

Manuel Jesús Gaxiola Gaxiola
(1927-2014)



The Society for Pentecostal Studies marks the passing of former (1990) SPS president Manuel J. Gaxiola Gaxiola of Mexico City, and renders tribute to one of the hemisphere's visionary Pentecostal leaders and thinkers. A member of a prominent family within the Apostolic and other evangélico movements in Mexico and the United States, Rev. Gaxiola served as president (presiding bishop) of Mexico's Iglesia Apostolica de la Fe en Cristo Jesús for two terms, 1970-1974 and 1978-1982. His presidencies capped decades of service as a youth leader, editor of the Iglesia Apostólica's *Exégeta* periodical and Sunday school curriculum, pastor, district bishop, and theologian.

Manuel Gaxiola was among the first Latin American Pentecostals to earn a doctoral degree (University of Birmingham). In the early 1960s he caught the eye of missiologist Donald McGavarn, who invited him to study for his Masters degree at Fuller Seminary. This close collaboration allowed McGavarn, Peter Wagner and others to use the raw material of Latin American Pentecostalism to develop their theory of Church Growth, one of the great missiological breakthroughs of the late twentieth century.

The same year (1970) that saw the launching of the Society for Pentecostal Studies also saw the publication of Gaxiola's Fuller Seminary master's thesis, *La serpiente y la paloma* (the Serpent and the Dove), a church-growth analysis of the Iglesia Apostolica. The work garnered critical scholarly recognition. Walter Hollenweger marked it as the "first scholarly book" on Pentecostalism written by a Latin American Pentecostal.

In 1990 Manuel Gaxiola served as the SPS' first Oneness Pentecostal and Latin American president. The Society's 1993 meeting in Guadalajara, Mexico, hosted by the Iglesia Apostólica, and which featured an unprecedented encounter between Latin American, North American and European scholars, owed much to Gaxiola's effort. Gaxiola also provided one of the first typologies of Latin American pentecostalism, and guest-edited an important special *Pneuma* issue on Latin American Pentecostalism. Manuel Gaxiola left his imprint on Apostolicism—the very word "unicitario" is the word for "Oneness" that he introduced into the *apostólico* vocabulary and the lexicon of Latin American theologians.

Beyond his historical and theological writings, Gaxiola's contribution to SPS from the onset helped to bridge the Oneness-Trinitarian Pentecostal divide. He viewed the Society and its members as important potential mediators: "Either as an institution, or some of its members as individuals, [the SPS] could serve as a neutral and appropriate ground for significant dialogue and future encounters among the parties concerned." From his vantage point, Manuel Gaxiola was able to offer astute front-seat observations of liberal ecumenism (WCC Assembly in Bangkok, Thailand, 1973) and evangelical missions (Lausanne, Switzerland, 1974), and even of the International Roman Catholic-Pentecostal Dialogue, to which he was invited as an observer. In its Lifetime Achievement Award (2008), the SPS underscored Manuel Jesus Gaxiola's service as a modern-day "Barnabas" to the hemispheric and worldwide Pentecostal community.

In December 2013 Fuller Theological Seminary's Hubbard Library inaugurated the Manuel J. Gaxiola Collection, one of Latin American Pentecostalism's largest personal collections, as part of its new Apostolic Archives of the Americas.

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Stanley Monroe Horton
(1916-2014)



Dr. Horton addressing attendees of the 2014 SPS Friday evening plenary.

The Society for Pentecostal Studies marks the passing of former (1980) SPS president Stanley M. Horton of Springfield, Missouri.

Dr. Horton's maternal grandparents Elmer Kirk Fisher and Clara Daisy Sanford

participated in the historic Azusa Street Revival of 1906, leading the nearby Upper Room Mission. As a child of the Azusa Street Revival and Mission, Horton has served, in the words of General Superintendent George O. Wood, as a "bridge linking the Azusa revival to the present day."

Dr. Horton received his educational training at Los Angeles City College (A.A., 1935); University of California-Berkeley (B.S., 1937); Gordon College (now Gordon-Conwell Theological Seminary) (M.Div., 1944); Harvard University (S.T.M., 1945); and Central Baptist Theological Seminary (Th.D., 1959). He was Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Bible and Theology at the Assemblies of God Theological Seminary (AGTS), where he taught from 1978-1991. Prior to that, he served as chair of the Bible Department at Central Bible College from 1948-1978 and professor at Metropolitan Bible Institute from 1945-1948. He wrote the Assemblies of God Adult Teacher Sunday school curriculum for over twenty-five years. Upon his retirement from teaching in 1991 he held the position of General Editor of the Pentecostal Textbook Series/Logion Press in Springfield until 2000.

As a premier Pentecostal theologian, Dr. Horton was a renowned scholar and prolific writer who also continued to teach internationally until age 92.

