

Richard & Robyn Crane

Family & Ministry Profile

Richard was born in Chile, and attended Chilean schools through the eighth grade and completed high school in North Carolina. With a BA from Covenant College and an M. Div. from Covenant Seminary, Richard has studied at Westminster Seminary and has Chilean certification in systems family therapy.

Robyn was born in Scranton, Pa. and studied at Penn State. She has a BA and certification in education from Covenant College. She studied at Covenant Seminary and completed the PEPP program, a counseling and training center Richard founded.

From 1979 to 1991, the Cranes worked with the National Presbyterian church in Chile, and from 1983 to 1991, helped plant the Gracia y Paz church. In 1991 founded a Christian counseling and training center called PEPP. In 1992, they started EMEP, a Chilean expression of Marriage Encounter, a ministry in which Robyn was active. Their ministries and "therapy evangelism" brought couples to Christ and into the Cristo Rey church where Richard was a pastor until 2002. In 2003 the Cranes moved to Miami where Richard is developing the pastoral psychology programs for FLET (Latin American Faculty of Theological Education) and for MINTS (Miami International Seminary). These institutions are ministry supported and in partnership with MTW. They conduct leadership training by extension using the internet, printed material, as well as intensive courses overseas. Over 4,000 students are presently enrolled, reaching Hispanics all over the globe.

BIOGRAPHICAL DATA SHEET

NAME: Richard H. Crane

FIELD OF SERVICE: LATIN AMERICA and Spanish speaking

TYPE OF MINISTRY: Training of Church Leadership, Providing Spanish Training Resources. Spanish Distance Education, Leadership Training, Church Nurturing and Encouragement, Writing.

LICENSED: Midwest Presbytery (Reformed Presb.Ch.Evang.Synod) in May 1977.

ORDAINED: Delmarva Presbytery 1978. Member of Heritage Presbytery (DE).
Robyn is a member of Key Biscayne Presbyterian Church, Key Biscayne, FL

CHURCH RICHARD GREW UP IN: The National Presbyterian Church in Chile.

PASTOR AT THE TIME: John Crane

COMMENTS ON CHURCH ASSOCIATION: While in the United States - member of:

- a) Evangelical Presbyterian Church Newark, DE
- b) Reformed Presbyterian Church Lookout Mt., TN
- c) Grace and Peace Fellowship St.Louis, MO
- d) New Life PCA Fort Washington, PA
- e) Key Biscayne Presbyterian Key Biscayne, FL

INSTITUTIONS ATTENDED:	DEGREE RECEIVED:	DATE GRADUATED:
Covenant College	Bachelor of Arts	1973
Covenant Seminary	Master of Divinity	1977
Seminario Biblico Latinoamericano	graduate studies	1978-79
Westminster Seminary	(D.Min. studies)	1982-83
Inst. Chileno de Terapia Familiar	Family Therapist Diploma	1990-92

MAJOR IN COLLEGE: Psychology / Bible
ACTIVITIES IN COLLEGE: varsity soccer; Student Missions Fellowship; choir; etc.
ACTIVITIES IN SEMINARY: active in local church / Student Missions Fellowship

*** WHAT DOES RICHARD ENJOY DOING TO RELAX?**

Take a walk; Read magazines (computer, photography, National Geographic, news magazines); develop computer skills, Internet: e-mail, navigate the web; watch TV or go to a movie; go out to dinner with Robyn and friends. Exercise, swim, play soccer, racquetball, bicycling.

*** WHAT IS SOMETHING YOU HAVE DONE IN THE U.S. OR OVERSEAS THAT YOU FOUND ENJOYABLE?**

Spent some vacations in the south of Chile with Chilean friends. Participating in the lives of people coming to Christ gives Robyn and me great joy!

*** OTHER TALENTS, ABILITIES, TRAINING YOU HAVE:**

I used to sing solos, in choirs, and in quartets. I played varsity soccer in high school and college. I have been trained as a family therapist. I try to teach myself to use computer programs that I can use in ministry.

