Guatemala: Church partnership with Advent-Stiftung Foundation benefits families

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Some 240 families in Guatemala will soon be able to support themselves thanks to a partnership between the Seventh-day Adventist Church and the Advent-Stiftung Foundation—a Swiss-owned, non-government organization. Both organizations donated thousands of dollars worth of tools and equipment during a special ceremony in the El Progreso Adventist School's auditorium in Guatemala City, Guatemala, on July 20, 2011.

This is the third year of the partnership between the church in Guatemala and Advent-Stiftung for a project called "Live Better" (Viva Mejor). "Live Better" seeks to help needy families support themselves.

Peter Freuler, president of Advent-Stiftung, and Dr. Giuseppe Carbone, Advent-Stiftung director for Latin America, were on hand during the ceremony to donate dozens of industrial stoves, ice making machines, fumigating pumps, sewing machines, baking equipment, blenders, wooden equipment, clothing products, and more.

"Human integrity is built by values through education and morals," said Dr. Carbone. "However, there is something that allows men and women to become whole and honest through work. The philosophy of the foundation is to allow men and women to be complete through a job."

"A person who is not working can resort to social dependence," he continued. "But the person who holds an honest job values his or her life."

Pastor Guenther Garcia, president of the church in Guatemala, thanked Freuler and Dr. Carbone for providing a future and hope to hundreds of families in Guatemala during the past three years. Garcia also thanked the foundation's leaders for their trust in working with the church and for their commitment to the economic success of the family.

"As a church, we hope to continue offering this service to those in need," he said.

Pastor Garcia also thanked the church membership for participating in collecting thousands of dollars during its annual ingathering campaign. Thanks to the partnership with The Advent-Stiftung Foundation, $27,000 dollars worth of equipment will help needy Guatemalan families.

María López Ramos, a single mother of two, was thrilled to get an industrial stove during the ceremony.

"I want to thank the Adventist Church and the foundation for the stove," she said. "It will be the means from where I can feed my children." With the new stove, she plans to make and sell tortillas and meals throughout the day from her small home.

After the ceremony, Advent-Stiftung and church leaders visited beneficiaries from previous years to check on their business efforts.

Maribel Rojas, a 2010 beneficiary of Guatemala City, was given $60 dollars to start a small...