolence is not limited to feeding the hungry. He declared that the text referred to every attempt made to benefit the immortal part of mankind.

Cast your bread upon the waters, for you will find it after many days. Give a portion to seven, or even to eight, for you know not what disaster may happen on earth. If the clouds are full of rain, they empty themselves on the earth, and if a tree falls to the south or to the north, in the place where the tree falls, there it will lie. He who observes the wind will not sow, and he who regards the clouds will not reap. As you do not know the way the spirit comes to the bones in the womb of a woman with child, so you do not know the work of God who makes everything. In the morning sow your seed, and at evening withhold not your hand, for you do not know which will prosper, this or that, or whether both alike will be good. (Ecclesiastes 11:1–6 ESV)

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### Empower the Nations Conference 2023 in Mexico

We should be motivated to such an enterprise by hope. The more we realize the spiritual danger mankind is in, the more interest we feel for their souls. And we do not despair even when our success is not evident. “Though our bread is not seen, hope still clings to the declaration that it shall be found after many days.” We always reap *what* we sow. We always reap *more* than we sow, but we do not reap *when* we sow.

We should be motivated to push back against the influence of evil and its potential to curtail the progress of truth, destroy liberty, and hurt the souls of men. We should be motivated by

God’s blessings to us. If we are clouds full of rain, we out to empty ourselves on this parched world. We should also be motivated by the uncertainty of life. Therefore, “whatever your hand finds to do, do it with your might” (Eccl 9:10). Once our “tree” falls, there it will lie. There will always be the threat of wind or rain. We had better do what we can while we can. Watson himself was only fifty-one when he died.

Despite our lack of understanding concerning God’s providence and the likelihood that some of the seed we sow will perish, we should take the risk. Solomon loaded ships with grain and sent them across the Mediterranean Sea. The “bread” he sent out upon the water was grain. According to 1 Kings 10:22 ships returned every three years bringing gold, silver, ivory, apes, and peacocks. But some ships never

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# People Are Hungry for More of God

Joy Griffin



Joy is a co-founder and international director of the International Leadership Institute. She is also a board member for FAS and author of *Jumping with Joy*, a compilation of the missionary journeys Joy has made, as well as her personal story of miraculous healing from a paralyzing sports injury. Joy has a deep passion for equipping leaders around the world to do the Lord's work and to see the gospel spread. She was one of the strategic leaders who helped launch the Empower the Nations initiative from the beginning. Joy also presented the sessions on evangelism in Mexico.

The first Empower the Nations conference took place at Campamento Tierra Alto Moreios, Mexico. What a wonderful blessing to have seventy-two Christian leaders from all over Mexico come together for the message of heart holiness! I was greatly privileged to be one of the presenters for the week, along with my friends and colleagues John Oswalt, Matt Friedeman, and Colleen Weaver. The Francis Asbury Society was founded by Dennis F. Kinlaw and Harold Burgess with the purpose of spreading scriptural holiness around the globe.

About two and a half years ago, then FAS president, Ron Smith, gathered a few together with a vision to begin planning to fulfill that purpose. It has resulted in the first of what we pray will be many such events all around the globe that will:

- Bring times of refreshing and spiritual hope, revival/awakening through the power of the Holy Spirit.
- Provide resources that promote the message of scriptural holiness.
- Offer support, encouragement, and accountability through discipleship and mentoring groups.

We rejoice that expectations were exceeded at this conference, and we praise God for his presence and anointing during the time together. Current FAS president, Bill Kierce, had been on the job only two days before he flew down to Mexico, along with Jerry Coleman and Josh Hallahan from the FAS office, to participate in the conference, so his first official event was on foreign soil—very appropriate for the ministry of Francis Asbury Society!

We had pastors, evangelists, students, youth and children ministers, and missionaries all represented. The fellowship and discussion times proved very



beneficial, as they set goals of reaching other denominations, as well as unreached people groups, with the message of entire sanctification. There were opportunities for much prayer and reflection, theological and doctrinal discussion, and asking God to cleanse our hearts—some for the first time; others to be re-filled!

The four topics taught and discussed were holiness, the order of salvation, discipleship, and evangelism.



We thank all who prayed as we went, and we need your prayers for the participants who now are multiplying what they learned. They have already begun to put into practice the process of discipling others, mentoring, and evangelizing not only for salvation but also for a second work of grace.

