



Global Advocacy Exchange Programme

27 April – 3 May 2018, Buenos Aires



**Intelligent people are always eager and ready to learn.
Proverbs 18.15 (GNB)**

Greetings in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ!

Welcome to Buenos Aires, the city of fair winds, for the 2018 Global Advocacy Exchange. Bible advocacy is all about putting the Bible in the public square, where its relevance and importance to contemporary culture can be seen and experienced. This is done by translating the Bible into the 'language' of the culture – i.e. working directly in areas such as politics, the arts, education and the media to shift public perceptions towards a positive view of the Bible.

This is the fourth Global Advocacy Exchange hosted by IBAC since its inception in 2014. We launched in London that year, and then met in Siem Reap, Cambodia in 2015, and then in Cape Town, South Africa last year. The Global Advocacy Exchange is just one of the ways in which IBAC supports, encourages and resources Bible Societies working in this area. We hope that through teaching, discussion and sharing, we can together shape and grow the advocacy work within our context. Whether you have been running Bible advocacy projects for years, or are just starting, the Global Advocacy Exchange is for you. Our programme is intentionally designed to offer insights and support for all.

Why do we meet here? Buenos Aires is one of the best cities of Latin America, with a rich cultural life and adorned by wonderful Spanish-European architecture. It is a multicultural, multi-lingual and multi-religious city; a true melting pot of ethnicities and nations who over centuries have come to live together in this diverse city. This year, the focus of our gathering will be on education, and Buenos Aires is the best place to meet and talk about education. The University of Buenos Aires is one of the top learning institutions in South America, and it has produced five Nobel Prize winners. The city is renowned for its passion for education and literature; there are more bookstores per person in Buenos Aires (734) than any other city in the world. Many old and famous cafés that were once literature clubs still exist today, and the city's National Library of the Argentine Republic is the largest in the country.

Why meet in April, you might ask? Because every April, the Buenos Aires International Book Fair takes place; it simply is the most important annual literary event in the Spanish speaking world, and one of the top five book expos in the world. Every year, it gathers more than a million visitors, and usually features the presence of prestigious international authors. Who knows, you might even accidentally bump into Mario Vargas Llosa, one of Latin America's most significant novelists and essayists, a leading writer of his generation who is a regular visitor of the Book Fair. The Bible Society of Argentina exhibits regularly at the Book Fair and this year each of us will have the opportunity to visit and participate in some of the scheduled events.

Why are we focusing on advocating for the Bible in the area of education? As communities of teachers and scholars, which have evolved from Middle Ages Cathedral Christian schools, the universities are crucial places where the Bible can have a shaping presence. At the Global Advocacy Exchange, we'll be exploring key questions such as: How do we identify, connect, and then build relationships with the university students? What are the challenges for advocating for the Bible's relevance to students and in the university context? How can we effectively shape and influence the schools and universities' curricula with the Scriptures? There will be ample time for interaction and we'll also hear from academics, practitioner and Bible Societies who are already developing great initiatives in this area.

In closing, I hope that each of you will help shape the Global Advocacy Exchange into becoming a forum for sharing, learning and equipping on the theory and practice of Bible advocacy. We are delighted to have you here with us.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cristian Romocea". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "C".

Cristian Romocea
Senior Bible Advocate and Head of IBAC

About IBAC

The International Bible Advocacy Centre (IBAC) exists to advocate for the place of the Bible in the public square and to support and inspire others to do the same. We encourage people to consider the relevance of the Bible in their lives and communities, breaking down barriers, misconceptions and apathy towards this along the way.

In a diverse world, the methodology for doing Bible advocacy is not one-size-fits-all. We work with like-minded individuals and organisation involved in Bible advocacy around the world; sharing different approaches, best practices and research. This focus on collaboration enables us to learn from the experiences of those in different contexts, to encourage each other and to grow our impact.

IBAC is an initiative of the British and Foreign Bible Society, and we work with and for the United Bible Societies Fellowship in our capacity as a Mission Resource Centre.



