Guatemala: Adventist families open their homes for prayer during Constant in Prayer initiative

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North Colombia: Families the focus of the church’s ‘Constant in Prayer’ initiative

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June 18, 2011 - Totonicapan, Guatemala...Gustavo Menendez/IAD Staff

More than 10,000 Adventist families in Guatemala transformed their homes into houses of prayer as families, friends and neighbors gathered to pray and worship during Inter-America's Constant in Prayer revival initiative on June 10-11, 2011. The initiative focused on strengthening the family unit and reaching out to those in need of hope and prayer.

Themed "My House will be called a House of Prayer" under the leadership of the family ministries and women's ministries departments, thousands accepted the opportunity to testify and share Jesus in their homes through the special prayer programs and evangelistic campaigns led by women.

In the Totonicapan, Ezequiel Hernandez was among the thousands of families that opened their homes for prayer and Bible study. Pastor Benjamin Carballo, youth ministries director for the church in Inter-America, joined Hernandez's home and prayed for the needs of the family, God's protection against the threatening violence in his community and stressed the need for a life of constant connection with Jesus in the home.

Hernandez has been studying the Bible with local leaders and was blessed by the initiative.

"I have seen a change in the way I am and in my character, thanks to prayer and the study of the Word," he said.

According to church leaders, the large initiative to pray and testify in homes has been a great blessing for families spread out in Guatemala. So far nearly 7,000 people joined the church because of the 'Constant in Prayer' initiative launched earlier this year, testified Pastor Guenther Garcia, president for the church in Guatemala.

It is the kind of aggressive initiative that "has driven us to purchase a radio station to boost the coverage in San Marcos to carry this wonderful message to all corners of Guatemala," said Garcia. He added that another frequency was bought last year for the Petén region.

"We have seen an incredible revival in all Guatemala," added Garcia.

As spiritual revival has brought about spiritual renewal, church congregations have been experiencing challenges, Garcia said. "In Guatemala City, thieves burned down a church building. In another church on a Sabbath morning, during the worship service members were assaulted. In yet another church, robbers stole the tithes and offerings, yet our brethren said 'we will continue being constant in prayer for God will protect us, God will bless us'," concluded Garcia.

In the western region of Guatemala, there were more than 1,300 houses of prayer. In east Guatemala there were more than 830 families, and in the central region there were 636.

To date, more than 400 new members have joined the church and some 7,961 were given Bible
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Inter-American Division > Communication Department

Libna Stevens

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June 18, 2011 - Santa Marta, Colombia... Shirley Rueda/IAD

Adventist homes throughout the church in northern Colombia opened their homes to neighbors and friends during Inter-America’s territory-wide Constant in Prayer initiative focused on strengthening the family in surrounding communities. More than 15,000 homes participated in the initiative which included fellowship, worship, and prayer on the evening of June 10, according to Pastor Gustavo Perez, family ministries director for the church in North Colombia.

Joined by local church leaders, Pastor Melchor Ferreyra, personal ministries director for the church in Inter-America, visited eight homes to offer a spiritual encouragement and prayer for families in Santa Marta.

On Sabbath, June 11, in the Santa Marta’s Central Adventist Church, some 300 people from seven churches and four groups from the city’s metropolitan region met to enjoy an afternoon of testimonies and prayer, as well as to participate in training seminars.

Pastor Ferreyra spoke to the congregation on the need for spiritual revival. He stressed the importance of rebuilding the altars of prayer and worship in each Adventist home, while Pastor Perez also spoke on the dimensions of true love in marriage.

"I am happy for this initiative," said Sandra Espinel, who opened her home and testified of the positive impact of the prayer initiative. "Prayer is the foundation on which families should affirm themselves. I believe this program took place in an appropriate time, when families are more attacked by the enemy."

At the closing of the program, leaders highlighted the church’s main evangelistic projects for the five-year period in Colombia: the Great Caravan of Hope and the purchase of the first Adventist radio station in Colombia.

For more on the Seventh-day Adventist Church in North Colombia, click here.