

Report to NCFI of 25 year celebration of ACEMACH

NCF in Chile has just celebrated its 25th anniversary with a conference and as its special guest its founder, Gaye Mercier of Australia. The theme of the event was “Cuidar o Descuidar” (To Care or Not to Care) with three principal expositions of very high academic and spiritual standards which came from three different national universities.

Carmen Fraile, a profesor at the University of Concepción spoke on the topic of the Ethics of Care, emphasizing care as an integral part of human dignity. Marcela Lema and Karin Morales, also both profesors in their respective universities spoke on the theme of the five ‘Cs’; Competence, Compassion, Confidence, Compromiso (Dedication) and Conscience.

Dr Jorge Sobarzo spoke on the Care of the Carers with an exposition on the causes and consequences of depression with some clues as to its prevention.

Gaye provided the icing on the cake with an exposition on the Biblical Base of the Ethics of Care which emphasized the nature of God as the example of care in both creation and in relationship with His created people.

Nurses and Midwives from Chile, Peru, Argentina and Cuba enjoyed wonderful times of fellowship and sharing. The conference culminated in a great celebration with birthday cake and all.

It was a special encouragement to have Dagelia Oquendo from Cuba with us who shared with us the situation of both nursing and evangelization in her country. Times have been and are still very difficult for them there. We committed to pray for them and to visit when posible.

During this event a new executive committee was elected. Alicia Yañez has retired as president and Cecilia Rivas Cerda was elected in her place. She is a young nurse, Director of Nursing of the Villarrica Hospital.

Our challenge now is to work with the nursing students in our countries and ensure a new generation of members and leaders for our movement.

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