

REVIVE



“You did not choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you that you should go and bear fruit, and that your fruit should remain, that whatever you ask the Father in My name He may give you”.
John 15:16

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS:

WHAT IS THE INTERNET SITE FOR THE WEBCAST OF OCTOBER 27?

IAD's website will have a link with three channel options for the online transmission: in English, Spanish and French.

www.interamerica.org

DO WE NEED SPECIAL EQUIPMENT OR SOFTWARE FOR THE CONNECTION?

Besides ensuring that the computer has a good navigation engine such as Firefox, Chrome, Safari or other; it is necessary to ensure that flash is installed on the computer. Outside of that, it is not necessary to install any special software. Remember that a good internet connection and good support team is needed so that church board members can see, hear through video-projector and speakers.



Interview with Pastor Israel Leito

President of the Inter-American Division

There are but a few weeks before our Division's year-end committee decides on initiatives that are planned throughout the territory for the Year of the Laity. One of the activities planned will take place on September 28, 2013, when ordained church elders will be authorized to baptize for one day.

Pastor Leito, why plan a celebration where ordained elders will perform a baptismal ceremony?

Our laypeople are an example of obedience to God as they respond to the call of “go and make disciples.” This denotes a great sense of responsibility, effort, but above all a task done with great love for God. Under divine inspiration, the church believes that ordained elders, as leaders in the local churches, should be rewarded and motivated. What better way to honor their faithful labors, than to organize this unique experience on September 28, when they will have the honor of baptizing candidates. This day will be special and historic as well.

The Church Manual states that in the absence of an ordained minister, a church elder can request the president of the local field for permission to baptize. But this is not the case on this occasion.

In many ways, 2013 will be a different year throughout the Inter-American Division. It is a year where we will evangelize as never before, where more people as ever will get to know of the love of God and will surrender their lives to Him. This is the “great power of God” being manifested throughout the territory as never seen before!

In Acts, Chapter 8, we find the story of the laymen who were “scattered abroad preaching the gospel...” and many men and women were baptized when hearing of the Kingdom of God. Then the Lord tells Phillip, “Go near...” authorizing him to baptize an Ethiopian eunuch.

September 28 does not mean that ordained ministers are scarce, but there will be a special reason church elders, consecrated by the Spirit of the Lord, can have a special

experience of baptizing new members. The Division Committee will present this initiative to the local fields and churches for adoption. Obviously, this will not be a permanent authorization, but something special for this occasion, authorized by the president of the local field. The ordained elder will only be able to baptize the persons for which he or she has worked with personally.

What does it mean for the elders to take part in this activity throughout the IAD?

The honor of having been consecrated through an ordination service, plus the experience and the spiritual authority by the elder, carries a value which places him/her in a position of influence and blessing for the church members to whom he or she ministers. However, this responsibility is limited to the local church area. Therefore, we hope that through this activity church elders can be strengthened with a sense of belonging to a global church which together will celebrate the Lord's victories as one big family stretched across the 34 countries in this Division.

What results are expected from these activities held in local churches?

Church elders have always strived to win souls and with this event, we want them to know that, by the grace of God, they can, on this occasion, participate in the act of seeing the birth of a new soul for the Kingdom of God. If every church elder wins and baptizes at least one person, it will be a beautiful harvest on behalf of the elders.

REVIVE is a special newsletter to promote activities related to the 2013 Year of the Laity. It is edited by the Communication Department of the Inter-American Division.