

## Colombia/Venezuela DM2 Romans Workshop

Thank you for your prayers and financial support for our trip to Colombia. Your prayers were answered in amazing ways and God's hand of blessing, provision and protection was seen and felt throughout our time there.

On November 14th Bret Nazworth and I met up in Bogota with Oscar Portes, a Venezuelan church leader and former engineer who, together with his wife, Edith, were a tremendous blessing to the Nazworths and me in 1998-1999 when we served in the little town of Morichalito, Venezuela. Oscar's administrative gifts were greatly helpful on this trip.

On November 15th us "three amigos" traveled to Puerto Carreño, Colombia. We hit the ground running in order to secure a place to hold the workshop and house and feed the Venezuelans who were coming. Over the next two days we were thrilled to receive almost every person who had been invited. As each of the 23 attendees arrived, they shared their story of how God's sovereign hand of provision opened doors, bus seats and borders for them to be able to make the trip that seemed financially, physically and logistically impossible.

On November 17-22 we held an intensive workshop through Romans 1-8. It was a blessing to see so many pastors and church leaders get a clearer understanding of essential biblical truths and hear them testify of how it was already changing their lives. During the breaks in teaching, and sometimes late into the night, many encouraging conversations took place. What a privilege to be able to invest in the spiritual lives of these dear brothers and sisters!

Because of the dire living situation in Venezuela, we also made it a priority to spoil them as much as possible with three solid meals a day, multiple "cafecito" breaks and even two outings for ice-cream. For many of them, it had been years since they had been able to enjoy little things like a soda, a hamburger or ice-cream. Because of the generous giving of believers in America, we were able to send each attendee home with a backpack of study books, a flash drive loaded with years of teaching material, a small cash offering to help them purchase much needed supplies, and a box filled with basic staples such as sardines, flour, toothpaste and soap. This generosity had them in tears and they wanted us to express their gratitude to you and let you know they would be praying for you. - **Jonathan Rath**



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*The Three "Amigos"*



*Ice Cream Outing*



*Making Disciples in Venezuela*

## Testimonies from Venezuelan leaders who attended the DM2 Romans workshop in Colombia:

*“Thank you for your prayers for Venezuela, for the gifts you sent so that we could enjoy excellent food, a nice place to stay, excursions, and generous love gifts. Your sacrifice is like sweet perfume. This week I have been able to recharge my batteries. I am leaving with a lot more strength in the Lord and much more clarity to be able to disciple believers in my church and anyone the Lord permits. Thank you to everyone in the United States for praying and giving to make this week a reality.”*

*“You will never know the joy and encouragement in my heart because of all the marvelous things I learned in Romans. It is truly amazing. This training excited me to more than ever fulfil the Lord’s mandate to go and preach the gospel. I am so thankful for the teachers who taught us the word of God in such a clear and simple way.”*

*“God has been very, very good to help us in our time of need. Please continue to pray for us that we don’t quit preaching the gospel of Christ, but continue to multiply ourselves, now that we are responsible for the truth we’ve been given.”*

*“My eyes were opened with new understanding and wisdom, the very thing I have so often begged of my God. And to think, He let me have this opportunity to come to the Romans workshop. I have been freed, knowing I am co-crucified, buried, and raised together with Christ. I can now disciple others with confidence and without doubts, all thanks to these studies.*

*“Another thing that has marked my life is to realize that I do not have to be strong in myself. Before, I always thought that I had to be strong and I judged others as being weak. But I now realize that I am totally weak, and that is a good thing, because now I can more fully trust in the help of the Holy Spirit. I now understand that the Lord is the One who gives me both the desire and the ability to fulfill His will.*

*“I want to give thanks to [all] who support DM2. I have been blessed by so much grace through you all. [Not just by the grace teaching], but also by your very lives, which have been vehicles of grace. By means of your gifts through DM2, you have made me feel like I am one of Jesus’ favorite people.*

*“Please do not get weary in well-doing because you will never know how much we have been transformed by the power of the Word and by the way God has used you to bless us, even though you live on the other side of the world.”*



Food Boxes to Take Home