Just a few of the comments from those who attended:

- “We are soooo grateful! We have had other conferences on growth, or prosperity gospel, but never anything on holiness.”
- “I plan to use this to teach all my churches in my denomination!”
- “God met me in sanctifying power tonight. I never experienced such joy in my heart!”
- “We need holiness books in Spanish. Can you please help us?”
- “There are other Nazarene and Wesleyan denominations in Mexico near us who need this.”
- “Can you please come back and preach to our local churches if we bring many people together?”



People are hungry for more of God. The outpouring at Asbury that began in February continues in the U.S.A. and beyond. We have the answer to the questions about the abundant life Jesus came to give. Please join us through your gifts and prayers as we seek to follow up in Mexico and also to multiply the impact of this Empower the Nations initiative in other countries. The intent is simply what the name says: the power of the Holy Spirit that Jesus promised in Acts 1:8 is available to all nations. We hope to spread the message and experience of sanctifying purity and power to many nations in the future! ✨

# FAS Goes to Mexico

John Oswalt



Mere days before the first Empower the Nations conference in Mexico City, John Oswalt ended his tenure as interim president for the Francis Asbury Society. Dr. Oswalt, as both a preacher and a teacher, is passionately concerned about Christian holiness and the serious need for holy living among Christians today. The Spanish translation of his book, *Called to Be Holy*, was gifted, along with others, to participants. His topic during this conference was holiness.

The first of our projected Empower the Nations conferences was held at a lovely retreat center about three hours southwest of Mexico City. The center is owned and operated by an American foundation which, we are told, has ten of such centers around the world, using them especially for youth evangelism.

The conference was a great success. The overall response as well as individual responses were very gratifying. There was a general feeling of warmth and appreciation from the participants. In particular was the statement from both World Gospel Mission and One Mission Society originated churches that holiness had been an essential part of their identity in the beginning but that they had lost sight of this identity in recent years. The conference had brought this loss to their attention and convinced them that they must do everything possible to recover that identity.

The individual responses were moving as well. Rev. Bill Kierce's opening address featured his own testimony of finding the solution to his "tiredness" after his conversion. It was a tiredness of trying to live the Christian life in his own strength. The solution was to surrender himself completely to the Holy Spirit, allowing the Spirit to fill him. Although Bill did not appeal for a response, the



translator gave a very simple and low-key invitation during a final song, and a large number of people came forward for prayer. Their hunger was obvious.



My presentations were heavily biblical and theological, more in the style of lecture than of exhortation, but the team encouraged me to give an invitation

at the end of my third and last presentation, so I did, closing with an adaptation of Robert Munger's "My Heart, Christ's Home" booklet. I said that often we say Christ owns our "house" (our life) but somewhere we have a closet, the key to which we keep for ourselves. The result is powerlessness, both in the face of temptation and in witness. I invited persons to stand who wished to live a holy life and most of the seventy-five persons in attendance did. Then I asked those who were making a specific commitment or surrender to come forward for prayer. At least two-thirds of the congregation came forward!

In my judgment, one of the strengths of the conference was the organization in its topics and presentations. While my presentation sought to show that holy living is central to the biblical understanding of salvation, Dr. Colleen Weaver demonstrated that "salvation" must include the entire process from initial conviction of sins through justification and regeneration and entire sanctification to glorification.

Then Dr. Matt Friedeman showed how a very practical and workable plan of discipleship training that he has developed can take holy living from theory to daily reality. Finally, Rev. Joy Griffin showed how holy disciples can engage in effective evangelism.

One of the goals of the conference was to convince the participants that holiness is not merely a possible "add-on" in the Christian life but is indeed what the Christian life is about. That goal seems to have been realized as person after person testified to having come to such

a conviction. There were comments such as, "I now realize that to be really Christian is to be holy," or "I see holiness in a whole new way than I ever did before," or "I go from here determined by the Holy Spirit's power to live a holy life."

The challenge before the Society now is how to develop this resource for the church that is emerging all over the world. This church is largely oriented toward the gifts of health and wealth that God can give to those who accept him. It needs to learn that the primary gift he gives is the ability to live a Christ-like life. FAS, given the resources, is in a position to teach that truth. ✠

# Spiritual Fire in Mexico

Jerry Coleman



Jerry is the director of FAS International and part of that role is to direct the Empower the Nations initiative. Jerry is passionate about equipping leaders from across the globe with resources for proclaiming the life-giving message of holiness, which is the self-giving love of God.

