

## INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRINTING BULLETINS

Note: Print half as many lasers as needed since each sheet of paper has 2 bulletins.  
Printing on a light tan or cream colored paper will provide a more historical look.

***If using a printer which prints 2-sided:***

Print page 2 on the front side and page 3 on the back side—landscape (horizontal) printing.

***If using a printer which prints 1-sided:***

Print page 2, then flip paper, place back in tray and print page 3—landscape (horizontal) printing.

After printing, cut printed bulletins in half. A swing-arm cutter works best.

Bulletins are copyrighted material.

For permission to reprint any text or images, please contact:

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# CELEBRATING 400 YEARS OF BEING BAPTIST

## *Hispanic Baptist Beginnings and Development*



The organization of Baptist churches by ethnic groups exploded in the last few decades, especially among Hispanic Baptists. In 2009, about 1,200 congregations affiliate with the La Convencion Bautista Hispana de Texas (The Hispanic Baptist Convention of Texas).

The origins of Hispanic Baptists in the United States may be traced back to the late nineteenth century when Baptist churches were organized in Laredo, Texas. John O. Westrup instigated this work in 1880 as a Southern Baptist missionary to Mexico. Westrup frequently



*Donato Ruiz*

crossed into Texas to preach to Mexicans living in Laredo, but his ministry was cut short when he was murdered during a trip to Coahuila, Mexico. His work was continued by his brother, Thomas, who baptized the first convert in 1881. By 1910, over two dozen Hispanic congregations had been planted throughout Texas.

Donato Ruiz was one of the leaders who helped to nurture the development of Hispanic Baptist work in Texas. Born in Mexico in 1882, Ruiz began teaching school at the age of eighteen. His school was in a rural area, and on weekends, he traveled back to his hometown of Nieves. One weekend, while visiting in his sister's home, Ruiz was introduced to a Baptist preacher. Ruiz responded to the preacher's invitation to follow Christ, and that same day, the new convert and the preacher went to a nearby river, and Ruiz was baptized.

Ruiz joined a Baptist church and soon felt called to preach. He studied in the seminary in Saltillo and pastored several churches in Mexico, and then in 1910, during the Mexican Revolution, Ruiz was imprisoned. Upon his release, he moved first to Los Angeles and then in 1920 to Texas, where he pastored numerous churches, including a twenty-year pastorate in San Angelo. Ruiz also helped establish the West Texas Baptist Bible Institute, served as a Southern Baptist home missionary, and attended the first meeting in 1910 of the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas, serving as its president in 1936.

In 1990, the Mexican Baptist Convention of Texas changed its name to the Hispanic Baptist Convencion. Because of the leadership of Baptists such as Ruiz, the convencion has initiated strong partnerships, organized education programs, and spread the gospel. Next year, in 2010, the convencion will observe its 100th anniversary by celebrating the past and casting a new vision for the future.

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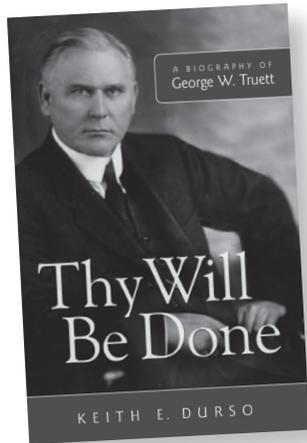
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## BAPTIST HERITAGE RESOURCES

### *Thy Will Be Done: A Biography of George W. Truett*

by Keith E. Durso



**Special Price  
\$30.00**

**List price \$35.00**

Price good through October 31, 2009.

To order this resource,  
e-mail [BHHS@baptisthistory.org](mailto:BHHS@baptisthistory.org)  
or call 678-547-6095.

The Center for Baptist Studies offers timely and relevant educational conferences and a website with valuable Baptist resources.

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The Baptist History and Heritage Society publishes a journal, *Baptist History and Heritage*, and newsletter, *Baptist Heritage Update*. The Society also has an informative website, which features an on-line resource catalog, and a membership application. For more information, visit [www.baptisthistory.org](http://www.baptisthistory.org).

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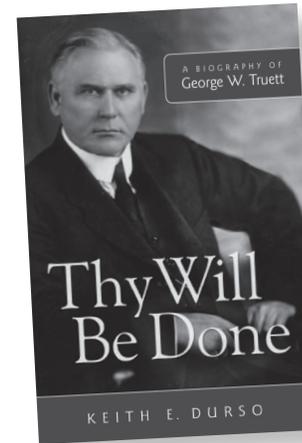
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This bulletin insert is the tenth of twelve to be provided monthly during 2009 by the Baptist History and Heritage Society and The Center for Baptist Studies. The article was written by Pamela R. Durso, executive director of Baptist Women in Ministry, Atlanta, Georgia.

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