Puerto Rico: Church inaugurates state-of-the-art headquarter office
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Puerto Rico: Church celebrates day of prayer and focus on the Bible
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Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists gathered at the Coliseo Rubén Rodríguez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, to be part of the church's annual day of prayer and focus on the study of the bible, on Feb. 11, 2012.
Seventh-day Adventists in Puerto Rico celebrated the inauguration of the church's new state-of-the-art headquarter office during a special ceremony held on Feb. 12, 2012, in Mayaguez, Puerto Rico.

Pastor Ted N. C. Wilson, president of the Adventist world church, was accompanied by Inter-American leader Pastor Israel Leito, president of the church in Inter-America, fellow administrators and local church leaders to witness the event.

"It is an incredible tribute to God and His people to inaugurate this building without any financial debt," said Pastor Wilson. "May this be a testimony of Christian stewardship and everything done here may be to honor the Lord."

"Today a new page is opened in the history of buildings in the Division territory," said Pastor Leito as he joined in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Government and municipal leaders joined dozens of church leaders and members as they took in the music and the raising of the flags by young people and pathfinders in front of the new office. The television media was there to cover the event.

The new facility sits on an acre lot close to one of the main avenues of the city with a 14,000 square feet structure and will be home to the central headquarters for the church on the island, the Adventist Development and Relief Agency (ADRA), as well as educational and youth programs to benefit the community.

The three-story building includes 20 offices, a 100-seat auditorium, a conference room, a cafeteria, and work stations.

The conference room was dedicated to the memory of Alberto Fischer, the first Adventist missionary to arrive in Puerto Rico in 1901. He later died in Mayaguez. The main auditorium was named after Pastor Felix Rios, who led the church on the island during great changes during the 1990s.

Formerly located in the capital city of San Juan, the union headquarters moved to Mayaguez in 2001 to be closer to the its university and hospital, church officials said. The administrative offices were housed in the policlinic in Mayaguez until the new union office was finished several weeks ago.

During the ceremony, the Puerto Rican Adventist artist Luis German Cajigas presented an exhibit of his paintings and the West Association of Journalists shared a photography exhibit of the visits to Haiti after the earthquake in 2010 with ADRA Puerto Rico.

The Seventh-day Adventist Church in Puerto Rico has more than 37,000 church members worshiping in 301 congregations. The church operates a university, a hospital, two radio stations and 19 primary and secondary schools.
To view a photo gallery of the event, click here

image by Jaime Crespo

The new three-story facility will house the church's administrative office in Puerto Rico with 20 offices, an auditorium, a conference room and more.
Puerto Rico: Church celebrates day of prayer and focus on the Bible

Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists gathered at the Coliseo Rubén Rodríguez in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, to be part of the church's annual day of prayer and focus on the study of the bible, on Feb. 11, 2012.

February 16, 2012 - Bayamón, Puerto Rico...Luis Rivera/IAD Staff

Thousands of Seventh-day Adventists gathered at the Coliseo Rubén Rodríguez in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, to be part of the church's annual day of prayer and focus on the study of the bible, on Feb. 11, 2012. The annual event highlighted the church's commitment to the spiritual revival and reformation initiative on the island.

Pastor Ted N.C. Wilson, Adventist world church president and keynote speaker, reflected on Philippians 2:8-11 and challenged church members to live a prayerful life, confessing that "Jesus Christ is Lord, for the Father's glory."

The event marked the official launch in Puerto Rico of "That the World May Know", the third phase of the spiritual revival initiative taking place across the Inter-American Division (IAD) territory. "That the World May Know" in Puerto Rico will seek to get local churches involved in an aggressive missionary program during the coming years.

The Honorable Luis G. Fortuño, Puerto Rico's governor, greeted the more than 6,000 church members gathered and thanked the church for its contribution to the development of the island, especially in its service to the community and education.

Governor Fortuño read Genesis chapter 1 before 3,986 persons read the rest of the Bible at the same time up to Revelation 21 during a period of 10 minutes. Representing Puerto Rico's business sector, Mrs. Monique Miranda, president of Universal Insurance, read Revelation 22 and concluded the historic segment with a prayer of consecration.

Pastor Wilson and Governor Fortuño had the opportunity to speak about the importance of allowing God to be in the lives of individuals, especially in schools where values and principles stay with children for years to come.

The event was broadcast via satellite on 3ABN Latino as well as on radio and internet.

The live program marked the end of evangelistic campaigns held last week across the Eastern part of the island by evangelists from Puerto Rico's sister union of South Mexico.

The church in Puerto Rico has already scheduled a number of Adventist evangelists such as Robert Costa, Jose Vicente Rojas, and Mark Finley within the next three years. Evangelist Alejandro Bullón is scheduled to hold an evangelistic series next month.

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To view a photo gallery of the event, click here
More than 6,000 Seventh-day Adventist from across the island gathered at the Coliseo Ruben Rodriguez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico to fellowship and celebrate spiritual revival and reformation.