More than seventy pastors and leaders returned to their homes in Mexico full of hope and joy. Our FAS team just finished leading our first Empower the Nations conference with Spanish-speaking pastors and leaders from various denominations. The men and women participants, ranging from their twenties to late fifties, were from the area, but some came as far away as seventeen hours by car and van. All returned home with a deeper understanding of holiness, a passion for their neighbors who do not yet know the love of God, and a passion to spread the message of holiness to all of Mexico.

We witnessed a deep hunger and openness for the message of holiness that FAS embraces and teaches—the self-giving, life-giving love of God. Here are some quotes from participants:

- “This is the first biblical conference I’ve ever been to on holiness, on the loving heart of God. This is so important! It’s what we need in our country!”
- “I love these new concepts of holiness. The Roman Catholic ideas in Mexico are prominent but very different. This biblical teaching frees us to live victoriously in the heart of a loving God. It’s changing my life.”
- “I’m going to bring this back to the pastors I meet with regularly in Mexico City. We’re not the same doctrinally but close. They are going to love this!”
- “We need to regain our identity as a denomination. We started with the theology and practices of John Wesley and holiness. We need it now more than ever.”

After the first message of the conference, there was an invitation for anyone to come forward for prayer. One of the interpreters prayed with a man who came forward who later reported that the man prayed to give his life to Jesus. We were a bit surprised because the participants were pastors and key lay leaders. It turns out that this new believer was a van driver



who transported participants to the camp. He attended every session! He told me later, “I feel so much better now! I’m even walking without pain and feeling so much more peace and happiness.”



At one point almost everyone fell to their knees in prayers of submission and consecration to God. The biblical invitation went out for us to give God full access to our lives—even those secret closets we have locked up and kept away from God. The Holy Spirit moved among us and filled us to overflowing as we surrendered our all to God.



As John Wesley taught and practiced, we encouraged all to form small accountability groups in person and through online video conferencing. This will help them connect with God through the Scripture and with one another through discussion and prayer.



“What if the future of Mexico depended on us?” was the challenge we heard from one of our presenters. By the end of the week, the men and women accepted the challenge to return home with the hopeful news of God’s life-giving full salvation for the people of Mexico.

The participants requested help from FAS to coach, teach, resource, and partner in seeing the Holy Spirit empower Mexico with the good news of Jesus. Please join us in praying for the spiritual heart of Mexico. Pray as we take concrete steps to see this nation fully turn to the loving God we know. 🙏



# Raising Up Holy Leaders

Hubert Harriman



Hubert, along with Joy Griffin and others, was one of the strategic leaders who helped launch the Empower the Nations initiative from the beginning. Having grown up on the mission field in Bolivia, and now the retired president of World Gospel Mission, Hubert's contacts throughout Latin America helped FAS find participants who could benefit from this conference.

**W**e were coming to the end of our conference. In the four days prior, I had met him, visited with him, and learned his name (Miguel), why he was on long-term crutches, and why he was there. He was seated across the dinner table from me that evening, and the young gentleman sitting next to him was telling one of those stories we've heard before that never get old. They were both alive with the glory of their testimony. It went something like this (except in Spanish):

Friend: *Hubert, Miguel was saved this morning!*

Me: *You were?! I am so glad!*

Friend: *He makes a living driving groups to their destinations in large passenger vans, and he drove a church group from Irapuato to this five-day conference.*

Friend: *I asked Miguel how he got a meal card without being registered.*

Miguel: *They just gave it to me when I came in with the group. I've been attending all the presentations and I felt God speaking to my heart. When they invited people to pray, I went forward! He saved me. I've given my life to Him!*

Friend: *Now we're going to get him into the church and disciple him.*

Miguel: *God brought me here for this reason!*

I'm back from that rich time, June 5–9, 2023. I had been invited to be part of the FAS committee that first dreamed of this meeting, and they stepped out—calling it “Empower the Nations”—beginning in Mexico with a purpose to go into fifty other countries with the teaching of holiness and training in discipling and evangelism. My brother, Jim, flew up from Bolivia to help interpret. My main job was friendship, fellowship, group engagement, and future thinking with leaders and those they mentor. With a great number of young, sharp, hungry adults taking all of this in, the future is encouraging! The Lord willing, I'm going back!

