

## Acknowledgments

This study is the result of the contributions, support, and encouragement of many individuals. Dr. Edwin Sylvest consistently challenged me to move from the periphery to the heart of this study. His enlightened perspective on Hispanic Christianity made him an excellent and engaging dialogue partner. Through his unique style of guidance, he helped make this endeavor as much a spiritual project as an academic one. Dr. William Babcock encouraged me to make this more than a denominational history, to expand the original subject to include other traditions. Dr. William Taylor inspired me to consider the nuances, ambiguities, and paradoxes endemic in history. Dr. Daisy L. Machado offered encouragement and inspired me to confront the provocative issues of our Hispanic reality. Dr. David Maldonado also offered helpful suggestions and kept reminding me of the importance of this project. His willingness to treat me as a colleague is greatly appreciated. By inviting me to assist him on his three-year project on Hispanic Protestantism, he exposed me to several new and old voices in this tradition.

I extend my gratitude to those persons who provided comments on my dissertation to revise it for this book—Justo L. González, Roberto Gómez, Robert Wright, and Ulricke Guthrie. I also thank Timothy Matovina and Robert Wright for their comments on Latino/a Catholicism.

Much gratitude goes to the staff and community of the Hispanic Theological Initiative, who provided financial, intellectual, and emotional support for this study.

My gratitude also goes to the members of the Rio Grande Conference and other Mexican-American Protestants who generously allowed me to interview them and who supplied me with obscure historical gems.

Thanks also to my colleagues at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest for their support and encouragement.

Information on Spanish-speaking Protestants was gathered from various archival locations. I am grateful to the staff of several libraries and archival collections at universities and seminaries throughout Texas and New Mexico. The Reverend Page Thomas of Bridwell Library at Perkins School of Theology was invaluable in providing me with his expertise on the United Methodist archives there. Dale Patterson of the United Methodist Church's historical agency, the General Commission on Archives and History, located at Drew University, was very helpful. I also thank the staff of other libraries who assisted with archival work—Ellen Brown at the Texas Collection at Baylor University, Bill Brock and Kris Toma, the archivists at Stitt Library at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary, the staff at the Menaul Library of the U.S. Southwest in Albuquerque, Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Alan Lefever and the staff at the Texas Baptist Historical Collection in Dallas, and the Hispanic Baptist Theological School in San Antonio. Thanks also to Mikail McIntosh-Doty of the Booher Library at the Episcopal Theological Seminary of the Southwest, who responded promptly to my many questions and requests, and to Donna Hall, my student assistant.

I am grateful to Stacy Stringer and Janice Jones for their excellent assistance with the index.

Each of these people contributed to the present work; at the same time, however, I take full responsibility for the content of this study.

A special thanks to my parents, Roy and Rosa Marina Barton, whose lives have been a blessing to me and countless others. This study is in some sense my parents' history told from their son's perspective. They provided constant support for this project.

Lastly, but most importantly, my deepest gratitude goes to my wife, Beth, and my daughter, Elisa. This is their project as much as mine.