

Quaker Clinic

by Joann Renee Boswell

– for The Bolivia Medical Team 2020

in the beginning, relationship.
plural pronouns sustain cross-
cultural collaboration.

we sew in circles,
braid our love into seams—
thread perforates borders.

plant medicine like seeds,
watch trees uproot suspicion,
blossom coalition care.

we globe together,
converge consultations,
students, locals, lovers—all

come, cultivate the garden
of knowledge, like Eden, learn
names for our shared conditions.

our translator, Inner Light,
stitches hearts in hands
we embrace vital signs.

pile pain on the offering pyre,
wait patient for answers. bless
magical reserve of humanity.

in the end, we linger.
Friendship treats the whole
community. leave lighter, gifts

exchanged. a week, a year,
a lifetime. we share respect,
extend life — mutual bridge toward joy.

Joann Renee Boswell is a teacher, mother, photographer and poet currently living in Camas, WA with her partner and three children. Joann attends Camas Friends Church and is a member of Sierra-Cascades Yearly Meeting of Friends.