God will raise up holy leaders from those who attended. We're working on serious follow-up and answers for “Where to from here?” Thank you to those who help make these things possible! And pray for Miguel! ✎



# Full Salvation: A Message We Need to Hear

Colleen Weaver



Colleen Weaver and her husband Brent served as OMS missionaries in Kyiv, Ukraine, until the recent conflict. This fall, they will transition to Tallinn, Estonia, where they will serve in theological education, discipleship and church planting. Colleen is the daughter of FAS co-founder Harold Burgess and presented on the topic of full salvation. Participants received the Spanish translation of Dr. Burgess's book, *The Framework of Our Faith*.

**O**n the third day of the conference, I shared my sanctification experience during my presentation. After the session, a woman came up to me and pulled up a chair so that we could sit face to face. She told me that she finally had a name for what she had experienced on the day of her baptism. That was the day that she had experienced sanctification, an outpouring and infilling of the perfecting love of Jesus Christ.

One of the personally touching experiences of the conference was being asked to sign books that had been edited by my father, Harold



Burgess. The participants received copies of *The Framework of Our Faith*. I had never imagined having the privilege of signing my father's books as his daughter. It was a blessing and a tribute to his faithfulness to Jesus.



I was so impressed with the commitment of the participants to be faithful witnesses to the people of Mexico. Many said that the message of holiness and complete salvation is a message that both the church and the nation of Mexico need to hear.

It was an amazing experience to participate in this conference. The collaboration of the various Wesleyan-Arminian churches and missions was in itself a blessing and sign of the presence and blessing of Christ. ✎

# Joining Together in Unity

Josh Hallahan



As director of Discipleship and Conferencing, Josh has been part of the team coordinating this conference since he and his wife, Kelly, first became staff members of FAS in 2021. The Hallahans are committed to developing authentic relationships with student leaders through intentional friendship and fellowship bands and life-giving events in their home, as well as internationally as opportunities arise.

The success of a bold vision demands humility and cooperation. When the vision for our Empower the Nations initiative first came to the Francis Asbury Society, there was a lot of excitement in the air. To dream of engaging with God's church across the globe is thrilling to consider. With a vision so grand, the magnitude of seeing it become a reality takes hold very quickly. How are we going to see this become a reality? It will take obedience, humility, and cooperation.

The first Empower the Nations conference took place in Mexico on June 5–9, 2023. By all accounts, it was a huge success. In many ways though, the work has only just begun. We learned many lessons on how we can continue to see this vision become a reality. A key piece in the success of the Empower the Nations conference in Mexico was the coming together of multiple organizations and the humility and spirit of cooperation that everyone brought with them.

Our success started with the participants, for without them, there would have been no conference. Sixty-nine pastors and leaders from six different denominations and Christian organizations attended the conference. The groups represented were La Misión Evangélica Mundial de Mexico, Tierra Prometida Monte María, One Mission Society Mexico, Iglesia Cristiana UNIFAM, SEMBIMEX Seminary, and Mision Evangelística Mexicana. Amazingly, most of these churches and organizations had little to no connection or knowledge of the Francis Asbury Society prior to this conference. We are grateful for the Lord's prompting in their hearts to attend and their trust in us.

Among the participants were pastors, pastors' spouses, worship leaders, children's ministry leaders, youth leaders, and lay members. Everyone came with a spirit of humility and openness to hear from God. This posture of humility and openness gave freedom for the Spirit to move in a mighty way and unite the participants together as brothers and sisters in Christ. There was never a hint of division along denominational lines or any sort of hierarchy among the participants.

When you add the seventeen leaders, teachers, and support staff into the group, we add six additional Christian organizations and their leaders into the mix. Our staff and leaders came from One Mission Society, World Gospel Mission, Asbury Theological Seminary, Wesley Biblical Seminary, International Leadership Institute, and the Francis Asbury Society. Among those seventeen individuals were two teenage boys who supported the conference with a week of their summer schedule and their willingness to help in any way possible. It was refreshing to watch these leaders collaborate, pray together, trust God together, and pour themselves into the participants of the conference. There was only one kingdom being promoted by the leaders—God's kingdom!

