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Libna Stevens
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Top Seventh-day Adventist leaders from throughout the Inter-American Division (IAD) territory made a public commitment to aggressively promote the study of the Bible throughout the church's 21 unions or regions during a special spiritual revival program from El Salvador Jul. 23, 2011. The launch program was part of the IAD's unique three-phase comprehensive revival and reformation initiative which is expected to be on-going for the years to come.

More than 10,000 church members crowded the Centro Internacional de Ferias y Convenciones in San Salvador, the capital city, to witness the three-hour launch program focused on the importance of studying and living by the truths of the Bible and reaching out to a needy world with the Holy Book.

Coined as "Heeding the Word", the new initiative becomes the second phase of the comprehensive revival initiative which seeks to inspire ministers, laypeople, educators, children, and young people throughout the IAD to deepen their study of the Scriptures, church leaders said. Inter-America's initiatives follow the Adventist World Church's recent appeal for revival, reformation, discipleship and evangelism around the globe.

"It is important that we live and share the Word of God," said Pastor Israel Leito, president of the church in Inter-America, as he addressed the gathering. "We want the world to know that the Adventist Church is a church that believes and shares the Bible."

Armed with Bibles, banners and posters, scores of children, young people, teachers, women, pastors, lay people, and families from the church in El Salvador took center stage during several segments of the program vowing to commit to studying the Bible and sharing its truths.

"'Heeding the Word' is a clarion call to the Inter-American church to spend time with the Bible, listen to what God has to say in His word, understand the significance of His message, and be willing to follow His instructions as they appear in the Bible," added Pastor Leito.

"We want the Bible to be the center of our lives, the center of our proclamation, because the Adventist Church does not have another guide but the Bible and the Holy Spirit," explained Pastor Leito.

General Vice President for the Adventist World Church Pastor Armando Miranda delivered the keynote message. He congratulated the church in Inter-America for its aggressive and unique spiritual revival initiative and encouraged the thousands present to the study of the Scriptures.

"Not only are we seeing wonderful revivals of God's presence in our times, but our pioneers dedicated hours upon hours studying the Bible and the Spirit of God manifested itself," said Pastor Miranda. "There was such a revival that even the denominations that did not accept, were touched by it."