

Hispanic Baptists to come together for evangelism, worship, training at SBC '23

Written By: Keila Diaz  
May 5, 2023

NEW ORLEANS (BP) – As the annual Southern Baptist Convention gathering in New Orleans draws closer, Hispanic Baptists are gearing up for a time of evangelism, celebration, fellowship and equipping opportunities.

More than 30 Hispanic pastors have already signed up for Crossover, an evangelistic event that takes place each year in the host city of the SBC annual meeting. The group has partnered with six local Hispanic churches to canvass those communities praying, sharing the Gospel and inviting lost people to church.

Crossover will start on June 7 and culminate with a big dinner and celebration on Sunday, June 11, in the New Orleans Convention Center's Great Hall. The dinner will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the celebration will start at 6 p.m. [Register here.](#)

Pastors and wives are invited to register for the dinner, and the celebration will be open to all who wish to attend.

**Eloy Rodriguez**, pastor of Idlewild Baptist Church Español near Tampa, Fla., is organizing the event as a member of the National Hispanic Baptist Network (NHBN).

“I encourage all our Hispanic pastors and wives to attend for two reasons: it will be a great time to fellowship, and it will be a great time to celebrate what God is doing amongst Hispanics,” Rodriguez said.

“Serving the Lord, Serving Others” will be the theme for this year's Hispanic gathering, reflecting the theme for the SBC annual gathering.

The dinner will also serve as an opportunity for Southern Baptist partners to share Spanish-language ministry resources with the pastors. Representatives from the six Southern Baptist seminaries will form a panel moderated by Luis Lopez, executive director of Hispanic relations and mobilization with the SBC Executive Committee.

“I encourage Hispanics to participate in these events to be inspired by what God is doing with and through the Hispanic population for the Great Commission,” Lopez said. “This will also be a great time to fellowship with brothers and sisters from other states and see that we belong to a great family of believers.”

The Hispanic Celebration will feature guest speaker Bruno Molina, executive director of the NHBN and interfaith evangelism associate of the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention. Worship will be led by Julio Arriola, director of Send Network Texas in partnership with the Southern Baptists of Texas Convention.

The dinner and celebration will be preceded by a time of prayer led by David Perez, pastor of Iglesia Casa de Bendicion in St. Cloud, Fla. and prayer team leader of the NBHN. The time of prayer is open to all pastors who wish to participate as the group prays for the nation, the SBC, and the NBHN that it may continue to be of support to the churches it serves. The prayer time will be from 4-4:30 p.m. in the Great Hall.

On Monday, June 12, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Hispanic pastors and leaders will have more than 20 Spanish language workshops to choose from. The workshops will focus on different ministerial areas available to pastors, leaders, and churches in Spanish. These will be held at Hotel Sheraton New Orleans Grand Ball Room A-E.

On Tuesday, June 13, at 1:15 p.m. and Wednesday, June 14, at 9:10 a.m. the CP Stage in the Exhibit Hall in the convention center will host panels in Spanish on the topics, “Making Evangelism a Priority in the Church” and “How to Lead a Church that is Divided?”

The Tuesday afternoon panelists speaking to making evangelism a priority will be Julio Crespo, Send Network Español Southeast Champion; Eloy Rodriguez; Gilberto Corredera, Pastor Prestonwood en Español; Joshua del Risco, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Vida Nueva in Fultondale, Ala.

On Wednesday morning, the panelists speaking on the topic of leading a divided church will be Julio Guarneri, President of the Baptist General Convention of Texas; Ruben Torres, Second Vice president of the Georgia Baptist Convention; and David Rodriguez, pastor of Iglesia Bautista Horeb in New Orleans.



ENJOYING THE JOURNEY OF LIFE

A MINISTRY FOR SENIOR ADULTS

## MEET OUR SPEAKERS

### SEPTEMBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER ~ MIKE KAHN ~ September 20, 2018

Mike Kahn was born and raised in Tampa and grew up in the Forest Hills area. He graduated from Chamberlain High School and received an Electrical Engineering degree from the University of South Florida. He worked as an engineer with Tampa Electric for over seven years. Mike is currently serving as the Director of the Tampa Bay Baptist Association.



