

Biography of Dr. Albert Reyes

Author, *The Jesus Agenda*



Albert L. Reyes, a native of Corpus Christi, Texas, was raised in Rialto, California and South Texas. An experienced business leader in telecommunications, pastoral leader, and university president, he serves as the sixth President and CEO of Buckner International, a global Christian ministry founded in 1879 in Dallas, Texas focused on serving vulnerable children, orphans, seniors, and their families.

The various seasons of his ministry career were bound together by one common thread—an emphasis on the redemptive work of Jesus, in both the evangelical and social contexts. “My paternal grandfather was an orphan and struggled to earn a living as a migrant farm worker. My dad

picked cotton as a little boy. Every opportunity I have to serve the least of these in this world reminds me where I came from. Looking back over my pastoral ministry, the Lord sent me to places where I would have ample opportunity to preach good news to the poor, to help set captives free, to help people find healing, to reverse situations of oppression, and to introduce the hope of the Lord’s favor for their lives,” Reyes recalls.

He began his ministry as a pastor serving economically- challenged areas in Dallas, TX. Years later, he served as President of BUA (Baptist University of the Americas) in San Antonio, TX, where he expanded the educational opportunities for Hispanic students who would otherwise have struggled to complete their training.

“My personal life mission is ‘to develop Kingdom leaders from my circle of influence to the ends of the earth.’ This personal sense of mission has guided my life’s vocation for the last 25 years or so. I was at BUA developing leaders from college students who sensed a call to vocational ministry. When the opportunity to lead Buckner presented itself, it seemed a natural extension of my life’s mission, only now the focus would be on developing leaders from among the staff and from among the children and families we serve,” Reyes says.

His travels have taken him across the USA and to over 17 countries, primarily in the global south, where he has engaged heads of state, senior-level government leaders, faith community leaders, leaders of non-government organizations, volunteers, donors, and marketplace leaders to shine hope into the lives of children and families in some of the poorest communities on the planet.

In his new book, *The Jesus Agenda*, Reyes seeks to recruit and encourage other Christians to the redemption ministry. “I used to think serving vulnerable children, orphans and seniors was not my job or part of my scope of ministry. I guess I had not read my Bible very well,” Reyes says. “Through my work with Buckner, I have learned to intersect faith and works through a ministry of presence with children and families that really struggle in this world - to sit at the feet of desperately poor children; to wash their feet; to put new socks and shoes on them. This was a life transforming experience. I sought to be an agent of their redemption, but I became redeemed in the process.”

Reyes earned a bachelor of business administration degree in management from Angelo State University, a master’s of divinity degree and doctor of ministry degree in missiology from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, and a doctor of philosophy degree in global leadership from Andrews University. He has been a guest lecturer on leadership, leading social change, and organizational transformation at universities in the USA and abroad including Harvard University, Dallas Baptist University, Hardin Simmons University, Angelo State University, and the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru in Lima. He and his wife, Dr. Belinda A. Reyes, live in Dallas and they have three adult sons.