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February 17, 2011 - San Pedro de Macoris, Dominican Republic...Libna Stevens/IAD

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The 17 church employees and some 25 family members spend time reading the Bible, singing hymns, praying and giving testimonies of God's goodness in their lives. It's a day that begins what they call "40 dias de madrugadas" or 40 days of morning prayers, as they embrace the Inter-American Division's "Constant in Prayer" spiritual revival initiative.

"For us this is a very important occasion," said Pastor Teofilo Silvestre, president of the church in the East Dominican region. "The moment for revival and reformation should begin with ministers, with church leaders and we want to begin today here in our office together in constant in prayer," he added.

The early morning prayer journey will take place consecutively in churches and schools throughout the 30 districts, said Silvestre, who leads a pastoral team of district pastors, 20 schools and a membership of more than 65,000.

Pastor Roberto Herrera, director of spiritual revival and reformation for the church in Inter-America, praised church leaders and staff for catching the vision for prayer revival and implementing their own initiative in their territory.

"What you are starting today is simple, but it fills my heart and can inspire others," said Pastor Herrera. "All of this process of revival is simply to recognize the importance of establishing a beautiful relationship with God through prayer and worship."

Pastor Herrera went on to emphasize the reasons why the church and its members need a revival and reformation in their lives above other things.

"My dear brethren at the East Dominican Conference office, there are a lot of things that the church needs," he added. "It's not buildings, it's not churches, it's not programs. The greatest need that the church of today has is spiritual revival."

It was a message that church leaders took to heart as they had a session of prayer together, putting aside the challenges that they face in the region of selling their office building to expand in a larger property and building more temples to accommodate the already growing membership.

Already the second largest church region in the Dominican Republic, the East Dominican region will also be involved additional initiatives such as prayer vigils and fasting vigils throughout the weeks and months which lie ahead, according to Silvestre, which has served the church for more than 14 years and was recently elected as president of the region.

According to Silvestre, initiatives will impact all segments of the church and special emphasis will be given to involve the thousands of children and young people in 120 Adventurer and
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February 16, 2011 - Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic...Libna Stevens/IAD

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The press conference took place hours after the church officially launched its spiritual revival and reformation called Constant In Prayer on Saturday, Feb. 12, 2011, in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic. The launch was broadcast live via satellite.

"I want to thank all of you for joining us during this special day for Inter-America," said Abel Marquez, associate communication director for the church in Inter-America who moderated the conference. In attendance was a core group of international communicators from throughout radio stations in Inter-America.

"To launch a spiritual prayer revival means the committed effort of our leaders to encourage church members to renew their relationship with God. You will be vital in spreading the information in an opportune, professional way through the different mediums of communication," Marquez said.

"People down through the ages have promoted revival to hasten the Second Coming," said Pastor Wilson as he began his statement on spiritual revival.

"We have to recognize that He [Jesus] isn't here yet. There must be a reason and we don't want that reason to be that we are not ready to receive His power," he explained.

This pressing need led the top administrative body of the General Conference to vote an important document and initiative on October 2010 entitled "God's Promised Gift". The initiative makes an urgent appeal for revival, reformation, discipleship and evangelism in an effort to prepare the church for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

"This is not just a bunch of propaganda, it is for one purpose and one purpose alone, to focus our attention on our great need of Jesus," said Pastor Wilson.

Pastor Leito stated the importance for church members to embrace a prayerful life that leads to revival.

"The Inter-American Division has launched this 'Constant in Prayer' initiative with the main purpose to lead us to experience the joy of the presence of God," said Pastor Leito. "To be constant in prayer is not about having a large list of requests but to deepen our relationship with God."

Questions from gathered media outlets varied from reasons for the revival plan and the use of technology to aid in revival, to the type of music that can go along with spiritual revival.

"In this new [revival] initiative, what are we going to do different so that this may indeed see the Second Coming of our Lord," asked Justo Castro representing the 17 radio station...