*** GREATEST PERSONAL NEED** I need to be less of a workaholic: "time to smell the flowers" - enjoy my family and friends.

*** GREATEST FAMILY NEED:** Cohesiveness, less independence, more concern for each other.

*** GREATEST MINISTRY NEED:** Learning to live in Grace. Discipleship, holiness,

*** GREATEST NEED OF THE COUNTRY AND PEOPLE YOU ARE SERVING:**

They need JESUS! Most of the Latin American population is considered non evangelical. Most are nominal Catholics. Most who are Christians, are Biblically illiterate. Leadership training – most pastors do not have a systematic or formal training.

* HOW HAS THE LORD PREPARED YOU FOR THE MISSION FIELD AND THE WORK YOU ARE DOING: (childhood experience, family background, training, work experience, significant event, etc.)?

1. I grew up on the mission field and observed my father (a missionary) through the age of fifteen.
2. I attended Ben Lippen High School, a school with a high percentage of missionary children exposing me to the needs of the world and making me sensitive to God's call.
3. My experience in ministry confirmed God's call:
 - a. 1967 - Summer - Carmel, NY Children's Bible Fellowship. I worked as a counselor / child evangelism.
 - b. 1969 - Summer - The Covenant College Quartet. Worshipped God in song and promoted the College. Traveled through 17 States, six concerts per week.
 - c. 1972 - Summer - Newark, NJ The Newark Evangelistic Committee. In the mornings I would work in the Newark Ghetto in evangelistic outreach. In the afternoons Mr. Henry Tobleman and I would go into the Spanish neighborhoods announcing the bilingual Moody films. In the evenings I would stand on the top of his paneled truck preaching or translating.
 - d. 1972-1973 - Lookout Mt. TN Covenant College Resident assistant. Served as a liaison between students and deans.
 - e. 1973 - Summer - Los Angeles, CA. The Beverly Orthodox Presby.Ch. Evangelism into Spanish neighborhoods/ youth work.
 - f. 1973-1976 St. Louis, MO The Spanish Mission of the S. Baptist Evangelism / counseling / preaching / Bible study.
 - g. 1975 - summer - Houston, TX The Oaklawn Presby.Church in Am. Preaching every Sunday evening / Pastor substitute / Youth program / Evangelism into Spanish neighborhood / frequent special music / VBS.
 - h. 1975-1977 St. Louis, MO Grace and Peace Fellowship, RPCES. "Seminar Program":
 1. met regularly with elder for evaluation.
 2. lead worship twice each semester a. met with worship committee previous to worship, b. evaluation after worship;
 3. Preach twice each semester a. met with the preparation committee, b. evaluation after worship;
 4. prayer group leader I was in charge of a 2 hour prayer and study group, three out of four Wednesdays per month;
 5. I led a junior high youth group in the inner city called "The Soul Brothers"
 6. Taught Sunday School.
 - i. 1976 - summer - Scranton, PA Faith Community Church Taught adult Sunday School; Pastor for the month of August preached, led Wednesday Evangelism classes, visitation; youth group; VBS; Special music.
 - j. 1977-1978 Ref.Presb.Ch.E.S. World Presbyterian Missions candidate / itineration preaching.
 - k. 1978-1979 Costa Rica While in Latin American Biblical Seminary Helped in the ministry of a local church (Iglesia Bíblica de el Zapote) in teaching, preaching and counseling the youth.

l) 1979-1982 - CHILE - World Presbyterian Missions / National Presbyterian Church

First term of service: (3 yrs.)

1. The organizing pastor in a community called Gomez Carreño for (2 1/2 yrs)
2. Assistant pastor at "Los Placeres" Church for two years; supply pastor for four months.
3. Taught three courses in the "Seminario Juan Calvino":
 - a) Church Government; b) Church Growth; c) Pastoral Psychology
4. Taught the seminary by extension program called "SEBE".
5. Wrote a 50 lesson - two volume - programmed Bible Survey Course by extension for SEBE called Panorama de la Biblia
6. Board Member of the Seminario Juan Calvino and SEBE.
7. Counselor for the youth organization of the National Presbyterian Church.

m) 1983 to 1986 - CHILE Mission to the World/National Presbyterian Church

Second term of service: (4 yrs.)

