

Dave and Michele Mahon

Springing into Action: A time of refreshing at a Theological Conference in Lima

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Dear Friends,

I pray that this prayer letter finds you well whilst you adjust to the new season of Autumn. For us in the Southern Hemisphere we are enjoying the new season of Spring. *Primavera* as is called, is celebrated here with the acknowledgement of new life, flowers, traditional stories, and poems. Our kids had an opportunity to learn and perform in '*Juegos Florales*', a presentation of Peruvian folklore communicated in poetry, puppetry, pictures and an array of dance and song.

(Photo includes Phoebe)



Towards the end of September I had the opportunity of speaking at our annual Theological conference. The theme was the importance of continuous professional development for Pastors. The Peruvian Baptist Convention has a Department of Theology who hosted the conference, with its primary goal being to support the 5 bible colleges and leadership training centres within the country.

Just before travelling to the conference, I concluded my lecture at the Baptist Seminary here in Trujillo. After a quick dash to pack, I hastily made my way to the local bus garage. It was encouraging to see some of my students and lecturers; we sleepily boarded to commence our 10-hour overnight journey to Lima. Having driven along this coastal road before on a couple of occasions, I was reasonably familiar with the route but the experience of travelling in the dark was a new one. With some fragmented sleep, I awoke to see a beautiful sunrise amidst the city-limits and the congestion of Lima. After wading through the morning rush hour traffic, we finally reached the bus terminal. With the final destination was still another 2 hours away eastwards, we entered an old, battered minibus which rattled along through the dusty roads, weaving through the traffic and honking at every turn. The windows were rolled down, letting in the hot air, the smells of exhaust, noise, and street vendors. We arrived just in time for lunch, a small restaurant right outside the beautiful Baptist retreat centre called the Finca Bautista Santa Eulalia.

The 3-day conference was well received by many of the students, pastors, and local missionaries. Mealtimes were a great place to catch-up with times of extended fellowship, along with the annual football match. For me, I took the opportunity to catch up with my friend Pastor Luis, who I had the privilege of working closely with during my time in Iquitos. He wanted to personally thank you all, the partners and friends for their financial support for him, enabling him to fly from Iquitos to Lima to attend this important conference. During our conversation, he was so encouraged and built up that he wanted to take the material to share with the pastors back in Iquitos.

Please do remember him your prayers. At the time of this letter, he (to the left in the photo below) is currently in a hospital in Lima after a diagnosis of an arrhythmia, awaiting a pacemaker.



Michele and I would like to thank you for your continual prayers and support for us as we complete our teaching here at the Bible Seminary at the end of November.

For us both as we embark on further studies, Michele a Professional Doctorate Degree and Dave MA studies in theology and mission.

Please give thanks for Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe who will be completing their first year of schooling in Trujillo in December.

We would appreciate your prayers for the many Baptist fellowships who are in pastoral vacancy, including our home church Horeb Baptist Church.

Prayers for our upcoming Home Assignment from December-February 2024. Looking forward to seeing some of you in the weeks to come!

With abundant thanks and with every blessing,

Dave & Michele, Jonathan, Ruth and Phoebe Mahon



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