Who's who at IBAC and guests

Cristian Romocea:



Cristian is the head of IBAC and a doctoral supervisor at the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies, UK. He holds an MPhil degree in International Relations from the University of Cambridge and a PhD degree in Theology from the University of Wales. Cristian is the author of *Church and State: Religious Nationalism and State Identification in Post-Communist Romania* (Bloomsbury, 2013) and co-edited (with Girma Mohammed) two volumes, *Democracy, Conflict and the Bible* (Bible Society, 2015) and *Christian Citizenship in the Middle East* (JKP, 2017). He is a co-organiser of the Bible in China Seminar, an annual international conference hosted by the Centre for the Study of Religion and Culture at the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, and is responsible for the development of IBAC and its flagship Global Advocacy Exchange. Cristian is passionate to see the Bible and its life-changing message increase its relevance in every aspect of culture and everyday life.

Girma Mohammed:



Girma is an International Advocacy Officer (IBAC) and Visiting Lecturer of Intercultural Studies at London School of Theology. He studied religion and political philosophy at the Free University of Amsterdam where he finished his MA and PhD. Girma is the author of *Understanding Religion and Social Change in Ethiopia* (Palgrave Macmillan 2012) and co-editor (with Cristian Romocea) of two volumes *Democracy, Conflict and the Bible* (Bible Society, 2015); and *Christian Citizenship in the Middle East* (JKP, 2017). Currently, Girma is editing *The Healing of Memories: African Christian Responses to Politically Induced Trauma* (Rowan & Littlefield, 2018). Besides steering IBAC research, Girma plays a leading role in organising African Biblical Leadership (ABLI) Forum.

Introducing our guest speakers

Darrow Miller



For over thirty years, Darrow L. Miller has been a popular speaker on Christianity and culture, apologetics, worldview, poverty, and the dignity of women. He has travelled and lectured in over seventy countries, and his books and publications have been translated into twenty languages. Darrow's heart beats at the unlikely intersection of worldview and development. He has written numerous articles, Bible studies, and authored or co-authored thirteen books around these themes. These include *Discipling Nations: The Power of Truth to Transform Cultures* (YWAM Publishing, 1998), which relates worldview to poverty and development; *Nurturing the Nations: Reclaiming the Dignity of Women in Building Healthy Cultures* (InterVarsity Press, 2008), which examines the relationship between worldview and the dignity of women; *LifeWork: A Biblical Theology for What You Do Every Day* (YWAM Publishing, 2009), which explores biblical worldview and vocation; *Emancipating the World* (YWAM Publishing, 2012), which challenges us to rethink and restore the church's mission – *The Great Commission and lastly, Rethinking Social Justice* (YWAM Publishing 2015), which focuses on restoring Biblical Compassion.

Darrow has a master's degree in higher and adult education and has pursued graduate studies in philosophy, theology, Christian apologetics, biblical studies, and missions. He and his wife, Marilyn, studied at the Institute for Holy Land Studies in Jerusalem and studied and worked with Francis and Edith Schaeffer at L'Abri Fellowship in Switzerland from 1969 to 1971. Darrow was a student pastor at Northern Arizona University and later pastored an urban church in Denver, Colorado. For twenty-seven years Darrow served as a vice president of Food for the Hungry International (FHI) in the area of recruiting, staff development, and the creation of curriculum in worldview and development.

While at FHI, he and Dr. Bob Moffitt founded the Disciple Nations Alliance (DNA). The DNA is a non-profit organization seeking to spread a school of thought—a virus, if you will—through training, publishing, and mentoring. The global DNA network comprises likeminded organisations and people in over sixty countries who are “equipping the church to transform the world.” Darrow and his wife live in Blue Ridge, Arizona. They have four children and fourteen grandchildren.