As we look through Scripture there are countless passages that call for unity among believers (e.g., 2 Corinthians 13:11, Galatians 3:28, Philippians 2:2, Colossians 3:14, Romans 12:4–5). However, Psalm 133 is a beautiful picture of what we saw among those who participated in the Empower the Nations–Mexico conference:

How good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity! It is like precious oil poured on the head, running down on the beard, running down on Aaron's beard, down on the collar of his robe. It is as if the dew of Hermon were falling on Mount Zion. For there the Lord bestows his blessing, even life forevermore. (NIV)





Even inside the church it is not hard to find a spirit of competition. It is not hard to find a man seeking to build a name for himself, building his own little kingdom. One of the last prayers that Jesus prayed for his current future followers was one of unity:

My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you. May they also be in us so that the world may believe that you have sent me. I have given them the glory that you gave me, that they may be one as we are one—I in them and you in me—so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that you sent me and have loved them even as you have loved me. (John 17:20–23 NIV)

As this was one of Jesus's last prayers, we recognize the importance of pursuing unity in God's kingdom. That God's people would seek to live at peace with one another and work well together is very important to the heart of God. Not only is it important but he desires to help us accomplish unity through the presence of the Holy Spirit in our lives. The unity among God's people is how the world will know the love of God.

Before you accuse me of self-aggrandizing, know that we certainly did not get everything right there in Mexico. There were times of disagreements and differing opinions. However, I can honestly say that at the foundation of all our interactions was a spirit of cooperation seeking to work together to promote God's kingdom. There were stories of reconciliation among participants from the same denomination who came into the conference with broken relationships. Men chose to room together even though there was a conflict between them. These men sought healing and restoration with one another, and God was honored by their pursuit of unity.

Brothers and sisters, the time for unity is now. Across our world exist many denominations and Christian organizations. If we truly want to see the nations empowered for the kingdom of God, for the message of holiness and full salvation to permeate every tribe and nation and tongue, and for our churches to rise up and disciple their communities, we must seek to live in unity with one another. This can only come when we humble ourselves and allow the Spirit of unity to bring us together. Under the power of the Holy Spirit, we seek to empower the nations. Let's do it together! 🙏



# FAS Has a Message the World Needs to Hear

Jim Harriman



Having grown up in Bolivia and now working with the Bolivian Evangelical University in Santa Cruz, Jim Harriman is fluent in Spanish and a gifted translator and interpreter. Jim serves FAS as director of Latin American Ministries. During the Empower the Nations conference in Mexico City, Jim served as one of several interpreters, assisting Dr. Oswald deliver his messages on holiness.

As I flew from Bolivia my thoughts went to what I was going to experience in Mexico. The Francis Asbury Society had invited me to participate in the first holiness conference of this kind outside the United States. Moreover, I was not just going to sit in the audience, I was asked to interpret for Dr. John Oswald, one of the top Old Testament scholars that I know.

I landed in the new airport north of Mexico City then took a taxi to a church where a pastor patiently waited to take me to the place where the conference was going to take place. It was a three-hour trip in a van with Mexican brothers and sisters in Christ. Pastors and leaders from all over Mexico were going to the event, and our van was one of them.

We arrived at the compound that afternoon (June 5). It was great to meet old friends again from Mexico as well as my brother Hubert and our FAS staff. It was good to meet Bill Kierce, our new FAS president who kicked off the event that night with a loving and clear message of the LORD's purifying work in his own life. It set the tone for all that was to come. Every day our FAS speakers poured their hearts out to a receptive crowd of pastors and lay leaders. Colleen Weaver spoke of the need to have God's Spirit deal with sin. Matt Friedeman and Josh Hallahan spoke powerfully on the need for discipleship and "doing" Christianity. Joy Griffin spoke on evangelism, giving compelling examples of things she had seen firsthand around the world. Each had their interpreter, and then my turn came with Dr. Oswald.



I remember praying as I stood by Dr. Oswald, "Lord, help me now." The man started in, laying the foundation from the Old Testament of what the Apostle Paul was saying in the New Testament. It was clear; it was precise. I could sense our Mexican brothers soaking up every point he made. As I stood there interpreting, I thought to myself, "Lord, help me not to blow it here!" But I could sense that what was being said was more than just Dr. Oswald. It was more than his

interpreter (because interpreters can really blow it!). This was a God thing. Every day seemed to get better. Then came the last session. Dr. Oswald poured out his heart to Mexico! At the end of his talk, he opened up the altar. Heaven descended that day. I think the entire audience emptied out of their seats and lined the front of the auditorium. When the front filled, the aisles were then filled with pastors kneeling and praying. It was a divine moment. I found a spot to kneel as well and prayed. The challenge to allow for the sanctifying touch of the Holy Spirit in our lives was so beautifully and clearly laid out. Yes, it was a divine moment!

