

December 15, 2011



Dear Friends,

The greatest gift that we have is love: the Father's infinite love incarnate in his Son Jesus at Bethlehem, Jesus' immeasurable love accomplished at Calvary, and the Holy Spirit's endless working love that compels us every day to live for Him and love all others as He does. What a supreme example that we have!

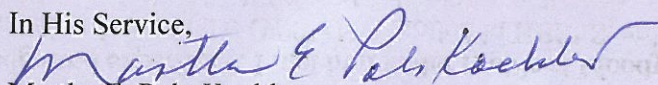
Our love for God and others has to be tangible, comprehensive and persistent: tangible, because it is not a concept, but it is deeds of proclamation and justice; comprehensive, because it ministers to the whole person; and persistent, because it continuously seeks the opportunities to serve and offer a helping hand to others. In this regard, the Hispanic Bible School endeavors, with your help, to fulfill its mission of preparing men and women to accomplish God's calling for their lives in preaching, teaching and modeling the Gospel of Jesus Christ to the lost and to the church.

Every semester at the Hispanic Bible School, as the professors teach between 16 to 18 classes per semester, either at our main campus or an extension site, we are able to observe their zeal for teaching the Word, encouraging their students to apply what they have learned wherever the Lord sends them to serve. All our teachers amaze me for their enthusiasm and love for the students. For example, Dr. Rupe Simms, a man with passion for God and his Word, brings to the classroom a wealth of knowledge and experience. I met him in the 1980's at Moody Bible Institute when he taught me Hermeneutics there. In the 1990's he enrolled in HBS' Spanish classes, in order to practice and enhance his Spanish vocabulary and skills. Needless to say, he was an excellent student, not only mastering the Spanish language, but also offering to teach Bible and Theology to our students in Spanish.

He was an answer to our prayers. At the HBS we always pray that the Lord allow us to have a faculty committed to God's Word and able to teach with excellence. Dr. Simms is a scholar, he is the director of the Center for Africana Studies at North Park University of Chicago, and also teaches Urban Studies at Seminary Consortium for Urban Pastoral Education (SCUPE). He holds two Ph.D., one from Dallas Theological Seminary in Bible Exposition and the other from Loyola University in Sociology. Recently, he told me: "Thank you sister for allowing me to teach. It is an honor to teach the HBS' students".

As we pray for the resources to allow us to continue serving in an affordable manner, we are very grateful for our faculty members. They bring their talents and skills to prepare the servants of the church. We remember you with gratitude in our prayers, because it is through your faithful partnership that we are able to accomplish this service. And as Christmas time approaches, we want to wish you a blessed celebration of our Redeemer's birth, at the same time thanking you, because you represent God's love for us and for those who want to be trained to better do God's work enhancing His kingdom.

In His Service,

  
Martha E. Polo Koehler  
Acting President