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Colombia: Adventist Church holds large territory-wide evangelistic efforts
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November 23, 2011 - Medellin, Colombia...Shirley Rueda/IAD Staff

Adventist educators from Colombia, Venezuela, Aruba and Curacao gathered for a special education congress last weekend at Colombia Adventist University in Medellin, Colombia. More than 100 educators met to recommit to the education of thousands of students at dozens of Adventist schools throughout their respective regions.

"Teachers, you must never forget that you are hands in the work of God," said Pastor Israel Leito, president for the church in Inter-America. "Remember that above any title, what is most important is to have the assurance of salvation in Jesus Christ."

The congress was about equipping educators and principals to acquire better leadership and management skills, said Dr. Gamaliel Florez, education director for the church in Inter-America. Dr. Florez noted the fundamental role the home has as one of the three pillars in Christian education which include the home, church and school.

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The event was part of the Inter-American Division's (IAD) larger education strategy to improve its educational system throughout the territory.

"We want to continue motivating our educators to carry on their work in fulfilling the mission of educating children and young people in our Adventist educational institutions," said Faye Patterson, associate director of education for Inter-America.

As part of the event, 24 teachers were honored with a commissioned ministry of teaching credential pin for their valuable contribution and commitment to education.

"Today we honor you, we value you and congratulate you for your dedicated work of teaching," said Pastor Leito.

For more on the church in North Colombia, go to http://www.unioncolombiana.org.co

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Nov 22, 2011

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Colombia ended a massive two-week evangelistic effort throughout its five main regions on Nov. 12, 2011. More than 1,000 new believers joined the church during the campaign.

November 22, 2011 - Bogota, Colombia...Marcela Pineros/IAD Staff

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in South Colombia ended a massive two-week evangelistic effort throughout its five main regions on Nov. 12, 2011. More than 1,000 new believers joined the church during the campaign.

The efforts were the results of a joint effort by ministers and church members who worked towards a focused strategy to share the gospel in a region bursting with more than 24 million people, church leaders said.

Themed “Time for Hope”, leaders organized evangelistic campaigns in large centers throughout the main cities in South Colombia as they culminated a series of activities to commemorate the 90 years of Adventist presence in the region.

“This was a great opportunity to show this part of Colombia that the church is alive in this region of the world and each member wants to spread the message of salvation," said Pastor Eliseo Bustamante, president for the church in South Colombia.

In Bogota, a city with more than 7 million, the church held a four-day televised campaign Nov. 2-5, led by Pastor Robert Costa, It is Written speaker and associate ministerial secretary for the Adventist World Church. More than 12,000 gathered and some 520 people were baptized as a result of the joint efforts of ministers and laypeople.

"I am so happy to have participated in this such important program for our church in Bogota," said Pastor Costa. "It was surely a far reaching project and I am amazed at the magnitude of this celebration."

The program was broadcast live through 3ABN Latino, via the internet and local station IPTV.

A series of activities leading up to the campaign event took place throughout Bogota earlier in the year, including special taxi cabs offering prayer throughout the day, participation in Bogota's international half marathon, a massive blood donating campaign, a health expo, and more.

Elsewhere in the region, the church organized a series of evangelistic meetings headlined by renowned keynote speaker Pastor Alejandro Bullon. The meetings covered the cities of Villavicencio, Cali, Pereira, Ibagué, and Sogamoso from Nov. 6-12.

More than 34,500 people attended the evangelistic series in various centers and auditoriums and some 985 new believers joined the church, leaders reported.

"It was a week filled with great blessings as leaders and members took to the territory," said Pastor Aicardo Arias, personal ministries director for the church in South Colombia. "We saw so many people truly searching for hope."

At the end of the evangelistic caravan journey some 120 church leaders and pastors met for a spiritual revival enrichment seminar led by Pastor Melchor Ferreyra, personal ministries director for the church in Inter-America.