Mike Kahn

Mike received Christ at the age of 15 at a youth camp in Ridgecrest, NC. He grew spiritually and became a leader at his home church, Idlewild Baptist. He met his future wife, Teena Davis, at Idlewild and they were married in 1982. Teena is a registered nurse. They have three children: Daniel, Jonathan, and Elizabeth who are all serving the Lord at Idlewild.

Mike, Teena, and Daniel left Tampa while Mike attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary from 1988-1990 where he received a Masters of Divinity degree. Teena worked part-time to put Mike through school. For three years, Mike served as Youth & Singles Minister at Tampa Baptist Church (now Christ Fellowship) and then for 19 years at Idlewild Baptist Church as Single Adult Minister for 7 years and next as Adult Minister for 12 years. [Continued on Page 2](#)

### OCTOBER LUNCHEON SPEAKER ~ PASTOR ELOY RODRIGUEZ ~ October 18, 2018



Pastor Eloy Rodriguez

Eloy Rodriguez has been a Pastor for over 20 years. Prior to coming to Idlewild to plant a Hispanic Church, "Idlewild en Espanol," he planted two churches in Orlando, FL. He volunteered as a Chaplain with Good News Ministry and Orange County Jail Ministry before being the co-founder of the Spanish Jail Ministry in Orlando. He is currently the Hispanic Chaplain of the New York Yankees Minor League team.

He has served in our Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) in different capacities, member of the Florida Baptist Convention (FBC) nominating committee, member of the local associations of Greater Orlando Baptist Association and Tampa Bay Baptist Association as President of the Hispanic fellowship and as moderator. Eloy also has been a conference speaker for North American Missions Board and the FBC language departments in the areas of Evangelism and Discipleship. In addition, before coming to Tampa, he was a contract worker in the Church Planting Department of our Baptist Convention. [Continued on Page 2](#)

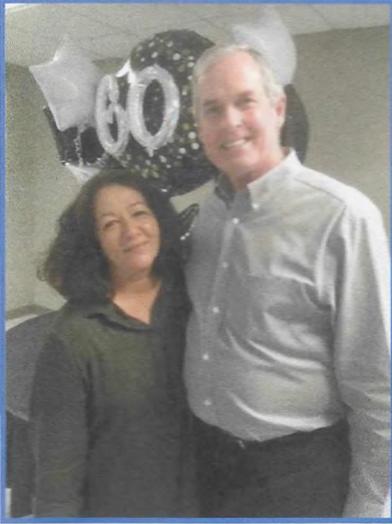


Idlewild  
ENJOYING THE JOURNEY OF LIFE  
A MINISTRY FOR SENIOR ADULTS

## SEPTEMBER-OCTOBER

### MEET OUR SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER SPEAKERS (CONT.)

#### MIKE KAHN (Cont. from Pg. 1)



Mike and Teena Kahn

Mike also oversaw the Adult Sunday School Ministry, Men's & Women's Ministry, and taught the Evangelism Explosion and F.A.I.T.H. training.

Mike's passion is living out the Great Commandment and the Great Commission while teaching others to do the same. He believes that churches must focus on obeying the essentials. In addition to the Great Commandment and Great Commission, these essentials are having authentic, accountable friendships; building strong marriages; living in sexual purity; and being mighty in prayer.

The Kahn family lives in northwest Tampa near Teena's parents and Mike's mother. Mike greatly enjoys being with his family and friends, exercising (walking, tennis, swimming), reading (A. W. Tozer is his favorite), and college football (Gators, Seminoles, and Bulls). We are honored to have Pastor Mike Kahn as our September Luncheon Guest Speaker!

#### PASTOR ELOY RODRIGUEZ (Cont. from Pg. 1)



Eloy and Sol Rodriguez

In addition, before coming to Tampa, he was a contract worker in the Church Planting Department of our Baptist Convention. Eloy earned a Master of Divinity degree from Luther Rice Seminary. His greatest joy – other than Jesus Christ being His Lord and Savior – is his family...his wife of 35 years, Sol, and his six children: Gabriel, Joel, Esther, Samuel, Daniel, and Analise (now in Glory). In his spare

time, Pastor Eloy also enjoys playing basketball, other sports, and being with his family as much as possible.



During a church service....



The Rodriguez Children