

tour of the local Quaker landmarks. Chiquimula is home to 20,000 plus Evangelical Friends, in two Yearly Meetings and one independent Monthly Meeting. With Édgar Madrid, Edith's father and a pastor, we were taken to see the Quaker Theological Seminary, the offices and transmitter for Radio Verdad (Radio Truth), as well as many of the Quaker Churches.

One evening we all went to Karen, Jose Luis, and Edith's Church, to the Young Friends session. We introduced our Yearly Meetings, and ourselves, and talked with the youth about unprogrammed Quaker Meetings. We got lots of questions, some really hard to answer, but all of them intelligent and spirit-filled questions. Karen was an amazing translator and explained things to the group in a way that let me know just how much she understood of both my experiences of Quakerism and that of her fellow Young Friends. Samuel, who we also met at WGYFs and who belonged to the other Yearly Meeting in Chiquimula, took us up into the mountains to his family farm. He would stop and explain to us about the plants, fruits, veggies and people around us. We got to hang out with his two-year-old daughter as we toured the area, seeing his family and friends harvesting beans by hand. We ate apple-bananas, picked a huge bag of oranges, and his mother let Katrina and me attempt to make tortillas. That evening we went to Luis Carlos' Church (the one independent Monthly Meeting) for a very different view of Meeting for Worship, in which we did not understand much of the sermon about the different types of love, but enjoyed the music and company. Having the opportunity to laugh, sing, and talk about faith to the Young Adult Friends in Guatemala is something I thank God for. I feel deeply enriched by these experiences of reaching across the boundaries of Quaker traditions.

Here in North America, there is a broad and growing movement of Friends who are drawn to, and deeply invested in, inter-faith relationship-building. Much of this energy is centred in Young Adult Friend communities. We have been holding conferences and gatherings that reach across theological, cultural and organizational lines. We have asked ourselves "Who are we?", "What are we called to today?" "Do we have a collective identity as Young Adult

Friends or a collective witness?" We are also holding the question in our hearts: "How is God going to use the Religious Society of Friends; the whole Religious Society of Friends?" One of these important gatherings was held in Burlington, VT in 2007. After this gathering, one Young Adult Friend wrote:

"We were covered in the Holy Spirit, bonded together in Love, a gathered people under the headship of the Spirit of Christ. We were broken, tender, and open to the ministry of the Lord. And the underlying message that the Inward Teacher had for us was simple yet profound: We start with love. Often Friends, reaching across the divides of differences in theology, culture, and ways of viewing the world, wonder what it is that makes us all Friends. "Why are we called to be together?", we ask. This weekend, I felt that we were given the answer: We are called together because of our love for one another. If we stay low to the ground, if we stay vulnerable and tender to the ministry of the Holy Spirit, there is no limit to how God can act through us. The ministry of young Friends, the ministry of these valiant Quaker men and women, will shake the countryside for miles around." (<http://lambswar.blogspot.com/2007/02/powerful-gathering-of-youngadult.html>)

When I heard about the YAF conference at the Earlham School of Religion in May 2008, I applied to attend even before I had booked a flight back home from Honduras. I knew I needed to be there. The conference was called 'Living as Friends, Listening Within' and was organized by Young Adult Friends from all branches of the Society of Friends in North America. Though personally challenging and overwhelming, over the weekend it was amazing to see a Society growing and lifting each other up. It was so good to see friends that I love and cherish, and also good to meet new friends.

One of the reasons I was nominated to the Canadian Yearly Meeting's ad hoc committee to look at our relationship with Friends United Meeting was because of my experiences with the diversity of Friends. In our interim report to Representative Committee in November 2008, our committee reported that one reason to stay affiliated to Friends United Meeting is that our Young Friends and Young Adult