

Merry Christmas 2015

This Christmas finds me in Antigua, Guatemala, studying Spanish. *Feliz Navidad!* It is the beginning of a six-week trip with four weeks here and two weeks in Peru for a world Quaker gathering (FWCC). When friends heard of this plan, they asked me to do a blog again, as I did in Africa and in the UK. If you want to follow, you will find me at <judylumb.wordpress.com>.

For months and even years, I have looked forward to COP-21, the international climate change negotiations in Paris, feeling that it would be make or break for the future of humans on Earth. COP-21 has passed now, and a global agreement reached. We knew the pledges would not be enough to reach the goal of limiting temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Centigrade, but the international, **global** agreement is a huge step forward. It provides a framework for future adjustments until we finally reach that goal.

Several factors came together to facilitate the agreement. At the two COPs that I attended, there was an atmosphere of depression because the absence of U.S. and China made other countries feel it was hopeless, so they pulled out. By 2011, only 16 percent of global emissions were covered in the COP. When President Barack Obama announced that the U.S. and China had agreed on a framework for participation, I began to breathe a sigh of relief as I felt it opened the way for a global agreement.

After Belizean negotiator Carlos Fuller was back home from COP21, I wrote to congratulate and thank him for his work, he responded saying that he really appreciated the “quiet diplomacy” dinners that the Quaker United Nations Organization held to allow negotiators to interact in an informal setting. He felt they contributed to the success of COP-21. There is much more work to do, but now it is possible! For me, this is the essence of 2015.

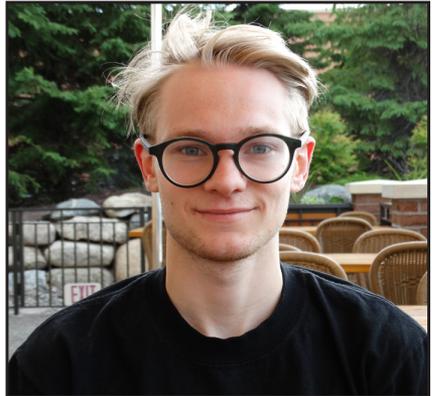
I am very proud of my two sons, Tim and Jeff, my daughters-in-law, and my grandchildren. They are on the next three pages.

Tim and Cristi, and their four children, Ray, Dean, Frankie, and Billy, live in Maple Grove, Minnesota. I visited in May last year and was there for a track meet where Dean’s relay

Minnesota Lumbs



Dean (16 yrs)
2nd from left in top photo



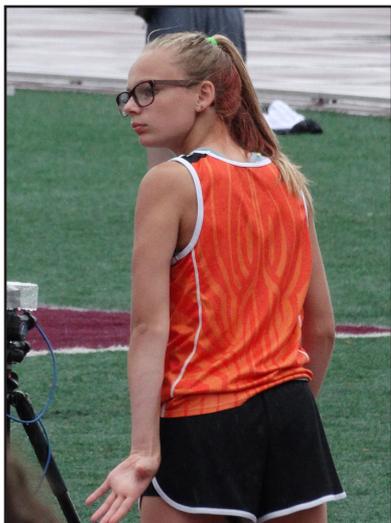
Ray (20 yrs)

team got a medal, and for Billy's weekend soccer tournament. Frankie was running in that same senior high track meet even though she was in seventh grade, being rewarded with a letter, quite an accomplishment for a seventh-grader!

Tim is still working for the Minnesota Vikings. Cristi, Ray, and Dean work for Trader Joes and Chick-fil-A, some one, some both. Ray is going to college part-time. Dean is a Junior in high school, but taking college classes.



Frankie (14 yrs)
(right) waiting for the baton



Billy (11 yrs)



Billy (playing soccer like his dad)



Tim (Dad)



Cristi (Mom)

Portland Lumbs



Jeff and Glee have two boys, Ollie (9 years) and Arlo. I visited them in July, in time for Arlo's 7th birthday party. The game above was to travel in space missing the satellites (balloons). Jeff works for FedEx Office still and Glee is an artist and activist.



Ollie



Arlo



Glee (Mom)



Jeff (Dad) with Arlo

My life in Belize continues to be as satisfying as ever. Dorothy Beveridge and I enjoy publishing books. We have published six books in 2015: *Beautiful Belize Reef*, a children's book by Dorothy Beveridge with Jim Beveridge's photos; *In the Land Beyond Living*, a children's book by Michael Resman; *On this Day in Barangu*, a unique calendar of genealogical information for the village of Barranco (*Barangu* in Garifuna) by Carlson John Tuttle; *I Sing Barranco*, a book of poetry celebrating Barranco by Harriet Arzu Scarborough; *The Garbage Menace*, the first book in an environmental series by Michael Somerville; and *Intimacy with God*, an anthology of the second decade of the Quaker mystical journal, *What Canst Thou Say*. We are in the final stages of a book by Aurora Garcia Saqui, *Ix Hmen U Tzaco Ah Maya: Maya Herbal Medicine*. So you see, we publish cultural, environmental, and spiritual books for Belize and Quakers in the U.S. and Canada.

While I still live in Caye Caulker, I spend time in Barranco, the southernmost village on the Belizean Coast and the site of my healing in 1998. I lease a house there on the fifteen-foot cliff with a view of Amatique Bay and the mountains of Guatemala. Here are a few photos:

