

# Westphal, Enrique José (1903–1983)

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EUGENIO DI DIONISIO

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Enrique José Westphal served as a pastor, evangelist, and church administrator in the United States, Peru, Argentina, Paraguay, Uruguay, and Mexico.<sup>1</sup>

## Early Years, Studies, and Family

Enrique José Westphal was born on November 13, 1903, in Aldea Camarero (now Libertador San Martín), Entre Ríos, Argentina. His father, Joseph William Westphal (1861-1949), was a missionary, and pioneer administrator in South America, from 1901 to 1930.

Pastor Joseph William Westphal had three children with his first wife Allie Robinson: Florence (Flora) Lilian (1886-1921), Myrtle (1887-1888) and Arthur Leroy (1889-1983). With his second wife Jennie Peckover, he had Olivia Roberta (1902-1974), Enrique Joseph (1903-1983), Heriberto Melvin (1905-2007) and Chester Eduardo (1907-2002). Flora married pastor Eduardo Thomann; Olivia was a teacher in Argentina and in the United States; Heriberto was a doctor in the United States and Africa; Chester was a pastor in Inter-American Division and in the United States.<sup>2</sup>

Enrique Westphal studied at River Plate Academy, Entre Ríos, Argentina, and at Pacific Union College, USA. He married Barbara Luvern Osborne on July 11, 1927, and had the children: Halcyon Alicia, in Lima, Peru; Arthur Eugene, in Glendale, California, USA; Melbert Chester, in the current Libertador San Martín, Entre Ríos, Argentina; and Roland Howard who died when he was a child.

## Pastoral Ministry and Evangelism

From June 1, 1926, he worked in the Nevada Conference for a year. Later in the Amazonas Mission, based in Iquitos, Peru, Enrique worked for two years with pastor Ferdinand Anthony Stahl (1874-1950)<sup>3</sup> Later, he served in the Peru Mission, living in Lima for six years. Each year, Enrique Westphal held evangelistic meetings at each place where he was assigned to work: in Iquitos, Chepen, and Lima (Peru), La Plata (Buenos Aires, Argentina), in Montevideo (Uruguay), Acapulco (Mexico), etc.<sup>4</sup>

On March 1st, 1930, he was ordained to the pastoral ministry, with J. A. Schwerin and Pedro Kalbermatter. The ceremony was held in the city of Lima, Peru, led by the pastors Arthur Daniells, Carlyle B. Haynes and Joseph W.

Westphal.<sup>5</sup>

He was a pastor and lecturer in the city of La Plata, capital of the province of Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 1935 to 1937.<sup>6</sup> From 1938 to 1940 he directed departments in the North Argentina Mission, based in the city of Corrientes, Argentina. Later he served as a teacher at River Plate Academy for a semester.<sup>7</sup>

From 1941 to 1944 he was president of the Uruguay Mission, based in the city of Montevideo. During that time the first youth camp was held in the territory of the South American Division. He developed the radio program "La Voz de la Esperanza." He promoted the founding Uruguay Academy, a boarding school.<sup>8</sup>

While he was president of the Buenos Aires Conference, the conference donated land by the Buenos Aires Publishing House where the first school building of Buenos Aires Academy was constructed.<sup>9</sup>

In 1946 and 1947 he served as a pastor for a year in Holly, Michigan. From 1947 to 1953 he served as president of the Mexican Union. From 1954 to 1962, he was ministerial secretary, departmental and evangelist in the Inter-American Division. He finished his service at the Texas Conference in 1966.<sup>10</sup>

## Final Years and Legacy

After retirement, he conducted evangelistic campaigns in Trinidad, Virgin Islands, Jamaica, Venezuela, Mexico, and California.<sup>11</sup> He died on September 14, 1983, in Deer Park, California. He was an outstanding evangelist, valued and remembered for his dynamic pastoral leadership.

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