1. Taught in the Evangelical Institute of Chile (seminary):
 - a) Church Government; b) Intro. to Counseling (2); c) Intro. to Psychology; d) Tutorial.
2. Taught in the Seminary by Extension Program.
3. Established a Christian Counseling Center at the Institute. Held approximately 20 hrs. of counseling per week.
4. Board member of the Evangelical Institute of Chile.
5. Mission Treasurer.
6. Assistant Organizing pastor to four new congregations in Santiago.

n) 1987 to 1992 - CHILE - Mission to the World

Third term of service: (4 yrs.)

1. Pastored the Gracia y Paz congregation.
2. Participated in the formation of PEPP, a two year pastoral psychology training program for church leaders. Began with 70 students from over 15 different denominations. (In 2002 over 400 had graduated from the 2 yr. Program and 300 from the extension program called PEPPEX)
3. With Robyn formed EMEP (Presbyterian Marriage Encounters) - as an outreach of the Cristo Rey Church.
4. Did Christian counseling as a means of outreach and service of the church

o) 1992 to 1997 - CHILE - Mission to the World

Fourth term of service: (4 yrs.)

1. Continued to solidify the ministry of EMEP by:
 - a) equipping testimony couples;
 - b) equipping follow-up monitors;
 - c) Coordinated the marriage encounters again after the loss of the Cristo Rey pastor.
2. Did Christian counseling as a means of outreach and service of the church.

3. Developed and taught a course in counseling for people in ministries in the Cristo Rey Church.
4. Co-pastored an "under shepherd group" of 35 members of the Cristo Rey church.
5. Directed, taught, and co-administered the PEPP program (two nights per week).
6. Helped develop and carry out a ministry for couples in the first 5 years of their marriage.
7. Became the Associate Pastor of Cristo Rey in early 1997.
8. Held an officers training class

o) 1998 to 2002 - CHILE - Mission to the World

Fifth term of service: (3 yrs.)

1. With Robyn developed and gave a sequence of marriage seminars.
2. Taught in the PEPP program (one night per week).
3. Pastored the Cristo Rey Church
(As senior pastor this time: preach, teach, train, counsel, administer, visit, organize, etc.)
4. Did Christian counseling as a means of outreach and service of the church.
5. Developed a functional "under shepherd program" (pastoral cell groups).
Updated, and taught, the Bible survey course "Panorama de la Biblia" written back in 1980.
Raised funds for the building of the church and encouraged the congregation in their building program.
6. Participated with three Chilean professionals of the PEPP in the writing of a FLET book called PSICOLOGIA. It is an introduction to psychology for Christian workers.

p) 2003 to present – MIAMI, FL - Mission to the World / FLET / MINTS.

Present ministry:

In June of 2003 we moved to Miami to work with FLET, a mission agency that cooperates with MTW (I am on loan to them). My responsibilities, at this time, are the following:

1. Create a pastoral psychology program for their FLET seminary and university by extension. This involves writing, researching, networking with able Latin American professionals, developing study guides, supervise and interact with students on the use of these courses, etc.
2. Create and upload these courses on the internet and maintain constant contact with the students through the grading of their work, encouragement, etc.
3. Teach intensive courses in different FLET centers in Latin America

In 2005 I also joined the faculty of MINTS (Miami International Seminary). I teach classes in pastoral psychology in Spanish here in Miami as well as do with them what I do for FLET (develop courses, upload them onto the web, take trips to Latin America for intensive courses, etc.)

