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Inter-America: Educators focus on five main areas to improve Adventist education

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The missionary sharing book is a modern-language version of Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White's The Great Controversy, which church leaders say traces God's leading throughout history and provides answers for today's unsettled world.

Adventists worldwide have pledged to share millions of copies of the book with friends and neighbors in 2012 as part of the world church's Revival and Reformation initiative. In the church's South American Division alone, leaders plan to distribute 42 million copies of the book. The region is known for wide-scale distributions.

The October 29 distribution was a preview of the main distribution, which is set to begin next year in March, church leaders there said. In one region of Brazil alone, more than 120 pastors and their spouses handed out five thousand copies of The Great Hope. Similar distributions were conducted in Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Paraguay, Uruguay and Mexico.

One recipient, restaurant owner Rosa Maria Dantas Ferreira, welcomed the copy of The Great Hope she received. She told church leaders that the book was the motivation she needed to seek God.

Erton Kohler, Adventist Church president for South America, said the distribution comes at a time when people worldwide are looking for answers. The Great Hope offers a balanced, Biblical perspective on the world's final events, he said.
As the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America continues its push toward improving its educational system, church leaders and educators decided to pursue five main goals.

The five areas of emphasis are to reaffirm the philosophy of Adventist education, provide a higher quality of education, increase the schooling of students, strengthen the institutions financially, and involve Adventist educational institutions in community service. Educators also discussed the importance of joining the IAD's territory-wide spiritual revival and reformation initiative throughout the 2011-2012 school year with a week focused on the Bible, a special prayer emphasis day on March 7, and reading of the Bible on April 29.

“These initiatives go hand in hand with the document sent by the General Conference which asks Adventist educators around the world to be conscious of the need to be involved in revival and be part of the objectives of revival, be attuned toward the mission and committed to spiritual reformation,” said Dr. Gamaliel Florez, education director for the church in Inter-America.

During the meetings, reference was made to the policy for each union to vote submit the names of education directors and principals with six or more years of service in education to be commissioned as ministers.

School uniform colors were also voted on for union as gray and white and black and white for local field schools.

Regional education meetings with school principals and teachers will continue to take place during the coming months and years, top educators said.

For more information on Inter-America's Office of Education, visit www.interamerica.org or call 305.403.4700.