

One Great Big La Represa Wedding

A common tradition in La Represa is that of common law marriages. Many couples choose to simply move in together instead of paying to get legally married. That is culturally accepted as marriage, even when it occurs with minors. When New Vision first formed a relationship with the community of La Represa, they had a joint wedding for various couples who had been married in the eyes of the community but wanted to be right before God and their families. After kicking off the marriage Bible study at the beginning of this year, it was soon decided that we would be having a second community wedding this year.



Last Saturday, the children's ministry helped seven couples celebrated their wedding day. You might be thinking, "What does this huge wedding have to do with the children's ministry and my sponsor child?" My response is EVERYTHING! While we call ourselves a children's ministry, we know that the children's greatest influencers are their parents. By investing in them, we hope to see entire families come to know the Lord, be involved in the local church, and make a change for Christ in their community.

I asked one of the couples why, after five years of living together and having two children, they



decided to get legally married and be a part of the wedding ceremony. The wife's answer was, "We're doing it for our kids. We want to be an example to them of a godly marriage for when they are older, and that starts with being legally married." The wedding was such a beautiful event—not because of the decorations or the dresses, but because of the desire of the couples to set a

godly example for their children and start a legacy of true marriage in their families. One couple had been together for two years, while another couple had been together for twenty! Either way, every couple was so excited about one of the biggest days of their lives.

The wedding was made possible by New Vision and its members, the local Nueva



Vision church, and the SCORE sponsors. Here are words of thanks from a few of the couples whose legal marriage was made possible because of you!

“We are so thankful to God and to you all for giving us the opportunity to make our dream of getting married a reality. It has been such a blessing, and we hope that God would bless you greatly. May your homes be filled with joy and may the peace of God be with you. Thank you so much for all of your help, dedication, and efforts to make our marriage possible.”

“I am more than thankful for your support. I want to thank every person that made possible our wedding. It is a blessing from God for my family and my children. I am thankful for God and you, because today I am a married woman. I can say that I am living correctly before God. May God shower his blessings on you. I could write an entire book about how thankful I am for you. I hope that God gives you the opportunity to continue blessing others for many years.”

“We thank God and everyone that has made it possible for us to be united in marriage. We are



joyful and very thankful. May God continue giving you the ability to serve and continue blessing you for your efforts and the great blessing that you have given us. Today, we are filled with thankfulness and rejoicing for this marriage that was possible because of you.”