

To all Friends everywhere,

‘For as in one body we have many members, and not all the members have the same function, so we, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually we are members one of another.’

*Romans 12, 4-5*

Friends in God: having to describe the why and the what unites us which is God’s love, has been a unique experience for each one of us.

We twenty-six pilgrims from 9 different countries have travelled together in Peru and Bolivia for a month (July 22<sup>nd</sup> – August 21<sup>st</sup>, 2014). Due to the pilgrimage being the first to Latin America there has been much travelling in order to see as many Friends and places as possible. The places we have visited include Ite, Tacna, Moquegua, Arequipa, Puno, Ilave, Amacari, Sorata, La Paz, Coroico, Cochabamba, and Santa Cruz. At most of these places we heard the about the founding and stories of the churches we visited. We are grateful for the hospitality and care shown to us during our travels. One of the achievements of this pilgrimage was showing that a trip to Peru and Bolivia can be a success; with thanks to God’s blessing, to our leaders and the FWCC pilgrimage committees for helping make this possible. It was explained to us that we were guinea pigs and it just so happened that we also ate guinea pig.

The pilgrimage makes us understand that it is God’s purpose that we are not alone. Whether our worship is programmed for a whole morning one day a week, or an un-programmed spiritual moment that lets the silence work and enables us to listen to the voice of God or sometimes a semi-programmed union of the two, we are united in faith to praise God. At first our different forms of worship slightly conflicted, but after we discussed both at length; we came to appreciate each other’s beliefs. In our meetings for worship for business we nominated co-clerks, elders, a committee of care, a nominating committee, and a closing committee. Some of these appointments were made twice in order for more pilgrims to participate.

We have found a home away from home within each other. Everyone quickly became integrated in spite of the language gap. We had “secret friends” (anonymously assigned friends) to look after, which gave us a chance to get to know one another better. Playing games and learning songs in English and

Spanish have helped us get to know one another, including the young Friends from churches we visited, who made a valuable contribution to our pilgrimage. Our bus journeys were made more vibrant and noisy by Noah's Ark, a singing game. Many hours have been spent learning new games from pilgrims' home countries. Whenever given the chance, we played lots of sports. It has been a month entirely separate from our everyday lives yet we feel that we have known each other for years.

'Let all nations hear the word by sound or writing. Spare no place, spare not tongue nor pen but be obedient to the Lord God and go through the work and be valiant for the Truth upon earth; tread and trample all that is contrary under.... Be patterns, be examples in all countries, places, islands, nations, wherever you go, so that your carriage and life may preach among all sorts of people, and to them. Then you will come to walk cheerfully over the world, answering that of God in every one.'

*George Fox 1656, letter from Launceston Gaol*

Signed on behalf of the Quaker Youth Pilgrimage 2014,  
Santa Cruz, Bolivia, August 20<sup>th</sup> 2014

Original co-clerks:

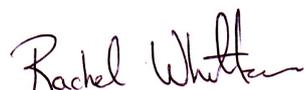


Alexandra Corcoran

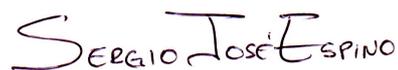


Myron Guachalla

Current co-clerks:



Rachel Whittaker



Sergio Espino Gregorio