



# Sola Scriptura

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## “Abba, Father”

For those who are led by the Spirit of God are the children of God. The Spirit you received does not make you slaves, so that you live in fear again; rather, the Spirit you received brought about your adoption to sonship.

And by him we cry,

“Abba, Father.”

Romans 8:14-15 NIV

# “A Mighty Fortress is Our God”

## October: Month of the Protestant Reformation



### Meet our President...

#### Dr. Rev. Samuel D. Pagán, Esq.

Las Americas Theological Seminary & Christian College (ATS-CC) is very proud of having as its first president the Dr. Rev. Samuel D. Pagán.

Dr. Pagán, or Samuel David, as all his friends call him, is a true man of God with a heart to serve Him.

Married to his wife Mayra for over 32 years, Samuel and Mayra have four children and four grandchildren and expecting their fifth one soon.

Dr. Pagán was born in San Juan, Puerto Rico. He is the grandchild of two pastors on both sides of his family.

A very talented student in school, Samuel was able to excel in his high school studies and graduated with honors at only 15 years of age, allowing him to enter the University of Puerto Rico and graduating with a B.A. He soon enrolled in the Catholic University Law School in Ponce, P.R. where he studied Law and graduated with a Juris Doctor by age 22.

After serving as one of Puerto Rico's youngest judges and having served in numerous public offices, Samuel and Mayra felt God's calling to go full time into the ministry and that led them to Chicago, at Bethany Theological Seminary where he completed a Masters of Divinity. He was ordained by the Mennonite Church USA.

He completed his Doctor in Ministry at New York Theological Seminary and is currently in the process of a Ph.D. in history from the Center for Advanced Studies in Puerto Rico. Dr. Pagán has served extensively for many years as an immigration lawyer defending the rights of the poor and needed, as well as serving on various commissions at the State, and Federal Government level.

He now resides in Guaynabo, Puerto Rico and travels as a member of Las Americas Evangelistic Association to preach the Gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ in different countries.

We WELCOME Dr. Pagán and his family to ATS-CC, and May God Bless You!

## What ATS-CC is all about

By: Dr. Rev. Samuel D. Pagán, Esq.  
President of ATS-CC, San Juan, P.R.

**Las Americas Theological Seminary and Christian College (ATS-CC)**, is a dream come true, for Las Americas Evangelistic Association (L.A.E.A.) and for the Body of Christ all around the world. In the fulfillment of the great commission and our calling to preach the Gospel of the Kingdom, to the world and to make disciples in all nations, "ATSCC" has emerged as a theological educational institution and the educational arm within the frame of the evangelistic outreach for spiritual and theological formation in our mission to make disciples. With missions affiliated to LAEA in four continents: South and Central America, North America, Europe and Africa, it is an urgent need for LAEA to develop an educational arm flexible enough to be able to video record live classes and transmit these classes to other locations worldwide, interacting with students by utilizing the Internet.

During the month of March, at the "Fourth Pastor's and Leader's Congress of Las Americas Evangelistic Association", held in Miami, Florida, I was called to be the President, and to lead an effort to organize and developed a Theological Seminary for the Association. I accepted the call for this educational venture in prayer and total dependency in God. Since then, I began working on this project, which had been conceived and worked on for many years before by many men and women of God, and in June we moved to Puerto Rico with the vision of preparing the entire legal framework, curriculum, recruiting the best faculty, and doing all the necessary preparations required for commencement for the academic year 2011-2012.

Up to now we have an outstanding group of professors, all who have doctoral degrees, and who have confirmed their commitment to teach at ATS. In addition to myself, Dr. Samuel Pagan (who shares both of my names), a world renowned scholar in Hebrew literature and translator of the Bible into the Spanish language, will be a visiting professor in our faculty and has also accepted to be an honorary member of our Board of Directors led by the Chairperson and Chancellor of ATS-CC, the Rev. Ernesto (Ernie) Rivera Vega, who is also the President and Founder of Las Americas Evangelistic Association and President of the Barbara Ann Roessler Ministries in Puerto Rico. Dr. Evelyn De Jesús, Dr. Alma Villegas, Dr. Miguel Ortiz, Dr. Alberto Arroyo and Dr. Rev. Mark Rivera among others have all confirmed their intentions in participating in the first academic semester of our seminary. Currently we are engaged in a very positive dialogue with other potential professors and seminary staff. We scheduled the inauguration of Las Americas Theological Seminary & Christian College (ATS-CC) for September 12, 2011 in our modern and ample campus in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

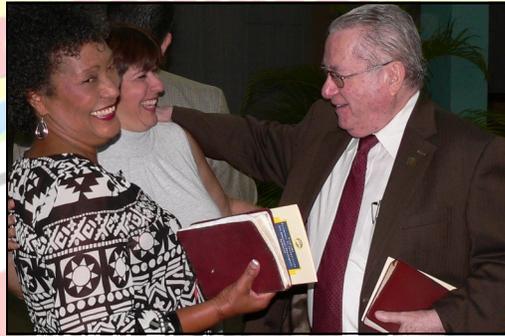
We are inviting pastors of different congregations that are interested in opening an "Off Campus Site"; where they can download the classes and project these on a screen in their own classroom facilities to a group of students who can benefit from our online program. We are also inviting all Christians who are interested to come and take classes at our main campus facilities or to any other geographical sites where internet service is available. Please continue to pray for this work of faith and we trust God's leading so we may continue this ministry.