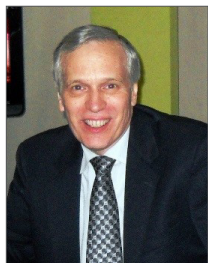
Marcelo Robles



Our second keynote speaker this year is Marcelo Robles. He has been an evangelical pastor for over 30 years and has been involved in over 40 church-planting projects. Marcelo is the founder and director of the Evangelical University Network, an organisation that works with Universidad Siglo 21, the largest non-confessional university in Argentina. The network helps establish and run university study centres in church schools and local churches across the country. This has become a new field for Bible Advocacy, apologetics, and evangelism, serving weekly over 6.000 students.

More recently, Marcelo started a new church among the most unreached groups in Argentina – young professionals and college students. This church is part of the “Redeemer City to City” a movement started by Tim Keller with over 421 churches in 56 cities around the world. City to City recruits, trains, coaches and funds leaders who start gospel movements in cities through church planting. Marcelo has a postgraduate degree in Accounting from the University of Buenos Aires, a postgraduate degree in Divinities from the Reformed Theological Seminary, and is currently completing another postgraduate degree at the Universidad FLACSO Argentina in the area of Urban Anthropology. He is also a doctoral candidate at the South African Theological Seminary.

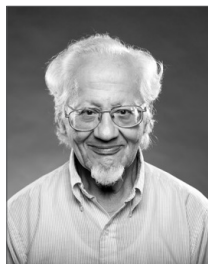
Richard Smith



Our third keynote speaker this year is Richard Smith. Richard received a Masters of Arts in Religion from Westminster Theological Seminary in 1992 and Doctorate in Historical Theology (apologetics) in 1996. From 1995 to 2001 he ministered in Prague, Czech Republic, with the International Institute for Christian Studies (now Global Scholars). Richard has taught a variety of subjects to non-Christians at the Anglo-American College such as: Comparative Religions, Intellectual History, Bible as Literature, Ecclesiastes, and Business Ethics. He established evangelical relationships with students through movie discussions, Bible studies, and spending time together. He also served as the Interim President of the college for one year and served on the university's Founders Board.

Richard established the Komenský Institute of Prague, a non-profit educational foundation. He has published articles about this ministry and missions in the *Evangelical Missions Quarterly* and has given various papers. In recent years, Richard has been an Adjunct Professor of New Testament at Biblical Evangelical Seminary near Philadelphia. Since 2010, he has lived and ministered in Buenos Aires, Argentina. Richard serves as a Senior Advisor for Global Scholars. He manages a website and blog, *Cosmovisión Bíblica (Biblical Worldview)*, teaches and speaks, develops curriculum, and mentors students.

Special guest: Rene Padilla



Since we meet in Buenos Aires, we are privileged to hear from a prestigious local personality, René Padilla. René (born 1932) is an Ecuadorian evangelical theologian and missiologist known for coining the term “integral mission” (Spanish: *misión integral*) in the 1970s to articulate Christianity’s dual priority in evangelism and social activism. He would popularize this term in Latin American evangelicalism through

the Latin American Theological Fellowship and through global evangelicalism through the Lausanne Conference of 1974. René was born into a poor family in Quito, Ecuador in 1932. Due to the Great Depression, his family moved when he was two years old to Colombia, where he grew up. He later pursued a BA in philosophy and a MA in theology at Wheaton College, before continuing on to complete a PhD in the New Testament from the University of Manchester, under F. F. Bruce.

His education and experiences with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship underscored René’s evangelical foundations and the priority he would place on the historical-critical approach to hermeneutics. However, in 1959, René was appointed a traveling secretary in Latin America for International Fellowship of Evangelical Students. In his work with universities throughout Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, and Ecuador, Padilla was faced with a tense socio-political context. Students were immersed in Marxist writings and grappled with the possibility of revolution. This was the context which produced not only Catholic liberation theology, but also challenged René to develop a new evangelical social theology which he would later term “integral mission.” René brought his ideas to the global stage at the Lausanne Conference of 1974, which had a significant effect on the nature of global evangelicalism and the growing priority of evangelicals in both evangelicalism and social activism. In 1992, René received an honorary Doctor of Divinity distinction from Wheaton College.