What has been done so far (2003-2007):

1. Taught intensive courses in Pastoral Psychology in: Colombia, Cuba (2 times), Venezuela, El Salvador, Puerto Rico, Chile, and Mexico.
2. Taught 4 ten week courses in Miami to both Flet and Mints students
3. Created the following courses: (I have taught them both in the classroom and developed them as online courses on the web).
 - a) Introduction to Pastoral Psychology (this course deals with the integration issues between Psychology and the Bible, and helps the Hispanic pastor to understand the following topics as they relate to his ministry: child development, motivation, intelligence and memory, emotions, personality, and perception.)
 - b) How to Counsel in Crisis Situations (this course aims to help the Hispanic pastor deal with the following issues in his pastoral care: understanding the dynamics of crisis, how to counsel in crisis, the theology of suffering, death and dying, suicide, depression, divorce, and crisis in children and youth)
 - c) The Pastoral Care and Healing of our Inner Being (this course is very personal and focuses on a Christian view of self esteem, how to deal with our past, forgiveness, our conscience, our sexuality, and a rediscovery of Grace and the application of the gospel in our daily lives)
 - d) Introduction to Counseling (this course was already created by Flet and I added other material to it)

The Following are very advanced in their development yet not ready until 2008:

- e) The Pastoral Care of the Sexual Addict (This course gives the Hispanic pastor the information and guide to help him (if this were the case) to deal with his own addictions and sexual sin as well as how to help those entangled by it. Child abuse and accountability are a major part of this course)
- f) Intimacy and Sexuality in Marriage (This course brings together much of what Robyn and I developed and worked with in our Marriage Encounters in Chile. The purpose is to give the Hispanic pastor and his wife the resources and a guide so that he can create his own ministry to couples).

BRIEF TESTIMONY OF HOW YOU CAME TO CHRIST:

The apostle Paul's words to Timothy could very well be for me when he says in 2 Timothy 3:14,15 "But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of, because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus." My parents taught me the Scriptures and encouraged me to memorize them together with others in the church in Chile (at one point when I was twelve, I memorized 300 verses). As I grew older the Holy Spirit brought those Scriptures to my mind and they made me "wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus". There was not just one moment of decision, in fact there have been a great number of periods in my life when I was confronted by God to new obedience to Jesus Christ.

When I thought I was just a product of Christian conditioning, it was the truth of Scripture that convinced my heart to renewed faith in Christ. My identity in Christ was finally clearly understood in all its rich splendor when I read the book Redemption Accomplished and Applied by John Murray during my sophomore year at Covenant College.

"I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew, He moved my soul to seek him, seeking me; It was not I that found, O Savior true, no, I was found of thee." (Trinity Hymnal p.397)

BRIEF TESTIMONY OF CALL TO MISSION FIELD:

I am the youngest son of former MTW missionaries John and Barbara Crane. As such, I spent the first fifteen years of my life in Chile and saw the work of missions first hand. There are two major influences left with me from my years there: 1) the Chilean culture; and 2) the supernatural work of God in seeing lives transformed and brought together into a body of believers.

The Chilean way of life was my way of life, for my parents believed in a very close identification with the people to whom they were called to minister. I went to a Chilean school and learned English as a foreign language. All my friends were Chileans. The church life, of course, was Chilean. And we had seven Chileans living in our home where I spoke Spanish even to my parents in order not to leave them out of the conversation. Through all of this I learned to love the Chilean people and all that was part of their life.

When we came to the U.S. as an MK (missionary's kid) I experienced culture shock. The U.S. was very foreign to me; I was not prepared to cope with this change; and I missed Chile immensely. Yet God used this experience to strengthen me. Through high school I learned the importance of dependence upon God through His Word and prayer. In College, and later in seminary, I learned to add content to that dependence, experiencing many growing pains along the way.

Thinking back on that second impression I received in Chile - that of seeing God work through my parents and others to transform lives; and by having the commands of Christ to be concerned about the lost frequently brought to my attention; and then seeing God use me here and there to bring people to Him, gave me a desire to go into the ministry.

I struggled with my motives for going to Chile and I came to appreciate that God is providentially in control of all our personal histories. And a good way for us to know where and what He wants us to do in the present and future is to recognize how God has led us in the past. I

was constantly coming into contact with Spanish ministries in Los Angeles, Houston, Newark, N.J., and in St. Louis. Since my love for Latin Americans was still strong, I saw all this as my call to Chile as a missionary.