The physical address of our main campus is: **Avenida Las Cumbres, Esq. Carr. 176, Km. 4.2 in Cupey, San Juan, Puerto Rico**, located on the second floor of the administration building of the Barbara Ann Roessler Ministries. You can contact us at the main switchboard of the ministries; **(787) 760-3400** or directly to my cell phone number at **(305) 300-8692**. My personal email is: **sdpagan5@gmail.com**. We are working on the web page, therefore we will very soon be able to communicate thru the web.

## Grand Inauguration of Las Americas Theological Seminary Highlights and Photographs. Monday, September 12, 2011.



After many months of meetings and prayer, the joy of seeing ATS-CC become a reality is expressed in the faces of the founding members; (from left to right), Dr. Mark E. Rivera-Vice President of ATS and Academic Dean, Dr. Samuel D. Pagan -President of ATS, and Rev. Ernesto (Ernie) Rivera-Vega, Chancellor and President of the Board of Directors.



Celebration and laughter was common, as guests share with the Dr. Rev. Mario E. Rivera- Mendez, at the inauguration. (From left to right) future professors, Maria Luisa Adorno, Dr. Nora Mujica and Dr. Rivera



Planning this event took the help of various people like Mrs. Zoraida Carter who also gave the greeting message to everyone.



Dr. Samuel Pagán and Dr. Mark E. Rivera, share a time of fellowship during the inaugural ceremony.



Dr. Alma Villegas, one of the faculty members of ATS-CC, gestures with excitement as she speaks to Mr. Emanuel Garcia who is head of our technology division.



Inspiring words were spoken by Dr. Samuel Pagan to all the attendees, reminding them that every vision has its challenges but trusting in God assures victory.



Serving as host to the event we had two seminary students; Mr. Ernest J. Rivera and his lovely wife Sarah, greeting everyone at the door.



Dr. Perfecto Garcia who is a Faculty member of ATS-CC, congratulates everyone present in the birth of the new Theological Seminary.



Chancellor Ernie Rivera with his parents, Dr. Mario E. Rivera Méndez and Rosita Vega, founders of the mission in Puerto Rico.



## A Divine Initiative

By: Rev. Dr. Mark Rivera-Vice President of ATS-CC

“God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which he loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ” (Eph. 2:4-5).

*Divine Initiative* is something that has been studied, and even debated, throughout centuries. How far going is the influence of the *Divine Initiative*? Is God behind everything, almost everything, in partial things, or only in the beginnings and nothing else?

*Divine Initiative* states that God is the one who begins something. There are some people who think that God initiates everything, whereas there are others who think that God initiates only some things. But the question arises; Isn't God behind everything that exists and happens in the universe? An example of *Divine Initiative* is observed when we see a person come to the feet of Christ in repentance, as it appears in John 1:35-39.

In this portion of the Gospel of John, John the Baptist is next to two of his disciples. At the moment John sees Jesus walking and he says to his disciples: “Here comes the, the Lamb of God”. John the Baptist risked losing two of his disciples, they could have followed another teacher, but he did it because he recognized the greatness he was observing. When both disciples began to follow Jesus, our Lord turned around and he asked them, “ what do you want? With this action our Lord showed what *Divine Initiative* is all about.

*Divine Initiative* has been seen throughout all of eternity. God always has been God, The one who initiated all of creation. We cannot think of any time when God has not been God. He has always been and will always be. Eternally God has been the initiator.

When we consider the beginning of a new educational institution, like a Theological Seminary, we must also think that it is part of that divine conduct called *Divine Initiative* . This is what has recently happened with the beginning of ***Las Americas Theological Seminary and Christian College***. We firmly believe that God, in His *Divine Initiative* and eternal grace, put in the heart of His servants the desire to do a Theological Seminary where His Word will be taught giving so many the opportunity to learn sound theological beliefs.

Nowadays there are many powerful theological movements that influence our churches. Some of them mentioned by the theologian Bloesch , i.e., the *mystical syncretism* and the *latitudinarianism*, have arisen from the same church. Frequently these have directed Christian thought in an opposite direction of the Word of God. We know that there are theological movements outside and within the Christian church, but the movements within the church are more difficult to contend with. The church tends to believe churches more than other tendencies outside the church.

The Christian Church must return to a careful study of the Word of God. Not to the teachings of eager men who want to create a name for themselves, entertaining new teachings that they themselves invent. It is so sad that there is so much of that happening nowadays. But more laborious is the amount of Christians who fall victims to these false lessons. Sometimes these false teachings seem to be very inoffensive, “small little distortions” of the Word of God, but in the long run, they finish being great influences by the phenomenon known like conceptual magnification of belief.

Let us pray to God that **Las Americas Theological Seminary and Christian College** be a vehicle of unique value and purpose, where thousands of men and women may be taught the true Word of God without blemishes or distortions of any kind. Today more than ever it is necessary to have voices that will declare the truth according to the Word of God. We are confident, that God will give us the direction, motivation and the strength with boldness, to fulfill His *Divine Charge* .

For more information concerning Las Americas Theological Seminary and Christian College and how to open an extension “Off Campus Site” in your church or ministry, please contact us at;

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