

## **The Epistle of France Yearly Meeting July 25 to 28, 2013.**

To Friends throughout the world,

This year's Annual Meeting was held in La Gardiole, Conqueyrac, a beautiful place surrounded by trees and the sound of cicadas. Our group was much bigger than last year and we were especially pleased to welcome six children between one and a half and three years. Their presence brought a new breath of life and strengthened our sense of being a big family.

It is always a pleasure to see our old friends and make new acquaintances including European and American visitors.

Our theme was "Learning to know each other in the eternal" Thanks to the large amount of work of the planning team and regional groups on the subject during the year we achieved our goal and really deepened the bond that unites us in our spiritual practice. Our task was helped by the use of modern technology.

During our work together we heard powerful personal testimonies which questioned us and even deeply moved us. Our sharing went beyond words with the involvement of the body in our worship as an integral part of the programme.

We enjoyed the presence of authors who presented their publications.

We tried to adapt the program taking into account all ages. So we did a playful family worship and other activities as "Godly Play" to introduce children to our Quaker identity.

We considered the challenge: "Are we the last Quakers in France?" The Assembly felt we were at the beginning of a growing period while wishing to keep our origins and values.

France Yearly Meeting sends its good wishes to you all.

Sylvette Thompson  
Clerk