Inter-America: Children’s Ministries leaders challenged to shape spiritual giants

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Millions worldwide continue to receive hope through literature campaign

Seventh-day Adventist world church leaders embarked upon a literature sharing campaign two years ago that surpassed in scale any literature project to date.

Inter-America: Hundreds make their way to historic convention

Hundreds of Seventh-day Adventist leaders and teachers from throughout Inter-America have been arriving by the dozens to the territory's first ever children's ministries leadership convention which begins tonight at Camp Kulaqua in High Springs, Florida,
"As children's ministries leaders, we need to become strong effective disciplers of children, encourage, empower and equip parents and families to be able to guide children into becoming spiritual giants," said Linda Koh, children's ministries director for the Adventist world church as she addressed hundreds of leaders from throughout Inter-America.

Koh's message set the tone for the Seventh-day Adventist Church in Inter-America's first territory-wide Children's Ministries Leadership Convention which commenced last evening and will continue through the weekend.

At a time when children across the globe are facing broken homes, abuse, and worldly temptations, special focus must be placed to help children find Jesus and live as God purposed them, said Koh.

"If we want to raise spiritual giants, we must help children find God's vision for their life, set a good biblical worldview, partner and equip parents to be primary spiritual disciplers and provide the kind of supportive churches they need to grow in," emphasized Koh.

It's about being the right spiritual leaders to disciple children into becoming spiritual giants for the church and the community, she said. It's about giving, children ownership letting them participate and lead in worship, evangelism, discipleship, stewardship, and letting them serve people in the community.

"Tomorrow's missionaries, tomorrow's strong pastors, and strong leaders, begins with today's children," said Koh. "Raise many 'Davids' so they can fight the 'Goliaths' in their lives," she challenged.

For Cosvi Dzul who leads children's ministries for the church in Central Mexico, Koh's message and challenge gave her strength and support.

"We are certifying leaders and parents at the same time with special courses to nurture our children spiritually," said Dzul. "That's the key to discipling and raising spiritual giants for the Lord."

The convention themed "Fit for Jesus" will continue throughout July 15 with dozens of seminars, programs and special activities.

To view a photo gallery of the event, visit [www.flickr.com/photos/interamerica](http://www.flickr.com/photos/interamerica)

For updates on Inter-America's Children's Ministries Leadership Convention, visit us at [www.interamerica.org](http://www.interamerica.org)
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Written by Adventist Church co-founder Ellen G. White, the abridged version of the book would be updated in its language and include 11 chapters of the original Great Controversy which was originally written in 1888 and revised in 1911.

Already, tens of millions of copies of the paperback book have already been distributed in several parts of the world and nearly as many electronic copies of the book have been downloaded. Most of the church's world regions are still in the early phases of their distribution.

Rumors in some world regions claim that there is litigation involved with The Great Hope project. Those rumors are untrue. "We are seeing that tools like email, social media and SMS text messages can be tools for good as well as tools for mischief," said world church Public Relations Director Garrett Caldwell.

"If the church encountered legal action against such an important initiative it would be widely reported through official church news channels, such as the Adventist News Network," Caldwell said.

The distribution project will continue through 2013 with more than 170 million copies marked for sharing. See the project's website at greatcontroversyproject.adventist.org.
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Maria Guadalupe Arenas from North Chiapas in South Mexico was all smiles after resting from being up for 24 hours yesterday. "I left my house at 3 a.m. from Villa Hermosa to Mexico City to Orlando to Camp Kulaqua," said Arenas. "We are excited and happy to be here and get the opportunity to meet others this week."

Dinorah Rivera, children's ministries director for the church in Inter-America and organizer of the event, said she is excited to see the groups arrive. She added that planning the convention for the last eight months has consumed much of her energy and attention.

"I'm so thankful to have some 30 speakers and seminar presenters available for this convention," said Rivera. "It brings me great joy to see them from all over our territory ready learn more and commit to nurturing our children spiritually."

The convention will begin tonight at 7:30 p.m. and will continue until Sunday, July 15, 2012.

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