

Dave and Michele Mahon

A cold snap in the Amazon

August 2020



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Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter on a peaceful Sunday evening. It has been unusually 'cold' the last few days and we are really enjoying the 16-20-degree temperatures. It has been lovely to wear jackets and jeans again, instead of shorts and t-shirts!

There have been very few vehicles in our streets today due to the reinforcement of Peru's Sunday lockdown. Some of our churches who had resumed their Sunday services behind closed doors, have had to stop meeting again. **Please pray for more wisdom among church leaders here around how best to keep the church strong when we cannot meet - good quality internet is not available here.**

Our normal family service at home this Sunday morning was interrupted by surprise visitors – our neighbours whom we have been witnessing to, knocked on our door and asked if they could join us! There was plenty of laughter as we re-enacted the story of blind Bartimaeus and spent some time, worshiping in song and praying together. **Please pray for the Del Alguila family to grow in their new-found faith in Christ.**

We are very thankful that generally Covid-19 cases are reducing; many are back at work, and children are scheduled to return to school in March 2021. With our perseverance with home-schooling we are grateful lots of support from both neighbours and teachers, while Ruth is benefitting greatly from her UK based Maths and English lessons via WhatsApp video. This month Jonathan has had opportunity to help a couple of local boys with their English schooling. **Please pray for the children's learning to thrive despite the challenges.**

At the training centre in Nauta we have had some struggles. Many of our team members and their families are recovering from Covid-19 and thus unable to work, which is affected our team working abilities. Dave and I

were unable to travel to Nauta from Iquitos due to conditions of the lockdown and as such, were essentially cut off from the rest of the team. Although we kept in touch by phone, working relationships have suffered and conflict emerged between individual team members. Recently we have had opportunity to speak with each of our colleagues, whilst Dave has facilitated a few meetings with those able to attend, with an emphasis on worship, prayer, and God's word (see photo).

These meetings have helped by giving space for each of us to share our experiences, frustrations and struggles with one another, whilst being open about personal weaknesses and development areas as team. The time has been used for the team to make commitments to resolve some of the issues we encountered. The main areas of concern were around a lack of communication (as new colleagues have recently joined an existing team), differences in culture and language, varying work projects and staff working patterns.

We are grateful to see that things are gradually improving. The thatched roof of the dining area was recently replaced (see photo), and there was much joy as the team worked well together to complete this project. **Please pray for Felix, Betsy, Basilio and Laura who are based in Nauta - for good, clear working relationships.**

The radio programme is progressing well. Felix our training coordinator has raised up a team of local Pastors to share evangelistic messages, interviews, prayers and worship music on a daily basis, and 40 listeners have made responses to the programmes and are being supported by the team in their journey of faith in Jesus. **Please pray for the radio team and these who have responded, for their faith to grow and for them to experience life in all its fulness.**



Sadly, it appears that due to the borders of Peru remaining closed we may not be able to travel to the UK for our planned visit in December this year. We really appreciate your prayers as the kids were really looking forward to Christmas with family and seeing friends again. On the other hand, we are giving thanks that the postal service here in Iquitos is in operation again. We want to thank you for your cards, care packages and messages of encouragement - they remind us we are not on our own, even if some of the packages were received a few months late!

We are praying for you too, that the peace of God will surround you and keep you safe and secure in God's hands.

God's richest blessings,

Dave and Michele Mahon

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



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