Inter-America: Church connects with ministers via territory-wide virtual council

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October 29, 2011 - Miami, Florida, United States...Libna Stevens/IAD

This first-ever virtual ministerial council, held Oct. 26 from the IAD headquarters in Miami, Florida, was part of the church's call to territory-wide spiritual revival, a call which has gathered momentum since the beginning of the year.

For two hours, some 3,000 district pastors and chaplains gathered in their respective regional conference or mission offices to hear top church leaders in Miami speak on spiritual revival and reformation, division-wide initiatives and new resources. Participants also engaged in a question and answer session.

"We are so busy with leading churches, visiting members, baptizing souls, that it is good that we come away for a few hours to chat with you, learn what concerns you and encourage you to continue being effective super pastors," said Pastor Israel Leito, president of the church in Inter-America.

During the council, ministers were challenged to continue in the mission of 'shepherding the flock', spreading the Gospel and preparing a people for Jesus' Second coming.

Adventist World Church President Ted N.C. Wilson encouraged ministers and leaders, via a pre-recorded video message, to deepen their study of the Scriptures and be led by the Holy Spirit.

"God's Word is so crucial to our future as a prophetic people," said Pastor Wilson. "Please don't ever discount or depreciate the Bible and its message as only symbolic or allegorical. God's Word and its accounts of history, including miracles, are true and real and demonstrate God's authority. Believe in the authenticity of God's Holy Word and the veracity or the truthfulness of the Spirit of Prophecy books. Heed God's Word."

Pastor Wilson also reminded pastors that the "Seventh-day Adventist Church believes in the historical biblical method of interpreting scripture and not on the historical critical method which casts doubt and unbelief on the miraculous events and prophecies recorded in scripture allowing skeptics to reconfigure the biblical record in a humanistic manner. God's Word is God's Word, not our words," he continued.

During his 10-minute message, Pastor Wilson posed a question to leaders: "Are we willing to climb out of our areas of comfort...to let God do what is necessary to prepare each of us for a true revival personally and corporately for a change or reformation through our lives as we become more like Jesus and for the reception of the latter rain?"

"Let's gather together to pray and heed God's Word," he said. "Let's use God's Word in personal and public evangelism and witness, allowing the Holy Spirit to set us on fire to share with those in need of salvation and acceptance and to spread the Good News of a God who loves us to the world."