

Dear Friends,

I am writing from La Paz. I hope you are well.

Here is a note I prepared last Friday morning, June 13, but could not send right away:

Dear Friends,

Greetings from La Paz, Bolivia.

I arrived safely on the 5th of June.

Last weekend (June 6-8) we had two parallel AVP workshops in Aranjuez, in the vicinity of the city. Marianita Moreira from Loja, Ecuador, was the lead facilitator for a Second Level workshop, while I co-facilitated a Training for Trainers workshop. Marianita's work has been praised by all, and she has contributed a lot at the meetings we have had.

The T4T was successful, thank God. We had seven participants, and they all showed great understanding, skill and poise, as they progressed through the training. They are now ready to contribute effectively to the work of the AVP/Friends community in Bolivia.

Today two of the newly trained facilitators will be traveling with Marianita and me to Cochabamba, to facilitate another set of workshops and start their own apprenticeship. We are hoping that more of them will join us later in another Bolivian city (Sorata) for similar purposes.

This week I visited the Franciscan office of Peace, Justice and Just Relationship with Creation, and met with a warm and welcoming Franciscan priest who heads the local program. He will allow our AVP team to offer a one-hour introductory mini workshop at the organization's monthly meeting on the 23 (on the eve of my departure to the US). I have also attended a series of presentations and discussions on non-violence, feminism and liberation theology at places connected with the Catholic University in La Paz.

And I have been receiving instruction from the poor in the streets.

God bless you, dear Friends. I feel deeply thankful for your love and companionship.

In the way of peace,

Jorge

I returned last night from Cochabamba (more exactly, Quillacollo, a town near the city; we never made it into the city itself). The trip was blessed with wonderful encounters with people there. The two workshops went very well. Marianita did a great job and the second level workshop I helped facilitate was well spoken of. The two newly trained facilitators that traveled with us were excellent. I feel we were enabled to minister to participants and each other. (We also had a providential interaction with a very distressed female taxi driver, who, by the grace of God, found some relief as a result of that.)

Today we had an evaluation and planning meeting in the morning, and I have spent the rest of the day preparing some materials.

I feel much gratitude and peace.

Love to you,

Jorge