The Willson Lectures

The Public is Welcome

April 2-3, 2007

Rev. José Miguel Torres

Lecturers continued
• James Childress
• Walter Brueggemann
• Schubert M. Ogden
• Elise Boulding
• John Punshon
• John H. Yoder
• Allan Geyer
• Virginia Ramey Mollenkott
• James A. Forbes, Jr.
• Demaris Wehr
• Tatiana Pavlova
• David G. Bloesch
• Rosemary Radford Ruether
• Barbara G. Wheeler
• Marjorie Sachocki
• Daniel Smith-Christopher
• James Walvin
• Margery Post Abbott
• Jim Wallis
• Margaret Kornfeld
• Ted Peters
• Luke Timothy Johnson
• Margaret Benefiel

Directions to ESR:
Approach Richmond via Interstate 70, exiting at Williamsburg Pike south, merging after about a mile into Northwest 5th Street. Follow Northwest 5th Street to U.S. 40 (National Road W.). Turn right and prepare to turn left one block later, at College Avenue. Turn left (south) on College Avenue. The ESR Center (stone building) sits on the southwest corner. To reach the parking lot, continue south on College Avenue to the first stop sign, turn right. Turn right again at the next stop sign and take the next right into the large parking lot.
The Last Chance for a Return to Basic Principles by a Western Christianity Devoid of Meaning

This year’s lecture series will consider these themes:

- Centuries of domination that culminate in the globalization of unjust relations.
- The Christian prophetic task to unmask the insatiable avarice of transnational power groups.
- Are those excluded from a system of distribution and dividends excluded from the kingdom and love of God?
- The alternative movements of marginalized groups and their feeling of uselessness in the face of power.
- Pentecost as a model generating creative energies, reconstructing a society of participation and mutual cooperation, redistributing riches, and eradicating poverty and inequality.
- The Christian faith as resource in the struggle for dignity, creativity, and human liberty in any socio-economic order.
- The churches between the awakening of the Christian conscience and silent complicity as a negation of the faith.
- The revolution of reconciliation and peace as the base of all hope.

This year’s lecturer:

REVEREND JOSÉ MIGUEL TORRES is Assistant Director of the Instituto de Investigaciones y Acción Social Martin Luther King at the Universidad Politécnica de Nicaragua. Since the 1970s, his ministry has included serving as a Baptist pastor, a university pastor, as well as the founder of various Central American organizations that work for peace and justice. Rev. Torres has also lectured in the United States, France, and Germany.

Schedule of Events

MONDAY, APRIL 2, 2007
7:30 p.m. ESR Center
Lecture I: Conflicting idolatries and the dehumanization of mammon in the world market

TUESDAY, APRIL 3, 2007
10:00 a.m. ESR Center
Lecture II: The revolutionary sensitivity of the suffering and the emptiness of Grace, the compassion for all humanity

11:20 a.m. ESR Dining Room
Common Meal
[Persons wishing to attend Common Meal should contact Rita Cummins at ESR for reservations/payment information.]

12:00 p.m. ESR Center
Lecture III: God’s action in history as a base of ethical Christianity and concrete practices of social liberation

Willson Lectures

The Willson Lectureship was established at Earlham College and Earlham School of Religion in 1967 by Dr. and Mrs. J. M. Willson of Floydada, Texas. Previous lecturers are:

- Charles Davis
- Dr. Carl F.H. Henry
- John Sherrill
- Wayne Oates
- Dr. J. Rodman Williams
- Dr. J. Calvin Keene
- David Ensign
- Langdon Gilkey
- Stephen C. Neill
- Rolf Knierim
- Dr. Martin E. Marty
- Dr. Sidney E. Ahlstrom
- Ross Snyder
- James Fowler
- Krister Stendahl

Continued on next panel