

## Iberian CARP Summer Workshop

### “Let the waves carry you home”

Oeiras, Portugal, 13. – 16. September 2013

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Once again CARP from Portugal and Spain decided to organize the Iberian Workshop, to get to know each other better and strengthen our relationship. We were inspired by what True Father said about the resources for the future of humanity being buried in the sea, and how important is developing ones character while learning maritime skills. We could conclude that when we challenge our limits it's like a self-discovering process; showing us that everything is possible despite our limitations, and everyone can receive great inspirations and positive feelings when we give the best of ourselves – Not only from the relationship between brothers and sisters but also between human being and nature... everything is on basis of what you are – creations of God. And then, you start to feel at home when you discover more about yourself. That's why the motto "Let the waves carry you home" seemed appropriate for this WS.

On the first day after the usual morning HDH we started with introduction and orientation given by Margarida Frazão, which was followed by preparation for the outdoor activities. As outdoor activities, we had the opportunity to have fun exploring a cave which challenged our physical senses to get to the destination and back sometimes without any light, using our hands to touch and feel the way to go, and at the same time helping each other, making sure we work together as a team.

On the second day we had opportunity to hear very interesting lectures given by Pedro Reis, André Pereira, Beatriz Mugitani and Rubén Nawata about their experiences on daily life, in STF, the relationship with other people, and about the CARP core values. We also had the opportunity to go to the “Happy Holi” festival: a celebration of music, dance and color, that hundreds of people, even families and kids, dressed in white create a palette of colors in a single moment of celebration of pure joy. For one day, the differences between religion and origin disappear. On this day, all people are equal. Cultural diversity, mutual respect, joy, as well as tolerance, make the “Happy Holi” memorable. At the end of the day we had a small ceremony for the celebration of True Fathers 1 year ascension with the release of 12 sky lanterns on the beach. It was a very deep and beautiful moment for the participants.

The last day was mainly reflection time followed by the ending of the WS and departures.

Many greetings,

Pedro Reis and Margarida Frazão

CARP Leaders of Portugal



## REFLECTIONS

### Danae Dickson

Before coming I was a little nervous whether or not I would be welcomed since I'm not a member. However, everyone was so friendly and welcoming to me. Thank you so much for including me and for giving me the opportunity to learn about your religion. I think it is wonderful how you try to connect people from all over the world, and break down the barriers amongst different countries or cultures.

### Anne Bond

I didn't realize that I would meet so many wonderful people who I can now call best friends. Everyone is so loving, kind, and embracing qualities that I really appreciate since I invited my friend Danae to attend the WS with me. I could not have asked for a better first workshop for her. Cave exploring, the Holi festival, and the lantern celebration were not only fun activities that I greatly enjoyed, they were activities had meaning beside them. Whether it was pushing our limits or commemorating True Father's passing, each activity represented something internal and spiritual. I am eternally grateful to have attended such a fun workshop in Portugal.

### Lorena Marchan

The activities were creative and really nice and fun. Also the place where we stayed was near the ocean, it was really cool. This was the first Iberian WS I attended. I like the fact that even though we made a lot and fun stuff we didn't lose the center of God and each other, and we forgot about country issues and stuff. I think the WS was really well organized and I'm very grateful for the people that took the time and effort to prepare everything.

### Guillermo Sanchez

I really enjoyed the WS, spending time with new interesting people and I loved that we got to do many different things. The relaxing time that we spent on the beach was great. Also this place is beautiful with amazing sunrises. Thank you for everything.



### Bruno Frazão

I really enjoyed this workshop because had many team activities where people get to know each other and share things. All activities and lectures gave the opportunity to learn something new and important things.

**William Kennedy**

I would like to start by saying thank you to those who were involved in the planning of the workshop. Margarida and Pedro, you did an amazing job! And thank you for your hard work. More than just a traditional workshop, it felt as if it were a family coming together to celebrate special occasion. Although some people I only met for the first time, it felt as if the connection between the group boasted a familiarity that some people take years to establish. A time for reflection, a time for peace, a time for connection.

**Fátima Pereira**

This WS gave me the motivation and strength that I needed to get to my daily life because of the love, caring, and compassion between my brothers and sisters, and because of the beautiful nature and good food. It was very important to me to feel the love of the people that are like my family. I feel really grateful to my brother that offered me the opportunity to come to this workshop. It was really what I needed, to feel true love and true happiness centering on God and His creation.

**André Pereira**

This workshop was spiritually refreshing, is always nice to meet people to share, laugh, being together. I see the huge value that this WS has for God, because also for the historical background and the reunion of blessed children. I am happy with how the workshop was organized and how everything went. Thank you!

**Beatriz Mugitani**

Given that the group was small, we could have more opportunities to bond and to get to know each other. Since the very first time evening we felt like a family and everything was smooth and natural. The variety of activities was great, each one of them very valuable and fun at the same time. This gathering wasn't probably focused on lectures on traditional formal education that's why 2 hours felt like enough given that the WS only lasted a weekend. Many thanks for the Portuguese organizers; it was a wonderful program and experience.

**Rubén Nawata**

Even though, we were just 12 people on the WS, and only 2 days, the fact that we did so many things together was great, and at least I think everyone will have good and fun memories from this WS. Also the environment was really good, that helped a lot. Even though we didn't have many lectures, I think we invest in activities together and somehow help us to unite a bit more. I think is something to improve. Over all I really enjoy the workshop. It's a nice thing to do and to improve our relationship between our countries.