List of participants:

Name	Role	Bible Society representing
Cristian Romocea	Senior Bible Advocate	BFBS (IBAC)
Girma Mohammed	International Advocacy Officer	BFBS (IBAC)
Paul S. Williams	Chief Executive	BFBS
Oldi Morava	International Team Manager	BFBS
Alfredho Altamirano	Ministry Resources Facilitator	UBS
Terje Hartberg	Head of GME	UBS
Marco Martinez	Ministry Resources Facilitator	UBS
Marcos Buzzelli	Bible Advocacy Champion	Argentina
Rodrigo Guerra	Bible Advocacy Assistant	Argentina
Ruben Del Re	General Secretary	Argentina
Annelisse Palma	Project Coordinator	Guatemala
Julio Splinker Martinez	General Secretary	Mexico
Rodolfo Araya	Project Manager	Chile
Pablo Langlois	Director of Projects & Multimedia	El Salvador
Mayra Ugalde	General Secretary	Costa Rica


Name	Role	Bible Society representing
Pedro Escobar	Executive Director	Paraguay
Pablo Gutierrez	Executive Director	Peru
Alain Montano	General Secretary	Cuba
Shirley Irrazabal	Project Manager	Uruguay
Fanny Cossio	General Secretary	Bolivia
Javier Chacon	Executive Secretary	Venezuela
Diana Leal	Executive President	Colombia
Erni Seibert	Communications Secretary	Brazil
Jason Malec	Managing Director of Mission US	ABS
Rupen Das	General Secretary	Canada
Greg Clarke	Group CEO	Australia
Erasmus Odonkor	General Secretary	Ghana
Cebsile Ngcamphalala	Projects Coordinator	Swaziland
Tamar Karasu	Executive Secretary	Turkey
Ezekiel Tan	General Secretary	Singapore

Provisional Schedule

Friday 27 April

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|--------------|---|
| 8.00 – 18.00 | Arrivals throughout the day |
| 14.00 | Registration opens |
| 19.00 | Welcome dinner
Please gather in the hotel lobby by 18.45 |

Saturday 28 April

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|-------|---------------------------------------|
| 9.00 | Welcome session |
| 11.00 | Visit the ArBS Stand at the Book Fair |
| 13.00 | Lunch |
| 14.00 | Book Fair talk and conference |
| 20.00 | Dinner in the city |
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Sunday 29 April

9.30	Depart to various churches
12.00	Lunch
16.00	Attend Opera at the Colón Theatre
19.00	Dinner in the city Please gather in the hotel lobby by 18.45

Monday 30 April

**THEME: Conceptualising a relevant initiative –
Where to get started in the education sector**

- 9.00 – 9.30 Devotion
- 9.30 – 11.00 Shaping education and bringing change 1
Darrow Miller
- 11.00 – 11.20 Tea/Coffee break
- 11.20 – 12.50 Shaping education and bringing change 2
Darrow Miller
- 12.50 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.30 Taking the pulse: Understanding the context
Paul S. Williams
- 15.30 – 15.50 Tea/Coffee break
- 15.50 – 16.20 BS Project Best Practice Argentina
Marcos Buzzelli
- 16.20 – 17.30 Panel discussion
- 19.00 Dinner

Tuesday 1 May

**THEME: Developing a platform for engagement –
Programme and content**

9.00 – 9.30 Devotion

9.30 – 11.00 From concept to reality 1
Marcelo Robles

11.00 – 11.20 Tea/Coffee break

11.20 – 12.50 From concept to reality 2
Marcelo Robles

12.50 – 14.00 Lunch

14.00 – 15.30 Developing platform and content
Rene Padilla

15.30 – 15.50 Tea/Coffee break

15.50 – 16.50 BS Project Best Practice Turkey
Tamar Karasu

16.50 – 17.30 Panel discussion

19.00 Dinner

Wednesday 2 May

THEME: Ideas factory and equipping – Shifting perceptions

- 9.00 – 9.30 Devotion
- 9.30 – 11.00 Shifting perceptions about the Bible in education 1
Richard Smith
- 11.00 – 11.20 Tea/Coffee break
- 11.20 – 12.50 Shifting perceptions about the Bible in education 2
Richard Smith
- 12.50 – 14.00 Lunch
- 14.00 – 15.30 Impact measurement and intelligence
Jason Malec
- 15.30 – 15.50 Tea/Coffee break
- 15.50 – 16.20 BS Project Best Practice China
Cristian Romocea
- 16.20 – 17.30 Panel discussion and closing
- 19.00 Dinner

