

A New Harvest of Theological Books in Spanish

Theology in the Spirit of Lausanne “Goes Marching” in Latin America

Samuel Escobar

Without visionary publishers it is impossible to continue an international or global theological dialogue in our time. Thanks to the untiring labors of René Padilla and his team at Ediciones Kairós, in Buenos Aires, Argentina, it is now possible to trace some of the more recent theological production of the *Fraternidad Teológica Latinoamericana* (FTL, Latin American Theological Fellowship).¹

Peruvian pastor, theologian, and missiologist, Samuel Escobar is president emeritus of the FTL. He currently resides and works in Spain with his wife Lilly.



¹ For many years the official name in English of the *Fraternidad Teológica Latinoamericana* was the *Latin American Theological Fraternity*. Given that the word “Fraternity” in North American English refers to male-only organizations, the title “Latin American Theological Fellowship” was adopted in 2006 as the official title in English to better express the composition and spirit of the organization.

René has served as an enthusiastic and hardworking editor of several collective volumes. As publisher he has stimulated and encouraged some authors to complete manuscripts and with evangelical and literary discernment has selected from manuscripts that were already available. In this article, a sort of literary review, I will limit myself to books published by Ediciones Kairós after 2004, with the exception of books by Justo L. González that were published before that year.

From Lausanne I to Lausanne III

Rene Padilla's presentation at the Lausanne Congress of Evangelism in 1974 became a milestone in theological reflection about holistic mission and evangelization. Lausanne 74 has been the source of much activity and networking among evangelicals around the world, but in Latin America what we may call "the spirit of Lausanne" was kept alive mainly by the theological work of the Latin American Theological Fellowship. Corresponding to the missionary vocation of evangelicalism, such theological work had a clear missiological dimension and has come to be known as "*misión integral*" (holistic mission). Padilla's book *Mission Between the Times* (Grand Rapids: Eerdmans, 1985) provides access to his contributions at crucial moments in the theological debate that took place during the decade that followed the Lausanne congress. Translated into several languages, it was widely used as a missiology textbook. I celebrate the

fact that for Lausanne III in Cape Town, a new edition of the book will be available for the younger generations of missionaries and missiologists.

Some of the books published by Kairós after 2004 are a continuation of the missiological reflection that had already been taking place, but more than that they are a testimony to missionary activity carried out in the spirit of Lausanne. René Padilla and Tetsunao Yamamori edited *El proyecto de Dios y las necesidades*

