

Person to person oikos witnessing in Costa Rica

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Rev. Seo giving a person to person lecture

The Costa Rican church introduced the person to person method of Divine Principle teaching as a witnessing approach last year with the arrival of Rev. Sung Jong Seo, whom True Mother sent in 2013 as a Cheon Il Guk special envoy. The first stage of the national providence's transition toward Vision 2020 occurred when the members were taught about home groups, the person to person teaching system and the *oikos* witnessing method.

Although adapting to changes hasn't been easy during the first quarter of this year, thirty-four people were teaching Divine Principle under this practice. The main feature in boosting the effectiveness of the teaching is the personal contact.

During the previous ten years, our Adam-nation national messiah, Rev Joong Soo Kim, developed a providential project to introduce True Parents through Telepaz, a national television broadcasting system, on channel 52. Eighty-five percent of the members accepted True Parents through the Divine Principle lectures broadcasted by Telepaz TV. About a thousand people came to the national headquarters over the years to buy the book and prerecorded lectures. One-, three- and seven-day Divine Principle workshops were frequently announced on Channel 52 in order to attract new people who could become members. Actually, throughout those activities, more than eighty TV viewers attended a workshop. Although we invited international and national renowned lecturers like Ricardo Ayerza, Ricardo de Sena, Fernando Barrantes, Alexander Lopez and Daisy Salas, the effort has not translated into a significant increase of members; only 10 percent of those people continued attending our movement after the programs.

With the arrival of a new era and the need for each person to become a true owner of the Cheon Il Guk, Costa Rica took the first steps toward a new vision. In 2012, after True Father's ascension, a workshop about the vision of home groups, person-to- person teaching and the *oikos* witnessing system was taught by Rev. Seo for the first time in our country. The program inspired some people with its way of organizing the life of faith and the spiritual growth of the members. When Rev. Seo arrived in Costa Rica in April 2013 as the Cheon Il Guk special envoy, he carried firm determination to expand the Vision 2020 Project nationwide and beyond our borders, as requested of him by the regional headquarters. Soon after Rev. Seo's arrival, a Cheon Il Guk Latin American Leaders Convention was organized at the central office in San José City from May 5 to May 7 (3.24–26 on the heavenly calendar).

The broadcasting of thirty-three hours of Divine Principle lectures using the person to person teaching method, along with the seminars held during 2013 in five of seven states -- San José, Heredia, Cartago, Alajuela and Limon -- have encouraged a significant number of members to take up person to person lecturing. Viewers of Channel 52 also wished to attend a seminar and many of them requested colored Divine Principle books. During this first year, the foundation of a new paradigm has been established, which feeds a system that provides support to the reorganization of True Parents' movement nationwide.



Daisy Salas giving a person to person lecture training graduate to-person lecture

All these initiatives were carried out with two hundred of the tri-colored version of *Exposition of Divine Principle*, acquired by members motivated to become lecturers. Soon after, many other people asked for the book. This situation placed Costa Rica on a higher level of providential development. Currently, the one-day Divine Principle workshops announced by Telepaz TV are aimed at finding and educating new candidates to become person to person lecturers. This task is done by gathering people beforehand that wish to become Divine Principle teachers or who are already experienced in teaching the Divine Principle in the region where the workshop is going to take place.



A person-to-person lecture training graduate

The activity for a particular region is planned with those motivated to carry it out. We design the program with the characteristics of the region in mind, preparing to monitor and care for the socially prominent guests and following the educational standard set up by Rev. Seo for the new members. The educators who are most enthusiastic about person to person teaching adapted their time and pace to the characteristics of each guest, gradually building a relationship of trust and heart.

On March 30, 2014, a workshop for person to person lecturers was attended by thirty-four people who teach Divine Principle using this system. The goal for this year is to educate at least twelve members, each one of them with the goal of teaching at least a Divine Principle workshop per month, plus twenty-one members to teach at least a Divine Principle workshop every three months and forty more members to do it every six or twelve months.

Our main nationwide activities are focused on the person to person witnessing, home groups and *oikos* activities. The headquarters facilities were remodeled to create an adequate space for the person to person Divine Principle lectures. There

are four rooms specially arranged by Korean, Japanese, Brazilian and local members; however, the central building is used almost entirely to lecture on weekends.

After a short time, we could already enjoy positive results at the national level produced using this system to organize our church development activities. Results have already appeared in the national providence, through the multiplication of home groups for the Victory of Vision 2020 using socially prominent people as lecturers. We have experienced an expansion of membership.

With the recent arrival of two thousand colored Divine Principle books, supplied by the international headquarters, a new era will begin for the person to person lecturing method in our country, starting from May.

A convention that brought together leaders from Latin American countries was celebrated in Costa Rica May 9–11, with the purpose of conducting in-depth analysis of home groups, person to person Divine Principle lecturing and the *oikos* witnessing system. We sincerely hope that many more members join in building the culture of Cheon Il Guk, contributing to the development of the providence toward the fulfillment of Vision 2020, as expected by our True Mother.