Thursday 3 May

- 8.00 – 18.00 Departures throughout the day

Opera Colón Theatre, Buenos Aires



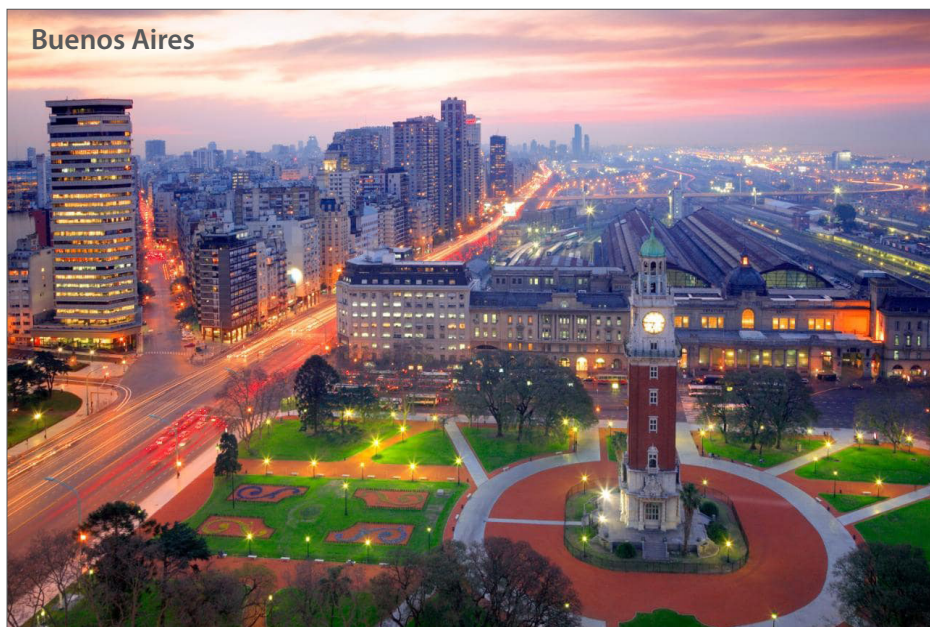
Introduction to Argentina

Argentina is the eighth largest country in the world and has some of the world's tallest mountains, expansive deserts and impressive waterfalls. Argentina has around 44,293,293 citizens according to the last census (July 2017), inhabiting an area of 2,780,400 square km. Buenos Aires is the capital and Spanish is the official language. Argentina has a high-income economy, Latin America's third largest, and the second largest in South America behind Brazil. The country benefits from rich natural resources, a highly literate population, an export-oriented agricultural sector, and a diversified industrial base. Argentina's economic performance has historically been very uneven, in which high economic growth alternated with severe recessions, particularly during the late twentieth century, and income misdistribution and poverty increased. Throughout history, the country has struggled with military dictatorship, a lost war over the Falkland Islands, and severe economic difficulties.

Religiously speaking, Argentina is an overwhelmingly Christian country, with 77% (less than 20% practicing) nominal Roman Catholics, 10% Protestant and Evangelical, 10% unaffiliated, and 3% other Christian denominations and other religions, according to a 2015 census. Behind Argentina's sophistication and postmodern facade lie intense spiritual struggles for souls. The low-key but widespread influence of the occult (Western and Latin expressions), one of the world's highest Mormon populations and the growing Muslim population all vie for souls with postmodern agnosticism, hedonistic lifestyles and Christianity.

