

**Chapter 11:  
Jesus Christ Was  
Not Bilingual**



# All Pianos Have Keys & Other Stories

*by José A. Cárdenas, 1994*  
*IDRA Founder & Director Emeritus*

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## Chapter 11: Jesus Christ Was Not Bilingual

*The largest funeral I have ever attended was on the untimely death of San Antonio State Representative Matt García. At the services, appropriately held in San Fernando Cathedral, it appeared that every Mexican American in San Antonio was in attendance. This is not strange considering that Matt was not only a great guy, but he was also one of the most entertaining persons I have ever met.*

*Matt was a strong supporter of bilingual education and felt that much of the opposition to this methodology which surfaced from time to time could be attributed to xenophobia and the typical American aversion to foreign languages. On one occasion he told me the following story, swearing that it was true. He never told me where he picked it up, and although I subsequently heard several versions of this story from various sources, I have never seen any documentation.*

The newspaper reporters gathered outside the Office of the Governor of Texas waiting for the promised press conference. The doors finally opened and Governor “Ma” Ferguson entertained questions.

Miriam “Ma” Ferguson was elected governor of Texas in 1924. She ran for office on a “two governors for the price of one” campaign since she was seen as a stand-in candidate for her husband, James “Pa” Ferguson who was ineligible to run due to having been removed as governor in 1917 and declared ineligible to hold any public office.

“Governor, legislation has just been introduced which would make it mandatory for every high school student in the State of Texas to learn a foreign language. Do you support or oppose this proposed legislation?”

“I am ‘agin’ it. Definitely ‘agin’ it.”

“Why do you oppose it?”

Ma Ferguson picked up a copy of the Holy Bible from her desk, lifted it above her head, and explained, “I’m agin it. I don’t see any reason why anybody would want to learn a foreign language.”

Looking with reverence at the Good Book, she continued, “If English was good enough for Jesus Christ, it ought to be good enough for the children of Texas.”