He authored dozens of books--many of which have been translated into multiple languages, book chapters, and manuals and published more than 250 articles and book reviews. He served as chair of the editorial committee for *The Full-Life Study Bible* and its 2003 revision titled *Life in the Spirit Study Bible*. Foreign translations commonly refer to this as *The Fire Bible*. His book, *What the Bible Says about the Holy Spirit* (Gospel Publishing House, 1976), has long been the definitive text on that topic in universities and seminaries around the world. Dr. Horton served as the official translator of 1 and 2 Corinthians from Koine Greek to modern Messianic Jewish vernacular for the *Tree of Life Bible*, and also worked as senior editorial adviser for the Modern English Version of the Bible released in 2014 by Charisma.



His life of service has been characterized by a unique combination of Pentecostal fervor, a commitment to biblical scholarship, and Christ-like character. In 2010 AGTS honored Dr. Horton as a "Legacy Leader"-one who displays "fierce biblical faithfulness ... long tenure ... a high level of confidence but no appearance of arrogance or haughtiness ... [who] accepts the responsibility for [his or her] ministry ... [who] shows unconditional love for those he or she serves ... is persistent ... has a vision that always includes evangelistic passion ... and [who] makes decisions that will benefit the church ... well beyond their own tenure or even lifetime."¹ Part of that legacy was Dr. Horton's support of women in leadership as well as his commitment to racial reconciliation. "Scripture makes it clear that we're all one in Christ, and we need each other" he said.

In 2009, Gospel Publishing House released Dr. Horton's biography, *Stanley M. Horton: Shaper of Pentecostal Theology*. His full bibliography is available on the Flower Pentecostal Heritage Center web site.

¹ Thom S. Rainer, *Breakout Churches: Discover How to Make the Leap* (Grand Rapids, MI: Zondervan, 2010), 66-67.

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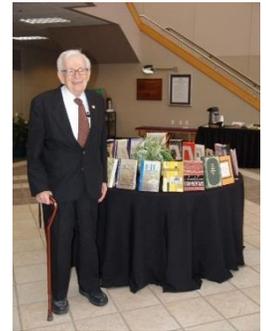
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Horace S. Ward
(1939-2014)



The Society for Pentecostal Studies marks the passing of Co-Founder and Executive Officer Horace S. Ward of Yukon, Oklahoma. In addition to being a founder of SPS in 1970, Ward served as treasurer (1975), president (1977), and executive secretary (1978 and 1979).

Horace Ward was born into the home of missionary parents serving in Brazil in 1939. He began his ministry as a youth on the streets of Arcoverde, Brazil. In his early ministry he served as a director of youth ministries, evangelist, pastor, and religious journalist. Although he traveled extensively as a speaker in conventions, youth camps, and spiritual retreats in North and South America, Europe and the West Indies, Horace Ward considered his primary ministry to be that of a pastor. He served his first church, the National Road Pentecostal Church in Springfield, Ohio, from 1957 to 1958. The next year he was founding pastor of Trinity Word Center in London, Ohio, where he served until 1966.

Horace Ward identified himself as “a scholar who learned to believe.” While pastor he earned both a B.A. from Cedarville College and a B.S. from Central (Ohio) State University in 1961. He later studied psychology at The Ohio State University where he earned the M.A. in 1966 and the Ph.D. in 1969. He also completed post-doctoral studies at Fuller Theological Seminary and Mennonite Brethren Biblical Seminary.

Horace Ward’s educational ministry began as an instructor at Ambassador Bible Institute in London, Ohio (1965-1966). The next year he joined the Lee College faculty in Cleveland, Tennessee. Later positions at Lee included assistant professor (1968-1969) and Dean of Students (1969-1971). While at Lee he was instrumental in the growth of a developing psychology major. Then in 1971 the Church of God asked Ward to become president of West Coast Bible College in Fresno, California. Under his leadership new construction, increased enrollment, and greater visibility brought the college to its zenith. Commenting on his educational leadership, Ward wrote, “During my years as an educator, I viewed my role as that of pastor; always a shepherd in the classroom; never just a professor in the pulpit.”

In 1980 Horace Ward moved to the position of assistant director of the Department of General Education at the Church of God International Offices in Cleveland, Tennessee. There he prepared curriculum for ministerial and lay enrichment and oversaw the continued development of a Ministerial Internship Program, which became a mandatory experience for ministerial advancement.

In 1982 Ward returned to his first ministerial love and served several significant congregations until his retirement. These were Central Parkway in Cincinnati, Ohio (1982-1990); Maranatha in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida (1990-1999); South Cleveland in Cleveland, Tennessee (1999-2002); and Easton, Maryland (2002-2006). Throughout his educational and pastoral ministry he was elected to Church of God State Councils, and was also elected for four terms to the Church of God International Executive Council. For eight years he was president of Renewed Life Ministries, an interdenominational fellowship of ministers and churches in eastern Florida.

As an author, Horace Ward frequently contributed to youth and adult Sunday school literature including a regular “Ask Doc” advice column for Junior High students. SPS published his chapter “The Anti-Pentecostal Argument” in *Aspects of Pentecostal-Charismatic Origins* (1975), and Pathway Press posthumously published his book, *Power for Living: Knowing, Trusting and Abiding in the Holy Spirit* (2014).

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