

WESTERN HEMISPHERE HANDS
SOUTH AMERICAN ZONE

Mr. Gregory Dahl
c/o NSA of the Bahá'ís
of the United States
536 Sheridan Road
Wilmette, Illinois 60091

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Dear Gregory,

I received your excellent report on your trip to Bolivia together with Mr. Stephen Blair. I must say that I have never seen such a complete, comprehensive and correct report on Bolivia. For years I have been requesting from the NSA and the Auxiliary Board Member to send me a complete report on the Indian believers and the country in general. Your report has answered that request, and coming from a youth it is even all the more amazing. Words cannot describe the satisfaction I had when I read your report. I actually felt as if I were among the believers in Bolivia myself, which is something I, unfortunately, cannot do because the high altitude is dangerous for my health.

The observations and recommendations you made were very mature and wise ones, and I hope that they will be studied by those responsible. One thing I would like to advise for your next trip. As can be expected when someone visits a community, the community will do its best to show only the positive and good side. To get a complete understanding of the situation everywhere ~~there~~ one must travel to a good many of the centers which he himself chooses, without an escort from the Assembly or community, and with just someone as a guide. Then you will truly understand and see the real situation which exists in all of this growing community of South America.

Perhaps since you are so wise and mature and seem to be a born teacher and traveler, the next summer you may again travel to the South American communities visiting all the communities as well as the model ones. I hope that this will be able to be done by you if not next summer perhaps the following one.

I was very impressed with your recommendation that more youth take this type of summer vacation to help the Faith in these expanding communities. You have shown how such a thing could be done as cheaply as possible and as thoroughly as possible. You have also shown the youth what they must expect. I hope you and Stephen will encourage other capable Bahá'í youth to study Spanish and to prepare themselves for this type of teaching activity. Even girl youth could take part in this experience, not of course in the Indian areas; of Peru, Bolivia, etc, but in the city and village areas where they could be provided with good escorts, as was done in Mexico by a group of 3 Bahá'í girls. The future of our Faith is indeed in the hands of youth like you and Stephen.

I don't know how I can convey the spiritual feeling that you created in my heart; I wish I were able to give you both a big hug. I should congratulate not only your parents, but the Bahá'í Community of the U.S. in that the seeds they have sown have grown up and have given such a good harvest and product to the Bahá'í communities everywhere throughout the world. I remember you very well from the Holy Land. When I showed the picture you father took of the Hands and their wives and your mother with four wonderful children to my wife, as it is our custom to kiss the picture of our loved ones, she kissed your picture and we prayed that Bahá'u'lláh would create more devoted enthusiastic Bahá'í youth for His Faith. He will bless those who arise and serve to His Threshold. With deepest Bahá'í love to you both, and to your dear parents who have trained such wonderful sons for the Faith of Bahá'u'lláh.

In the Service of the Beloved Guardian
and the Universal House of Justice,

Jalal Khazeh
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