To summarize, I saw a number of factors come together to determine my call to Chile as a missionary: 1) It was a response to the Great Commission; 2) It was a response to the need for laborers in Chile; 3) It was a response to God's providential leading in my personal history; and 4) It was a response to the Church, the Body of Christ, who outwardly confirmed my inner call.

God's Call to Work with FLET and MINTS

When I "heard" God's call for us to go to Chile back in 1977, I saw it as a four-fold response:

1. **A response to the Great Commission - God's mandate to go into all the world and preach the gospel**

These Scripture passages were very much on my heart and mind, and I saw them as speaking to me. I went to seminary, got licensed and ordained in preparation for this response.

2. **A response to the need for laborers in Chile**

Matt. 9 – "Look onto the fields for they are ripe unto harvest ... The harvest is plentiful but the workers are few" - Romans 10 – "how shall they hear unless they are sent". Chile, at that time, did not have anything in the churches with regard to managing family crisis and teaching pastors and leaders to handle these in their churches. I saw that others were dealing with evangelism and with teaching, but pastoral care was very deficient. God put this need in my heart and together with other Chilean Christian professionals we have been able to respond to part of that need in Chile.

3. **A response to God's providential leading in my personal history**

As I looked back to what God had exposed me in my childhood, Ben Lippen High School (a school for MK's), different issues in my family and the church in Chile, Hispanic ministries in the US, and in my choosing psychology and Bible as a college major, I realized that God was bringing all of this together to mold me as his servant in Chile.

4. **A response to the Church, the body of Christ, who outwardly confirmed my inner call.**

The churches where I worked for the summers, my experience in high school and college, and the calling, acceptance, commissioning, support raising, and even afterwards in the response to my early ministry in Chile all confirmed my calling as a missionary there.

So applying these same four responses to determining my call to work out of Miami through FLET, I saw the following back in 2002 and they also apply to our ministry through MINTS:

1. **A response to the Great Commission - God's mandate to go into all the world and preach the gospel**

FLET has as its purpose statement the following: "To prepare God's *Spanish* people for works of service, so that the body of Christ may be built up until we all reach the unity in the faith and in the knowledge of the Son of God and become mature, attaining to the whole measure of the fullness of Christ"- Ephesians 4:12-13.

I want to respond to that discipleship aspect of the Great Commission, especially since the areas I had most worked in while in Chile have had to do with the aspects mentioned in this verse - nurturing, building up, maturing, open to the whole body of Christ everywhere, and doing it in Spanish.

2. A response to the need for laborers

FLET expressed needing my gift-mix and experience, and has issued me an invitation to work with them. There is still more of a need for laborers who can work in Spanish than in English. And there is a need for them in all of Latin America as well as the growing Hispanic population in the US. There is a tremendous need for resources – books, helps, courses, training, encouragement, electronic media, etc. to the Spanish speaking world – and especially with a Reformed World and Life View and with the Doctrines of Grace.

3. A response to God’s providential leading in my life

God lead me to the particular work of FLET by giving me the following experience in my 23 years of ministry in Chile:

- A. Writing and teaching theological education by extension courses in my first and second terms of service in Chile.
- B. Writing and teaching in the Seminary and through the PEPP program in the area of pastoral psychology.
- C. Through the PEPP program and through Marriage Encounter, God gave us the experience of working with dozens of different Christian denominations as well as with non-Christians, giving us a non-judgmental approach to them and teaching us to adjust our vocabulary to other cultures.
- D. Preparing and conducting seminars and retreats
- E. Learning to value, encourage, and place nationals into positions of leadership

A response to the confirmation of the church

This part has to do with your recognition - the church. The purpose for writing this out and engaging you in this is to get this external feedback for God’s direction in our lives. We would not be in missions if it were not for the support and encouragement of so many brothers and churches. To God be the Glory.