Obituary for Carlos René Padilla (12 October 1932–27 April 2021)

Family, friends, colleagues, coworkers, and parishioners from Latin America and around the world mourn the death of Dr. Carlos René Padilla as a father, pastor, theologian, and missiologist. He was born 12th October 1932 in Quito, Ecuador and died peacefully on 27th April 2021 in Buenos Aires, Argentina. René was a man who loved his family: Catharine Feser, his first wife who preceded him in death (2009), Beatriz Vásquez, his second wife, his five children and their spouses, Ruth (James), Sara (Mauricio), Elisa (Esteban), Margarita (Marcelo), Daniel (Andrea) and his grandchildren.

He earned his BA and MA from Wheaton College and received a doctoral degree in New Testament from Manchester University, England, under the direction of F.F. Bruce. His journey continued, serving and influencing many organizations. René wrote extensively and his work was translated into many languages, but he preferred to mentor and encourage others to write. Hundreds of books were published by Certeza, Nueva Creación, and Ediciones Kairós under his editorial leadership, thus leaving an example of scholarship and generosity.

Among Dr. Padilla's papers there was a song written in 1992 by Jaqueline Cuero Quiñones. Even today some of her words reflect the reality that impacted his theology and his life: Latin America, *filled* with hunger and oppression / cries, laughs, groans and dances / It hurts but it holds up; it is rhythm and hope. The song resonated in Padilla's writings, as its central motifs were on the contextualization of the Gospel, integral mission, the kingdom of God and contextualized hermeneutics. Clearly these emerged as a response to the Latin American context under the guidance of the Holy Spirit and his love for the Word of God. Integral mission theology, in particular, has gone beyond the Latin American borders and dialogued with theologies of other continents. Dr. Padilla's greatest legacy may be that he wrote about these matters and lived them out in the context of the local church and his community.

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