The Bible came to Argentina around the beginning of the nineteenth century with the British invasion attempts of the River Plate. Through the efforts of Robert Cowie, London Missionary Society sent David Hill Creighton to Buenos Aires to initiate the River Plate mission in 1806 with 600 Spanish New Testaments and a large number of gospel tracts. These New Testaments ended up being sold in Montevideo because Creighton

was not allowed to bring them in the country after the defeat of the British troops by the Argentines in 1807. It is possible that a good number of these ended up in Argentina. Later on, through people like Diego Thompson, a Scottish Baptist sent by BFBS to Argentina to implement the Lancastrian education system, John Armstrong and Lucas Matthews, the Bible began to be distributed all across Argentina. The Argentine Bible Society was formally established in 1966 as a civil association founded by the churches for the churches to translate, publish, spread and exalt the Word of God.



Photography by telegraph.co.uk

Emperador Hotel

Emperador Hotel Buenos Aires offers a refined yet casual ambience ideal for business and leisure. Although a 5-star hotel, we have been able to negotiate a reasonable rate for our group. We chose this venue because of its location on the Avenida del Libertador, one of the principal thoroughfares in Buenos Aires, just a short walk from Avenida 9 de Julio, the widest avenue in the world named after Argentina's Independence Day (9 July 1816). The hotel is thus located in the art galleries and museums district, in the elegant Recoleta neighbourhood with excellent restaurant options and close to Puerto Madero Harbour.

The hotel rooms are beautifully decorated with contemporary flair and every modern comfort. You can enjoy views of the River or landscaped Garden (Terrazas del Museo) and relax between meetings in this oasis of tranquillity in the heart of Buenos Aires. You can stay connected with high-speed wireless internet and can begin your day not only with prayers and devotions but also with a workout in the well-equipped fitness centre, featuring weights and cardio equipment. Between of after our workshop sessions you will be able to unwind in the sauna and solarium, pamper yourself with a replenishing spa treatment or enjoy a swim in the indoor pool. You will savour authentic Argentinean and Mediterranean cuisine at Maximus Restaurant or relax with refreshments in the English pub-style Oliver's Bar.

Terrace at the Emperador Hotel, Buenos Aires



Photography by taff.bstatic.com

Reception at the Emperador Hotel, Buenos Aires



Photography by dev.mibsas.com

Useful information

If you have any queries or concerns, please get in touch with Marta Hotton or Cristian Romocea. Call +44 7867 354 017 or email cristian.romocea@biblesociety.org.uk or ma.hotton@gmail.com

Pharmacy

Pharmacy (7.30 to 23.30), Libertad 1279, C1012AAY CABA, Argentina.
Tel: +54 800-666-4321


Hospitals

Hospital Italiano de Buenos Aires (Private), Tte. Gral. Juan Domingo Perón 4230, C1199ABH CABA, Argentina. Tel: +54 11 4959-0200

Hospital Aleman (General) Av. Pueyrredón 1640, C1118AAT CABA, Argentina. Tel: +54 11 4827-7000

Banks

There are many banks and international access ATMs near the hotel. Citi Belgrano, HSBC, Banco de Nacion Argentina, Banco Piano, Santander Rio. All are recommended for international travellers, and have ATMs across the town.



Currency

The Argentine Peso (ARS) is the currency of Argentina. It is identified by the symbol \$ preceding the amount in the same way as many countries using dollar currencies. The peso is subdivided into 100 centavos. In 1992, banknotes were introduced in denominations of 1, 2, 5, 10, 20, 50, and 100 pesos. The 1-peso note was replaced by a coin in 1994. In 2016, the Banco Central de la República Argentina issued a new series notes, with the 200 and 500 pesos banknotes as the newest denominations. A new 20-peso note and the 1000-peso note were issued in 2017, and new banknotes of 50-pesos and 100-pesos and new coins of \$1, \$2, \$5, and \$10 will be issued in 2018.

Contact info

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International dialling prefix	00
Police	101
Ambulance	107
Fire	100

**IBAC is a Mission Resource Centre for the UBS Fellowship,
hosted by the British and Foreign Bible Society.**

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