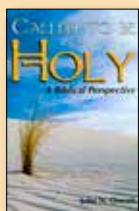
As the conference wound down, Bill Kierce asked for feedback. The resounding response was, "We need more of this!" Our Mexican pastors stated that this was the first time they had ever witnessed a conference given solely on the topic of holiness. There is no doubt about it, the Francis Asbury Society has a message the world needs. There is hunger out there for the real deal. So much "stuff" seems to take place in the name of Christianity, but it is so refreshing to hear speakers get up and talk about the solutions given to the heart and life.

May the LORD bless the Francis Asbury Society as we seek to

follow-up in Mexico as well as organize these kinds of events in other countries around the world. The society and its leadership will need your prayers and your support. 🙏

## Called to Be Holy

John N. Oswald



\$12.95 (Paperback; 208 pages)

This book traces the doctrine of holiness through the Bible in an analytical way. Instead of giving us a dry catalogue of proof texts, Dr. Oswald underscores the practical consequences of walking in the Holy Spirit. *Called to be Holy* sets the Old Testament

"Holiness Code" and the prophets' exhortations to holiness alongside the sermons of Jesus and the New Testament epistles. This thoughtful book will challenge every serious reader of the Bible to live in the fullness of Christ.

## The Framework of Our Faith

Harold Burgess



\$9.95 \$7.95 (Paperback; 88 pages)

In thirteen readable chapters, *The Framework of Our Faith* makes an innovative presentation of historic Christianity. The contributors to the book share a common burden: namely, that Christians at the beginning of the twenty-first century have too few opportunities to adequately experience the foundational truths that have sustained the church over the centuries. Accordingly, they have followed the ancient creed that came largely to its final form in the fourth century.

# The Joy of Teaching to Hungry Disciples

Matt Friedeman



Dr. Matt Friedeman is John M. Case Chair of Evangelical Studies and professor of Evangelism and Discipleship at Wesley Biblical Seminary. He is also an FAS board member and author of *The 5Q Method of Discipleship*, the Spanish translation of which was gifted to each participant of the conference. This article is an interview between Matt and the FAS Director of Publishing, Dr. Vic Reasoner.

## What was your overall impression of this first Empower the Nations conference?

[It was] a wonderful success. There is something special, as any communicator will tell you, about disciples who are just as passionate about learning what you are teaching as you are passionate about teaching. I have taught in Mexico several times before and over and over again I have learned that what you teach they fully intend to apply in their lives—sooner rather than later! The FAS team amassed this kind of hungry learners and I suspect the dividends from this effort will resonate for decades in that nation.

## What kind of response did you get to your teaching?

Well, for instance, Dr Oswalt taught on holiness, and I taught about discipleship concepts and emulating Jesus in a small group. You can imagine that they were enthused with what they were learning about holiness (I mean, Oswalt is the best in the world on the subject!) and then even more enthused to learn a method of discipleship where these holiness concepts could come alive within and beyond a small group setting. Plans were being made between presentations for our Mexican friends to do just that—activate the lessons!

## Were there any direct (or almost direct) statements made that you recall?

A couple of the participants came to the conference hoping that there would be significant Scripture included in the conference. They had apparently been to many a Christian seminar lately without a strong biblical component. They weren't disappointed!

FAS presenters aren't likely to talk long without spring-boarding off of Scripture into deeper levels of holiness. One of the ladies that attended the conference seemed sad. I asked if she was OK. She said, "I just wish more people could have been here to get what I got. My head is just swimming with all the glorious lessons I have received." She absolutely loved what she received.

## Do you have any stories about how participants intend to use your material or what they learned?

One of the reasons I was presenting "The 5Q Method of Discipleship" was because there are several dozen churches in the hills of Mexico that had already been inspired to use it in their local churches after some schooling. So, for our new participants, after learning how to employ the 5Q method, hearing

testimonies of how it was being used in Mexico, and getting practice using the method at the conference, multiple participants declared they were excited to get home ASAP and get some groups going. This is so consistent with John Wesley! He refused, after a period of trial and error, to present the gospel in any place where he couldn't follow his effort with groups. And thus, the Wesleyan revival of the eighteenth century took off. These Mexicans heard this and were ready to go preach, evangelize, and begin discipling just as soon as possible.

