



THE PERUVIAN JOURNAL

“How can we keep from singing?”

Dear Sisters, Associates and friends,

Hi! How are you? We are fine but with a little sadness that Kathy had to return once again to San Miguel to accompany the support group for the handicapped. Now we are only two in Muquiyayuyo, Sue and I.

As you know I am again working in the school “Fe y Alegría.” I have 20 children 3 and 4 years old. Truly, I really like the work that I do with children, even though I have a few children who are still crying. It is very difficult for them to separate themselves from their parents.

Each child is unique. They bring with them their own histories, joys and smiles. One of the little girls came up to me one day, touched my hand and said, “You do not have a ring, why?” Really I did not know what to tell her. I remained silent and just gave her a smile. Those gestures are the ways the children conquer my heart with their ideas and wise thoughts.

This year, Sue and I are working on a project that we are calling “Warmá Kuyay,” a Quechua word that means “love of children.” There are two youth from our town, Cecilia and Angela, who are working with us on this project.

What we want to accomplish is to create spaces for play, games, reading, work, organization and help with the homework the children bring home from school. In time, we want to educate the children with the Method of Montessori, so that they can grow up becoming

aware of their lives, developing autonomy, making decisions and exercising their freedom.

I want to also share that the situation for teachers in my country is very abusive because of the irregularities in the process of naming and contracting teachers. The bribery and the power of money are taking from many teachers their right to work. That is to say that after so much effort to study, to reach a level where they can receive a better salary, they are not permitted the job that is due them.

What has happened is that there is such a need for work that many pay to get a certificate, a graduate degree, or a specialization without having studied. All of this, as a teacher, is very discouraging to me and sometimes I say to myself I would rather study something else because the teaching career is being violated, especially when it concerns teachers’ rights.

Well my dear sisters, once again I invite you to come and share our mission with us here. Be encouraged! Do not be afraid! I invite you to leave what is comfortable and to look beyond.

Truly I desire with all my heart that you come and live with us because I need my sisters. I need you and I ask God to give us the opportunity to have other young women living with us.

A bear hug, to each one of you!

Sister Yuli