

## FFWPU Dominican Republic: Family Peace Festival for the Blessing of Marriages

Bernardo Cruz  
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A blessing ceremony was held at the New Jerusalem Evangelical Church in Los Alcarrizos, attended by 70 individuals and 17 couples. The ceremony began with opening remarks by the MC, national leader Bernardo Cruz Peralta.

A church member delivered the opening prayer, followed by welcoming remarks from Pastor Clervin Jude, who expressed gratitude to the Family Federation for blessing his church. Rev. Leonidas Belliard, regional director of the Heavenly Caribbean, extended greetings and remarked on the New Jerusalem Church's fortune in receiving the blessing of the True Parents.

Mr. César Augusto Regalado Muñoz, secretary general of the UPF and responsible for education within the Federation of Families of the Dominican Republic, discussed the value and meaning of the blessing.



The ceremony was then officiated by Rev. Pasquale Lai and Mrs. Yoko Kikuchi, with couples Fernando Cruz Belliard and Sonia Turpo, and Rodolfo Espinosa and Arisleida Hiraldo participating. Activities included a holy wine ceremony, holy water blessing vows, a blessing prayer, and a proclamation of the blessing. In appreciation, Pastor Clervin Jude and his wife presented two bouquets of flowers to the officiants.

The event concluded with Mr. Cándido Gómez, director of Heavenly Tribal Messianism, congratulating all the blessed couples and leading the Eog Mansei cheers.

Meanwhile, the Blessing Ceremony, officiated by the True Parents to create "One Family under God," aims to realize an ideal of peace centered on God. The event began with a ceremony for 36 couples in 1961 and has grown significantly over the years. It expanded to ceremonies for 777 couples in 1970, 1,800 couples in 1975, 6,000 couples in 1982, 6,500 couples in 1988, and 30,000 couples in 1992. Participants.