



Monteverde Monthly Meeting of Friends

Asociación de los Amigos de Monteverde

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Greetings to all Friends everywhere.

The world comes to Monteverde via internet, television, and newsprint in a limited way. More influential are the ideas, talents, joys and concerns that arrive in human form. As the refreshing rains begin to revive the vegetation and wash away the dust, we are made aware of changes that require us to review ourselves, our community life, and world affairs in a Quaker perspective.

During the past year members of our community have found inspiration working in the elections locally and in the U.S. The global economic situation has led to increased prices even as income and tourism are sharply down. Security issues have concerned us as theft in our area has grown. The Monteverde Friends School, MFS (preschool to 12th grade) is challenged by increased requests for scholarships. These challenges have brought people of many ages, nationalities and professions together to discuss, collaborate and find meaning.

In January we were blessed to receive a Friend of many years, Benigno Sanchez-Eppler of New England Yearly Meeting, who gave a workshop on "How Early Friends Read the Bible/What canst thou say?" In May, Rolene Walker, of Strawberry Creek Meeting stopped here along her spirit-led walk from San Diego, CA to Santiago, Chile, demonstrating her conviction that individual actions can offset global warming.

MFS has reached out with a spirit of generosity on many fronts. High school students did service work in Nicaragua and within Costa Rica with the elderly, disabled, and with earthquake victims; taught in rural schools; addressed the difficult issues of drugs, alcohol and prejudice; and studied archeology and history from our backyards and farms. We displayed our multicultural identity by presenting traditional songs and dances from both Costa Rica and the U.S. for Independence Day, and stepped into literary history through a Spanish language production of Don Quijote.

Wolf Guindon's health is a concern much on our minds and in our hearts as we write this letter. We hold him in the Light, as we have others among us struggling with health problems. Their strength has been an inspiration to us.

In many aspects of our lives, we find that it takes courage to admit need. We open ourselves to possibilities for deep connection when we take risks, trust each other, and speak of what we have been afraid to share. We find our hearts drawing together through this Meeting that helps us express our faith in our daily lives, calls us to unity and service, and gives us the sense of being part of something bigger than ourselves. Through effort, good will, openness, and caring we are blessed to share the spirit of this precious and peaceful place called green mountain.

In peace from the Monteverde Meeting,

Tim Curtis (clerk)

Jane Wolff (recording clerk)

2009 Epistle Committee: Ellen Humpert, Alberto Guindon, Heather Ferguson