

Minneapolis Unificationist holds Spanish workshop

Rosemary Yokoi
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There is an estimate of 37 million Spanish speakers in America. Spanish ministry, translation, and outreach have become a relevant issue for many communities who wish to spread True Parents' vision. The Unificationist community in Minneapolis spent a weekend reaching out to their Spanish speaking friends and family with a workshop on November 1-2, 2014. The workshop was organized by Michael Moyongo and his team at the Spanish community church. Nancy Makowski of California gave lectures in Spanish to six guests on Saturday and five guests on Sunday, plus local Unificationists and staff.

Rosemary Yokoi, Pastor of the Minneapolis church said, "I felt the workshop was significant in that it helped us to make a better and deeper foundation for the Spanish church we are building. Nancy offered significant internal guidance, pouring out her heart. The people who attended were able to go deeper than we had been able to before."

A few Spanish-speaking local Unificationists, most of whom had been missionaries in Spanish-speaking countries, were able to assist with the workshop. They helped to bring stability and a sense of community to the event. Along with the inspiring presentations, there was plenty of delicious food prepared by Mrs. Esther Moyongo.

Many of the guests expressed that they "felt drawn to come and felt that God was working to help them understand." One participant shared that he had a young child and was recently divorced from his wife. "That's why I'm here," he said. Organizers expressed that they were "moved that people could see our movement as a place where they can find the way to build and rebuild strong families."

The international spirit was expanded on Saturday, when a French-speaking guest from Haiti arrived. Michael Moyongo, who hails from Congo, was able to give several one-on-one lectures.

At the end of the workshop, participants watched a video of True Father officiating various Holy Marriage Blessing Ceremonies. Over dinner, the local Unificationists shared their own Blessing stories, creating a warm and personal environment. All of the guests were interested in receiving the Holy Marriage Blessing. Some even asked, "How can I find a spouse?"

Currently, a Spanish service is held concurrent with the English service in Minneapolis. The workshop was a wonderful experience and a great way to expand the community's Spanish-speaking ministry. They look forward to similar events and to being able to spread True Parents' ministry to even more people.