## Would you summarize what you taught?

Jesus modeled discipleship for his disciples and told them, in the closing verses of Matthew, to go and make disciples as well. Wesley, amongst many others in Christian history, discovered a pattern of discipleship that ignited the release of salt and light around the globe. If we are to take



Christlikeness seriously, we too should discover a discipleship methodology that can be readily employed that will deepen biblical faith in those we have evangelized. It's called the Great Commission—and it's a non-negotiable for the Church. That FAS is taking this seriously ought to inspire all friends of the

organization. If the Empower the Nations movement takes off, our best days are yet to come! 🐾

# Partnering for Ministry in Mexico

Bill Kierce



Rev. Bill Kierce serves as president of the Francis Asbury Society. Upon traveling to Mexico for Empower the Nations, he had been in his role at FAS only two days. In his previous ministry life, Bill has served as an evangelist—including an FAS evangelist during his seminary years—pastor, and director of congregational development. He is an adjunct instructor and near completion of a PhD in Organizational Leadership. He is married to Kim, who is a registered nurse. They have three children and eight grandchildren.

I must begin this article by giving thanks to my friend and our former FAS president, Dr. Ron Smith, for his vision and foresight to establish Empower the Nations as a mission priority and for his choice of Mexico as its first expression. As other contributors have noted, the spiritual hunger of these Mexican leaders and conference participants was impressive, to say the least. I'm grateful to each of our Francis Asbury Society staff members and volunteers for their dedication to preparing for the event and their execution of all the elements of making our time in Mexico so fruitful. I am profoundly thankful to Dr. John Oswalt, Dr. Colleen (Burgess) Weaver, Dr. Matt Friedeman, and Rev. Joy Griffin for their outstanding teaching, which only strengthened my already firm conviction that our message of a



and support. And to the wonderful crew at *Campamento Tierra Alto Moreios* Retreat Center, who hosted the conference and provided a first-class experience, including authentic Mexican food at every meal, I say a heartfelt "Gracias."

Upon my election as president of the Francis Asbury Society in March of this year, Empower the Nations in Mexico loomed large on the horizon. When we boarded the plane early (and I mean *early*) on the morning of Saturday, June 3, I had served in my current role for a total of *dos dias*—that's two days! I wondered



if I might be most needed back home in the FAS office, attending to other matters. But in my heart, I was certain God wanted me in Mexico. The opportunity to build relationships and to experience the movement of God's Spirit with our team and to collaborate with national leaders about next steps for supporting their needs in spreading the message they so passionately embraced



sanctified heart and life is essential not only for the Mexican people but for all of us, especially in these days of spiritual complacency and

was worth six months of onboarding. Personally, there were many highlights: reliving my seminary experience in hearing John Oswalt teach on biblical holiness, watching the face of a young man named Miguel express the joy of his newfound salvation experience, and bonding with new friends and future ministry partners despite knowing only *muy poco* of their language.

compromise. We at FAS also owe an enormous debt of gratitude to OMS-Mexico Field Director Troy Gentry, who coordinated all the arrangements on the ground for us in Mexico and to Pastor Roberto Stevenson (*Tierra Prometida* "The Promised Land" Church in Mexico City), Dr. Hubert Harriman, and Dr. Jim Harriman for their leadership

So, what's next for the Francis Asbury Society in Mexico? The most compelling moments of the conference for me personally took place in the afternoon sessions as we gathered in small groups with local pastors and denominational leaders who begged us not to abandon

*Continued on page 11*

**Dennis F. Kinlaw**  
**SYMPOSIUM FOR THEOLOGICAL DIALOGUE**  
 Presented by the FRANCIS ASBURY INSTITUTE

**Panel Speakers**

Dr. Kenneth Collins

Dr. Suzanne Nicholson

Dr. Brian Shelton

Dr. Chris Bounds

## Register Now!

We are excited to invite you to a one-day symposium on prevenient grace hosted at the Francis Asbury Society. Dr. Brian Shelton will be presenting from his book on prevenient grace followed by a panel discussion with Brian as well as Dr. Chris Bounds, Dr. Ken Collins, and Dr. Suzanne Nicholson. We are really excited about this event and would be honored to have you participate. The date is September 26 and all information, including how to register, is on the event page at:

<https://francisasburysociety.com/event/dfk-symposium-prevenient-grace>

*Sowing the Seed of Full Salvation* continued from page 1

returned; they were lost at sea. Some people are waiting for their ship to come in, but they never sent one out. Your ship will not come in if you haven't sent it out!

