

Dave and Michele Mahon

Prayer letter, September 2018

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CAMPAMENTO DE DAMAS 2018

LADIES RETREAT

I had the opportunity to join with the ladies of our Baptist Association, at their annual weekend retreat. I also had the privilege to be their main speaker, delivering material on their theme this year, 'The Christian Woman and her Relationship with God, in the last Days.'

On the Friday afternoon we assembled at the local bus garage, then boarded our chartered minibus to the venue, which was in Nauta. The two-hour trip was not at all tedious; the ladies spontaneously sang praises to God. The songs were interrupted somewhat, as we stopped on a few occasions to pick up more 'sisters', on our way. There was another interruption, this time to attend to the one child who was a little car sick, after which soon we were on our way again.

In total, there were 12 of us ladies and 10 children. My kids, Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe were not able to join me; fortunately, they were enjoying a special weekend at home with Dave.



Breakfast time

We arrived in good time. Laura, our BMS colleague was there to welcome us, ensuring we all settled in well. After supper, I was able to share little bit about my life, background and family in our first session. Following my personal testimony, there was space for each lady to also share her life story and testimony. With the help of the elders amongst us, we concluded

our time with personal prayer ministry, anointing with oil and prayer for healing together. We strongly felt the love and presence of the God the Holy Spirit with us, to heal and bless us all. Please join us in thanking God for answers to prayer for healing, wisdom and reconciled relationships.

The following morning, Saturday after devotions, Laura led a physical exercise session, after which breakfast was served. Then it was time for some more praise and worship, Peruvian style. Our lesson was taken from the gospel of Mark and we reflected on the story of the woman with the issue of blood (Mark 5:25-34). We focused on the importance of hearing each other's stories, whilst looking out for those in our community who may be suffering in some way like this lady in the story. Please pray that the churches will continue to seek for more opportunities to adopt a more community-focused gospel witness.

After a short break, we were led by a Christian family therapist in a series of bonding activities, proven to help improve family relationships. One involved holding on to someone with your eyes closed and trusting them to lead you through a room full of people, then swapping places. In our discussions on these activities afterwards, we began to realise we had all learned a lot about trust and communication, especially through physical touch, words of affirmation and boundaries. Please pray for greater healing within family relationships here.



Learning Together

The afternoon was dedicated to sports activities. Volleyball and Football were enjoyed by some of the ladies, after which we had some valuable free time. In the evening after dinner was served, we had some fun, dressing up as characters from the Bible. It was up to the audience to guess who we were! As the darkness fell outside, there was a lot of laughter in the room as a pregnant Mary, brave Deborah and wily Salome took the floor!



A pregnant Mary with her friends!

The night concluded with a biblical reflection on the story of Elijah and the widow's oil, taken from 1 Kings 17. The group began to reflect on the many situations where we seemed to have very little to sustain us,

never mind to give someone in need. The passage encouraged us to put our trust in God's power which can multiply our little into much. Please pray our church projects will continue to bear much fruit for God's glory.

On the final morning before we said farewell, we shared communion together, known here as 'Santa Cena'. We had a wonderful time meditating on the epic work of the cross of Jesus, and the power of His blood to redeem us and set us free. Our time was concluded with more prayer for one another. It was truly a joy to see sisters in Christ, bearing each other's burdens and practically demonstrating our love for one another before the Father. Please pray for more unity amongst the churches here.

The conference concluded with a Christian film. After lunch we all departed to our homes with many testimonies of peace, healing, joy, fellowship, and we were full of thanksgiving and praise for the privilege we have, to be called Daughters of the King of Kings! Until next year sisters! Please continue to thank God for the women in our churches, and pray that our unique identities, gifts and wisdom in Christ would grow into fulfilment of God's will for us all.

Michele and Dave Mahon

If you would like to support Dave and Michele Mahon by prayer and committed regular giving, visit www.bmsworldmission.org/partners or call 01235 517617 for a 24:7 Partners leaflet.



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