

**Northeastern Seminary 2009 Alumnus of the Year**  
**Wilfredo Irizarry, NES'08**

The *Alumnus of the Year Award* recognizes a graduate of Northeastern Seminary who exemplifies faithful service in ministry. Candidates may demonstrate one or more of the following characteristics: innovative approaches to ministry, engagement of their cultural context, perseverance in the face of challenges, excellence in Biblical preaching and worship, equipping others to serve, and transformation of self and others through spiritual formation.

The recipient for 2009, the first year of this award, is **Rev. Wilfredo “Willy” Irizarry** who graduated from Northeastern Seminary in 2008. He is married to Gladys, who directs Adonai Counseling, and has two grown children, Wilfredo Isaac, and Gladys Loida. Pastor Willy serves as Pastor of Adonai Community Fellowship and CEO of Adonai Community Services.

Willy has a heart for evangelism, especially reaching out to the needy and hurting in the inner-city of Rochester. He touches his community by building relationships. He is a networker and resource person for helping churches touch their neighborhoods in relevant and dynamic ways. He is a sought-after leader who shares his passion, insight, and experience with other churches and ministries who desire to change their communities through the love of Jesus expressed in practical ways.

As founder of Adonai Community Services and Adonai Community Fellowship, Pastor’s Willy’s leadership and influence have been widely felt in Rochester and beyond. The Rochester Family Fun Festival and Health Fair at the North Street Recreation Center drew over 5,000 people last year. This year the hope is to reach up to 10,000 people with the first 1,000 families in attendance receiving a free bag of groceries.

Pastor Willy is leading the effort to partner with churches, community agencies, businesses, and others in Fort Myers, Florida to hold a Family Fun Festival and Health Fair at the Harborside Events Center and Centennial Park in the hopes of drawing 30,000 people. The first 5,000 will receive a free bag of groceries. Festivals are also being planned in San Antonio, Texas and Nashville, Tennessee. Income above the cost of running the events is used to fund grants for inner-city ministries.

Pastor Willy’s church, Adonai Community Fellowship, (link to <http://www.adonaimin.org/>) is a multi-ethnic community church located in the heart of the city of Rochester with a mission to declare and glorify the name of Jesus Christ before the Church, community and entire world by offering to the wounded in spirit, soul, and body a relationship with the Lord as fulfillment of their needs. The church is on the front lines of ministering to the poor and needy in practical and life-giving ways.

We are pleased to recognize Pastor Willy Irizarry as Northeastern Seminary’s 2009 Alumnus of the Year, the first recipient of this award. He was awarded a plaque at the Conference on Ministry. Additionally, his name will be included on a permanent “Alum of the Year” display located at the Seminary.