The gospel seed is always good. Much of the world has not yet been sown with this blessed seed. We have within our power the ability to do more than we are doing. Watson observed that our natural tendency is to pledge a "seven" for the missions offering but upon mature deliberation we decide to play it safe and make it a "six." He preached that we should be counterintuitive and round our "seven" up to "eight." Seven was the number of completion, so to push for eight suggests that we go the extra mile. We should be generous because we don't know which of our "ships" will pay off. But "he who continually goes forth weeping, bearing seed for sowing, shall doubtless come again with rejoicing, bringing his sheaves with him" (Ps 126:5-6).

The most cynical people are those who have stopped giving. The secret to happiness is service. The secret to service is generosity. The secret to generosity is confidence in God's plan.

Two years ago, Dr. Ron Smith conceived of the Francis Asbury Society taking training sessions to church leaders around the world. We just completed our first Empower the Nations conference in Mexico City. It met and often exceeded our expectations. We taught evangelism, discipleship, biblical holiness, and the plan of full salvation to leaders of a half-dozen denominations or organizations. At least half of the participants travelled 14-18 hours to be there. We are building a partnership with them that involves us keeping in touch with them and supporting them in various ways (providing speakers at their events, resources for their congregations, etc.) as they carry out their ministries. They have covenanted to be mentors to others in their communities, which will result in multiplication of the gospel message.

Next month this curriculum will be taught to pastors in India via video conference. May God help us do more, not less. John Wesley has been credited for a statement that scholars say he did not actually make. Regardless of the source, let's join together to:

Do all the good we can, by all the means we can, in all the ways we can, in all the places we can, at all the times we can, to all the people we can, as long as ever we can. ✠

*Partnering for Ministry in Mexico* continued from page 10 them. *How can we take this experience to our own communities through micro-conferences on scriptural holiness, so that others can experience what we have this week, they asked. Can you help us multiply disciples and re-ignite Wesleyan spirituality in our country? What written and digital resources can you offer that will help us continue the learning journey?* We are humbled and excited to serve these leaders and support the heart-cry for spiritual awakening in their nation. A few of us will return later in 2023 or early in 2024 to host one-day conferences in several strategic venues around Mexico. This will be much more cost effective and multiply the impact of Empower the Nations for the Mexican churches. We are looking at the possibility of creating a Spanish version of the FAS website to offer content in the heart language of Hispanic cultures, much of it created and produced by national leaders with our approval. We have already secured a commitment from a group of talented digital content designers who participated in the conference and want to help us at minimal cost. These are only a few of the initiatives that are emerging from our dialogue with the Mexican leaders. We will share more with you very soon, along with specific ways that you can participate.

In the meantime, please pray for our new friends in Mexico. And continue to pray for the work of the Francis Asbury Society and for me as your humble servant. Blessings! ✠

## Support for Proclaiming the Fullness of God

Charlie Fiskeaux

May the Father grant you "to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith—that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Ephesians 3:19 ESV)

The Apostle Paul's prayer for the Ephesians church includes several dimensions of faith and Christian maturity, such as being strengthened through the Spirit, knowing the surpassing love of Christ, and being filled with the fullness of God. It is a privilege that our prayers and ministry activities can join with those of Paul—and others who have preceded us—to proclaim the fullness of God not only to those at home but also to those of other nations.

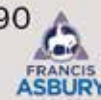
The Francis Asbury Society is dedicated to spreading the joyful message that all people everywhere can be transformed to love God and neighbor with pure hearts through the indwelling presence of the Holy Spirit. Accordingly, we seek persons who believe in taking the message of scriptural holiness to all people and who are prepared to support these efforts. Your contributions will enable the proclamation of the message of holiness to persons eager to know and experience "all the fullness of God." Details for various methods of giving to the ministries of the Francis Asbury Society are available on our website: [www.francisasburysociety.com/support](http://www.francisasburysociety.com/support). ✠

## Hosea



### A study with Dr. John Oswalt

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The Francis Asbury Society

throughout the world.

Christian holiness may continue to be lived and proclaimed loyalty and awareness so that the teaching and experience of Society to serve as a link between FAS and its constituents, building The High Calling is a bimonthly publication of The Francis Asbury

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