

NEWSLETTER

QBL works with the indigenous people in Bolivia to fund, construct, and monitor community-based projects, in a non-sectarian manner, to provide clean water, improve food security, promote better health, and generate local income.



A Bright Future for QBL Communities

by Ed Dunlop

I would like to introduce myself as the new Board Clerk for Quaker Bolivia Link (QBL-US). Over a decade ago our daughter spent time in Bolivia teaching English at Friends Schools supported by the Bolivian Quaker Education Fund. Since then, members of our family have made a number of trips to Bolivia traveling the length of the country. Today, I am proud to serve as the Clerk of QBL-US, acting as the moderator and spokesperson for this Quaker organization.

QBL is more than twenty years old. We now have one of the only continuous long-term track records for directly alleviating poverty in the Bolivian Andean Plateau, an area known as the Altiplano, where these people are among the most impoverished in the world. We are making a real difference in alleviating significant causes of this extreme poverty. QBL pursues its mission by:

- ✓ listening carefully to what villagers/communities request;
- ✓ working with local municipal governments to jointly support & fund projects in a non-sectarian way; and
- ✓ having long-term staff capable of training and, as necessary, supervising communities in building and maintaining the projects they need.

QBL in Bolivia builds trusting relationships with local villages, allowing us to regularly visit projects to determine if additional expertise is needed as we seek to keep clean water flowing. We believe this adds value to our model instead of merely dropping a pre-designed, pre-packaged, & pre-budgeted project on a village and leaving without any follow-up. This way we can assure that the investments we make continue to serve and empower local communities well beyond our initial investments. So far, QBL has completed over 155 projects in 108 communities. This includes bringing clean water to more than 2,400 family homes—over half of the requests are for clean water to be piped to homes—and building more than 365 community greenhouses. Since the temperature above 14,000 ft. freezes almost every night, pipes must be buried and greenhouses are required to grow most leafy plants. Another reason greenhouses are needed is that 95% of the children test positive for iron-deficiency anemia. A significant cause of this is increased international demand for quinoa, formerly an essential nutritional part of their diet, but which is now instead sold as a cash crop.

In 2017 we have been working with 15 communities to undertake reinforcement projects and three new water projects in Challa Belen, Tiji Chucapaca and Junuta. We have many more requests from communities that desperately need our help!

THE IMPACT

"My full name is Magdalena Condori Viuda de Choque. We have suffered a lot. We had some water wells but they were really far away...."

I live in Community of Calari Grande, located in Pacajes Province. Before women used to live in very sad conditions... We used to leave our children crying and walked far away to bring water. Sometimes we had to carry 10 or 20 liters of water.

Today we don't suffer anymore because each one of us has a faucet. That's why we want to thank the Foundation. We are old and we can't carry heavy things. The help meant a lot to us. Now we can get water to cook and wash right there in our patios..."



Carali Grande, 2017

ESTIMATES

ABOUT WATER

660 million people in the world live without clean water.

3-4 million people in the world, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases.



Since QBL has a track record and the infrastructure to do long-lasting projects, we represent a highly efficient option for accessing and maintaining access to clean water. We employ proven technologies that are cost efficient for both initiating access and providing oversight and assuring essential maintenance.

Here in the US, we are taking steps to further enhance our operations and governance. We have begun working with the Haverford Microfinance Consulting Group, (a student/faculty group at Haverford College) to develop a third-party evaluation of the effectiveness of some of our projects. We are also beginning an effort to establish a library archive for our historic records. This will allow us to preserve documentation of all of the projects that have been completed.

In the last several months Board members have visited places like the New York Yearly Meeting, Rocky Mountain YM, several Rotary Clubs, and Santa Fe (NM) Meeting. I would be happy to discuss making a presentation to your meeting or organization to show the impact that our work has achieved in Bolivia and demonstrate significant remaining need for clean and safe access to water. So many communities have no chance of achieving such access without assistance such as we provide. Your help is needed to continue our important work. In this mailing we have included a color card for you. We hope that you remember QBL's mission and help us to spread the word about QBL to other people and organizations.

We really appreciate your ongoing financial support!

Meet Efrain | Technician, QBL Bolivia



Efrain Cotjiri is an agricultural engineer by profession, graduated from the Universidad Mayor de San Andrés (UMSA), with postgraduate studies in water resources and irrigation, with expertise in soils, organic production and formulation, elaboration and monitoring of projects and research.

He worked in public and private institutions performing, the formulation, development and implementation of both agricultural projects. He held management and technical positions where he consulted, planned and coordinated water and agriculture projects. Efrain has been working at QBL-BO, carrying out projects for food security, agricultural production systems and the implementation of water and irrigation systems. He currently lives in La Paz with his wife Carola, and their three children, Andrew, Ezekiel and Eunice.

"Efrain is a wonderful team player. He is a hard worker professional and the communities value his expertise and advice."
QBL BOL Board Clerk.



Quaker-Bolivia-Link



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www.qbl.org

How QBL projects come alive?



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Quaker Bolivia Link is a 501 (c)(3) non-profit organization. Donations are fully tax-deductible.





