

Second Divine Principle Workshop in Spanish at the IPEC in Las Vegas

Richard De Sena
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From October 24-30, 2016, 18 Spanish-speaking guests from around the United States gathered at the International Peace Education Center (IPEC) in Las Vegas to attend a Divine Principle Workshop in Spanish. Mr. Richard De Sena, Secretary General for the Universal Peace Federation of North America, directed the seven-day workshop. Other staff included Las Vegas' Assistant Pastor John Arias, as well as Unificationists Monica Vallejo and Claudelina Smith.

Every morning began with Hoon Dok Hwe (daily study of scripture) and continued with lectures and activities until late into the night. Before a lecture, participants would read a chapter of Divine Principle and discuss its significance as a group. Then Mr. De Sena and Assistant Pastor John Arias would explain the highlights of the chapter. Participants expressed deep gratitude for being able to study Divine Principle in small groups. "Thank you for giving us the opportunity...to enjoy the fellowship of brothers and sisters," said Juan Talamante, a Unificationist who attended the workshop with his wife Marta. Miriam Garces agreed. "Thank you for allowing us to be here in this beautiful place, sharing with beautiful people."

Throughout the seven days, guests explored the area with a walk on the Las Vegas Strip, a trip to Lake Mead, and a visit to the Grand Canyon. Participants affirmed that God's love was present during this time. "I'm so happy. I'm full of joy. I never felt this way before," said Luis Ochoa, one of the seminar participants.

Unificationists also expressed gratitude for being able to learn more about their faith in their native language. "Thank you very much for allowing our Latino Community to study the Divine Principle. We are very, very grateful," said Patricio Huaman, a Unificationist from New York. Mr. De Sena plans to hold another workshop for Spanish speakers in January to continue making the Divine Principle available and accessible to the 56 million Latinos who live in the United States.

