# OSCAR L. DESTRUGE Pastor·Author·Speaker



**SPEAKER KIT 2023** 



astor Oscar was born in Ecuador and emigrated to the United States at age 10. Oscar was neither a Christian nor a leader for much of his life. He saw an opportunity to acquire quick wealth in real estate, which took a nosedive in 1987, with it, all his dreams, hopes, and savings. He was emotionally and spiritually bankrupt! Anxiety led to months of sleepless nights.

Almost convinced he was a lousy provider, useless as a husband, father, and investor, he saw his half-million-dollar life insurance policy as the honorable answer to debt. He almost acted on the lie, believing everyone would be better off without him, but God had better plans!

In a February 1989 spiritual retreat, Oscar experienced a transforming encounter with Jesus, where he discovered that God and his family loved him despite his faults and failures. He began accepting and loving himself as he was. Oscar became an active Bible study participant, creating a study group in his office. In 2004, he was appointed pastor, serving the Hispanic communities in Norwalk and Bridgeport. In June 2017, Pastor Oscar retired from the United Methodist Church to dedicate more time to family. Pastor Oscar writes daily Bible meditations in English and Spanish on social media and enjoys racquetball, bicycling, music. and chess.







Never Give Up on Hope For God Is With Us: There are times where we feel that no one is there to help us through our problems and other difficult situations. For Oscar Destruge, retired pastor and author of "The Blood of My Blood, A Journal Bible Meditations," God is here for us if we open our hearts and mind to His word.

Through his experience leading his congregation at El Camino United Methodist Church in Norwalk, Connecticut, Oscar can present these takeaways:

- How the Bible reveals God's love and answers through its readings.
- How the Bible is a love letter from God to help His people come home and give comfort on their personal life journeys.
- No matter how people feel about themselves, there is always purpose and meaning in their lives.

A Path in Darkness Led Pastor into God's Light and Love: Oscar Destruge came to the United States at 10 years old. Growing up, he faced discrimination from others because of his Hispanic heritage. Oscar's plan in life led him to explore music and to enter the real estate field. In 1987, he found himself in a desperate financial situation where all his savings along with his hopes and dreams were gone. That event took him to a road of depression, anxiety and thoughts of suicide. It wasn't until he attended a three-day spiritual retreat in February 1989 that he experienced a transforming encounter with Jesus. From then on, he found the love of God and Christ changing his life. His Bible study and constant prayer led him down the path to becoming a Stephen Minister and pastor in the United Methodist Church.

#### Oscar will share in this presentation:

- How he dealt with the bullying and low self-esteem
- What he learned about real estate investing
- How a friend's invitation to come to know God's love radically changed his life and how Oscar continues to share the Good News with others through his book "The Blood of My Blood, A Journal Bible Meditations" and through his daily blog

## THE BLOOD BLOOD

Creating a healthy balance: Oscar Destruge, author of "The Blood of My Blood, A Journal Bible Meditations," shares in his book his reflection of spending numerous hours working hard at his job in the corporate world and as a pastor. In his spiritual role, he wrote how "after the Lord saved me, God taught me the importance of having a healthy balance between serving God, family and the world. Many times, even pastors lose the notion of that healthy balance." He explains how well-intentioned clergy also devote much energy in prioritizing duties at the church, unfortunately leaving their families' needs on the sidelines.

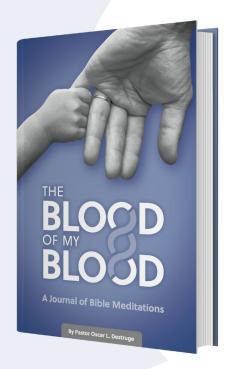
#### Oscar can provide these takeaways:

- Sharing his own personal experience in the corporate and pastoral worlds
- Providing tips on working to create that balance in life
- Creating some kind of accountability in keeping that











"The Blood of My Blood, A Journal of Bible Meditations" by Pastor Oscar L. Destruge is a collection of Daily Bible Meditations derived from the common lectionary, which includes the assigned Bible reading for that day and Pastor Oscar's explanation and application of that text.

The book invites the reader to learn about Pastor Oscar's life and family and contains beautiful travel pictures. Each daily meditation takes about four minutes to read and ends with a prayer. There are indexes by Scripture and key words.

Pastor Oscar's goal for readers is for them to strengthen their faith and walk with God and to encourage them into a routine of spending four minutes daily with God's Word to help them discover God, who they are, and what is their God-given purpose in life. Lastly, he wants them to develop the courage to face challenges knowing that God is with them and that no matter the obstacles, they will have victory.







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Paperback (Greek):

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Paperback (Spanish):

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### OSCAR L. DESTRUGE Pastor·Author·Speaker

- New York Annual Conference of United Methodist Church presentations on "Volunteers on Missions" to Ecuador, and 14 years of sermons - https://www.nyac.com
- Concilio Hispano de la Conferencia Anual de Nueva York.
- Transamerica Financial Services Nationwide Retirement Planning Education Seminars
- Norwalk Fire Department Fire Commissioner
- Footsteps in the Sand Christian Renewal
- Person2Person Connecticut Food Pantry

#### OSCAR IS AFFILIATED WITH THE FOLLOWING ORGANIZATIONS:

- American Red Cross Fairfield, CT Board Member
- Courage To Speak Foundation Board Member
- New Day Center of Norwalk Founder and Board Member
- Volunteers on Call Inc. Volunteer and Board Member
- Norwalk Clergy Association
- Norwalk Evangelical Association









