



**Paul and Sarah
Tester**
CMS mission
partners
Peru

Link Letter No.7 November 2012

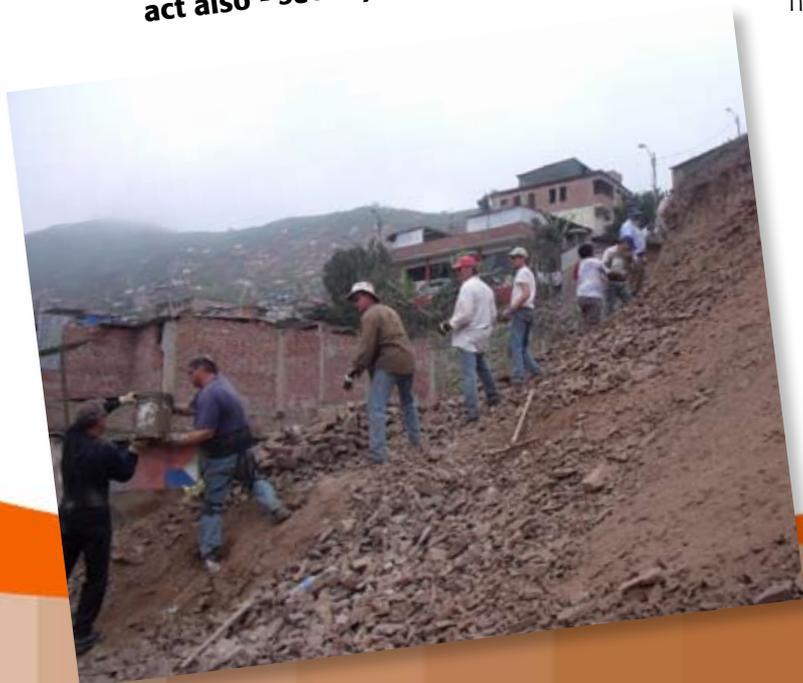
Dear praying friends,

Thank you for joining us in prayer for all that is happening here in Lima. Your prayers make a daily difference in our lives and work. It's amazing the difference that joining together can make.

The diocesan youth ministry, which Paul helps lead, recently organised a family fun day for the churches and missions across Lima. Young people were the catalyst for people from the churches to volunteer, give, donate and support to make the day possible. From football and volleyball tournaments to a talent show to a jumble sale to delicious food, the day had a bit of everything for all ages and tastes. As the churches and missions came together we saw a great deal of joy and community and, at the same time, giving, as people raised funds for the youth ministry. It was a wonderful day to share together.

Another example of joining together came with Paul's role as a civil engineer supporting construction work in the diocese. At "Sagrada Familia" mission we are building to allow the community to meet and worship together. It has been a long term project, building when funds allow, but we are getting there. In October we were joined by a group from a church in the US to help the project advance and they spent the week

**Passing buckets of concrete up a hill in a shanty town
- one way of spending your holiday! Paul got in the
act also - see if you can spot him!**



Paul and Sarah left the UK in September 2007 to serve in the Diocese of Peru. Paul is a qualified civil engineer and has used his gifts in the diocese alongside his main role in the youth programme. Sarah, a teacher, has been developing the Ark play scheme which helps children in Lima's poorest communities to learn through play.

with Paul and Peruvian workers excavating rock, concreting by passing buckets by hand, and building a roof for the mission. As we all worked together in the dirt and the heat, we could see the joy and community breaking out again.

It's easy to forget that we are all part of the advance of God's kingdom here on earth as we each work in our little corners of mission. Week after week at "San Pablo" or "San Patricio" missions, as Paul works with the young people in each place, it can seem like you are out on your own. What you can forget is that you are on the frontier of God's advance and that you are part of something much bigger, the body of Christ. And on those frontiers we are seeing growth. Paul has stepped down to visiting San Patricio once a month. That has been hard to do but the young people have stepped up and started to organise themselves much more, fundraising for youth camps and showing greater maturity when we meet in prayer and worship. That growth in maturity can be seen at San Pablo where occasional behaviour lapses (kids turning the power off in the group so it goes completely pitch black for example!) mustn't mask the growth in the faith and responsibility of the young people. They too are organising their fundraising to pay for their

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summer camps and two or three of them are beginning to lead the group with Paul.

We pray that as we join together for the youth leaders retreat, that young leaders from these missions, and many others like them from across the country, will be inspired and equipped to go back to those frontier posts of God's kingdom and share the gospel with the young people of Peru. Paul and the team from the diocesan youth ministry are working to train, disciple and support them. As we prepare to return to the UK for three months from Christmas until mid-March, please join us in prayer for youth leaders across the country and especially San Pablo and San Patricio missions and our own church, San Juan Evangelista.

Sophia is a delight! She is a happy, active baby and enjoys smiling and laughing at passers by who comment on how like a doll she is (dolls here nearly all have fair hair and blue eyes). The attention can sometimes be a bit overwhelming for Mum but Sophia seems to take it in her stride. She has a good appetite and is growing beautifully (at five months she already weighed over 21 pounds!).

Sarah and Sophia have been enjoying becoming part of the Sunday morning congregation now that Sophia has an earlier bedtime (7pm on the dot, although there are a few late night/early morning snacks before 6am wake up!). As the Sunday school is at the same time, it means that Sarah is able to enjoy keeping up relationships with the children. It has been good to get back up to San Pablo mission with Sophia too, where we go early to get the toys ready for the children and stay around to say hello to the children before heading back down the track (the baby carrier is worth its weight in gold!) and onto the two buses home.

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- Sophia's good health, her growth and her contentedness.
- The community and joy at the family fun day and for the funds raised for youth ministry.
- Continued construction work at Sagrada Familia.
- The growth in the young people and youth leaders at San Pablo, San Patricio and San Juan Evangelista.

Please pray for:

- Youth leaders across Peru, particularly for encouragement and inspiration as they serve young Peruvians.



Sophia with the children at the San Pablo mission

- The Happening youth event in Juliaca in the south of the country, rescheduled for 23-25 November.
- Wisdom for Sarah in knowing how best to serve whilst looking after Sophia.
- Our preparations for our visit to the UK and for those we will leave serving here.

What would you do? – Going deeper. Getting to grips with cross-cultural mission and some of the issues we encounter.

Take some time to chew over the issues! Here's this month's:

This letter has focused on the positives of working together as the body of Christ. Sadly this doesn't always happen. In the last few months and years we have seen members of the church leave, try and take others with them, set up churches in direct competition and tell others that our church is full of sin!

Now we're happy to admit that our church is full of sinners, but what do you do when disagreement, direct attack and disharmony break out. How do you deal with those who cause it? Do you challenge them directly (Matthew 18:15-17) or try to show peace and love with your own example (Luke 6:29)? What do you say to others? Is it enough to just prayerfully leave it in God's hands?

With love and prayers,

Paul, Sarah and the busy baby
XXX

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