

## A new beginning for the Puerto Rican Church

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National leader of Puerto Rico



*The four families of FFWPU-Puerto Rico brought in 13 guests to the One-Day Divine Principle Seminar conducted by Rev. Ricardo de Sena (seated, fifth from left), the National Director of Latino Ministry Development, on Saturday July 13, 2013 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.*

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, the Family Federation for World Peace and Unification (FFWPU) Puerto Rico held a one-day Divine Principle seminar on Saturday July 13, 2013, marking a new beginning for the Church there.

We contracted with a well-known local restaurant, *El Zipperle*, in the center of San Juan, to provide a conference room for the presentations and a room for the lunch we wished to offer for the guests.



*Dr. Jaime Giordano, Ph.D., a Professor Emeritus of the Universidad de Puerto Rico, attended the One-Day Divine Principle posted on his Facebook that he enjoyed the time spent with good company.*

Prior to the Divine Principle seminar, Rev. Ricardo de Sena, the National Director of Latino Ministry Development, visited each of the four member families of FFWPU Puerto Rico.

On Friday morning, Rev. de Sena went to the Abadia home to visit and for lunch, and in the afternoon he visited the Morales family home in Rio Piedras. That evening we all congregated at my home in Guaynabo for dinner, conversation and planning for the following day's event. These two days were especially rewarding in that we were able to meet with Rev. de Sena both individually and collectively. Rev. de Sena offered himself fully and without restraint to understand our positions and personalities. We were especially blessed to be able to have give and take with him during this time and to share our hearts. We had originally intended to share a worship service following this dinner, but the conversation went on quite late and with a good purpose. We felt that the worshiping was accomplished in the sharing and eating together. It was somewhat like the day of Pentecost some 2000 years ago when the Holy Spirit was present in all fullness.



*Church member Pedro Morales, center, invited his sister, Alina Morales (right), and guest*

### **The Seminar**

Our members had contacted friends and associates with whom we have had some give and take association in the past, as well as a couple of guests with whom we had no previous influence. Twenty one people confirmed their attendance for the workshop. In actuality, thirteen of them were present.



*Second-generation Unificationists*

Rev. de Sena presented four talks entirely in Spanish: The Creation, The Fall, Restoration and The Mission of the Messiah.

There was much give and take between Rev. de Sena and the audience; questions were dealt with either during lunch or after completion of the presentations.



*Young people listened attentively to the Divine Principle lectures given entirely in Spanish*

The talks were given with much devotion, spirit and dedication. The guests were able to witness that the content was given factually, accurately, logically and from a deep heart of faith.

One Christian lady, who is not (yet) a believer in True Father, listened intently to all of the presentations and commented that this content was real and logical and not what she hears in her church Bible school. Alida Morales (the sister of a current member, Pedro Morales) was so moved that she came back to her brother's home on Sunday to hear the lecture on the Second Coming. She says that she is inspired to start witnessing. During the Seminar presentations, it was obvious to me by her facial expressions that her

heart was being moved. Within an hour of the completion of the Seminar, Professor Jaime Giordano, Ph.D, a Professor Emeritus of the *Universidad de Puerto Rico*, had posted on his Facebook that it was his first time out since bypass surgery 10 days previous, and that he enjoyed the time with good company. Other attendees reported positively to the members who had invited them. Our members were duly impressed that we were outnumbered by guests, a rare happening.



*Puerto Rico has a four million Spanish-speaking population and is an incorporated territory of the United States located in the northeastern Caribbean.*

### **The Future**

As a result of the grand participation, acceptance and response of the guests, it is our hope and desire to repeat this type of Seminar again and again. However, we will try make it a more homogenous group in the future. Our next goal is to gather pastors and present this content to them. Apart from Rev. Esdras Rivera, no pastor in Puerto Rico has heard any of the Divine Principle lectures. We would welcome Rev. de Sena at any time, and from a practical point of view would like to have him here four times a year if his schedule, responsibilities and time would permit it.

I have requested each family to establish a condition of faith beginning immediately and to last through the remainder of the year. When any member is able to build a foundation of give and take with a potentially interested pastor or guest, we will add them to our prayer list to support each other's witnessing efforts.



*An aerial view of San Juan, Puerto Rico*

For any individuals who need support in doing outreach in Spanish or have a contact who is speaks Spanish, please contact Rev. Ricardo de Sena.