


*This is a history of the Mexican Baptist work which started in the mid-20th century in South Chicago, IL and about its people and leaders and how they spread the Gospel to Spanish-speaking families in an industrial area.*

**The First Baptist Church of South Chicago:**  
Facilitator in Establishing the First Mexican Baptist Church in South Chicago  
By George Béloz PhD

**Order the book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)  
<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/13635.html?s=pdf>  
or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**



GEORGE BÉLOZ, PH.D.

# FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH CHICAGO

FACILITATOR IN  
ESTABLISHING THE FIRST

**MEXICAN BAPTIST CHURCH**

IN SOUTH CHICAGO,  
INCLUDES FOUNDING OF  
COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
OF CHICAGO

Copyright © 2024 George Béloz, Ph. D.

Print ISBN: 978-1-958890-16-5

Ebook ISBN: 979-8-88531-531-9

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system, or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of the author.

Published by BookLocker.com, Inc., Trenton, Georgia.

BookLocker.com, Inc.

2024

First Edition

Library of Congress Cataloging in Publication Data

Béloz, Ph. D., George

The First Baptist Church of South Chicago by George Béloz, Ph. D.

Library of Congress Control Number: 2023911403

## DEDICATION

This book is dedicated<sup>1</sup> to all the congregants who worshipped God and served Christ in the community in this building since 1879 when the First Baptist of South Chicago was chartered<sup>2</sup>. Subsequently, it was a glorious day when these early English-speaking immigrants and first-generation Americans celebrated the opening of their House of God in 1885.

Similarly, this work is dedicated to the early immigrant, emigrants, and first-generation Mexicans who in 1926 established their Spanish-speaking in the building they co-shared the premises for almost three decades with the English-speaking Baptist congregation. The Mexican congregation used their initial name of *Primera Iglesia Bautista Mexicana de Sur Chicago* (First Mexican Baptist Church of South Chicago). In the 1930s, they changed their name to, *Iglesia Bautista El Salvador* (El Salvador Baptist Church).

In 1953, the First Baptist Church of South Chicago moved to another nearby neighborhood. Consequently, the Mexican Baptist congregation had the opportunity to purchase the building and one parcel of land and moved forward with God's providence. It changed its name again in a later years to *Primera Iglesia Bautista El Salvador*. Then in the 1960s, the Mexican Baptist Church changed its name to *Iglesia Bautista Del Salvador* (Del Salvador Baptist Church), which was its final name. This book is about these men and women and their work in South Chicago.

I am glad to have been able to find some scarce documentation about the history of the Mexican Baptist leaders, their ministry and activities. They were more than a singular sentence reference in the history of the Baptist work in South Chicago. Their history reveals how they struggled and succeeded in spreading the Gospel through their sixty-five year Christian ministry from 1926-1991 when it ceased its religious services as a congregation.

*The First Baptist Church of South Chicago*

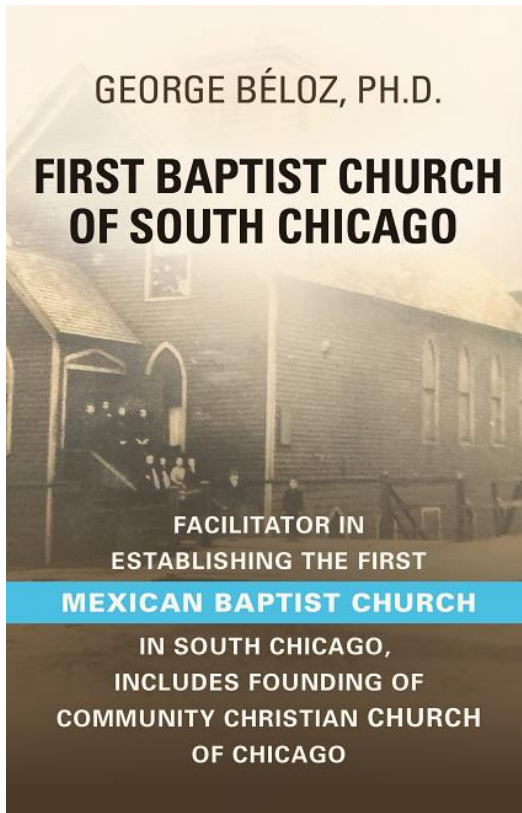
Their legacy is a glorious story of Believers representing men, women, children, and youth. They were unabashed for Christ in the challenging environs of South Chicago and nearby communities and other states. I was a humble servant here during some of these years and am honored to share this long overdue narrative.

# Contents

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS .....	9
INTRODUCTION .....	11
PART I: FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH CHICAGO .....	15
Founding (1879) .....	15
Early Photo of Building (circa 1885) .....	28
Pastors (1885-1953) .....	33
Move to a New Campus (1953).....	36
The Cultural Institutions Research .....	38
PART II: THE FIRST MEXICAN BAPTIST CHURCH OF SOUTH CHICAGO (1926) .....	43
Historical References .....	45
Pastors of The Iglesia Bautista Del Salvador 1926-1991 .....	50
PART III: MEXICANS PURCHASE THE BAPTIST BUILDING (1953) .....	55
Description of Building and Neighborhood.....	55
New Owners, Old Challenges .....	78
Membership Directories .....	82
Three Additional Land Parcels Bought (1965).....	85
Building Signage .....	87
Interior Beautification .....	88
Interior Description .....	90
Entrance View .....	93
The Sanctuary Pulpit .....	103
Holy Communion Sacrament ( <i>la Santa Cena</i> ) .....	104
Baptism Sacrament .....	106
Music In the Services.....	109
Christian Education .....	112
Sunday Morning Worship Services .....	117
Sunday Evening Services .....	119
Wednesday Evening Meetings .....	122
Additional Christian Education.....	123
Special Music Programs .....	124

*The First Baptist Church of South Chicago*

A Good Friday Cantata .....	129
Other Choir Programs .....	133
Children in Music and Dramas .....	136
Beauty in Historic Houses of God .....	138
<b>PART IV: LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT .....</b>	<b>143</b>
Mexican Immigrants Choose South Chicago.....	143
Hispanic Leadership Recognition .....	153
Hispanic Baptist Conventions and Associations.....	161
Presidents of The Convención Bautista Hispana-Americana 1928-1978.....	164
Youth Activities .....	171
<b>PART V: FOUNDING OF COMMUNITY CHRISTIAN CHURCH OF     CHICAGO (1960).....</b>	<b>177</b>
A Permanent Building Is Found (1988) .....	181
EPILOGUE .....	191
Notes About The Author .....	192
ABBREVIATIONS USED IN NOTES .....	193
NOTES.....	195
BIBLIOGRAPHY .....	199
MEMBERS AND VETERANS OF IGLESIA BAUTISTA DEL SALVADOR.....	201
INDEX .....	203



*This is a history of the Mexican Baptist work which started in the mid-20th century in South Chicago, IL and about its people and leaders and how they spread the Gospel to Spanish-speaking families in an industrial area.*

**The First Baptist Church of South Chicago:**  
Facilitator in Establishing the First Mexican Baptist Church in South Chicago  
By George Béloz PhD

**Order the book from the publisher [Booklocker.com](https://www.booklocker.com)  
<https://www.booklocker.com/p/books/13635.html?s=pdf>  
or from your favorite neighborhood  
or online bookstore.**