

## Link Letter No.8 June 2013

### Dear praying friends,

We've been back in Peru for a couple of months now and the time has flown by as usual. Paul's first few weeks back in Peru have been dominated by the deadline for his MA assignments. Every spare minute was spent reading and writing. Having successfully completed and submitted them, he can emerge from the study and continue with normal life! He has found the studying very interesting and of help but he is an extrovert and so long periods shut away with books are always a challenge.

It was for some light relief then that he was also involved in the student age youth camp here in Lima. These young people are often also youth leaders within their churches and so it is an important group to work with and spend time helping. The theme of the camp was "*Only one direction*" and it looked at how to put God first and be led by Him, even when there are many other competing priorities. Particular highlights were the times spent praying with the young people and the chance to chat and listen to them.



*Sophia with his birthday present*

The teenager's camp here in Lima that was held whilst we were back in the UK was a great success and the teenagers got together for their "encounter" at the end of April. They came from across the city for worship, teaching, games, to present dramas and, of course, to see one another again. It was an encouraging time and we pray that God will continue to call and guide them in each of the different places where they find themselves and that they will follow His direction for their lives.

There have been many encouragements in the local youth ministries in which Paul is involved. At San Juan Evangelista, where we attend church, Paul has handed responsibility for the day to day running of the Saturday group to the young people themselves. Whilst he remains involved, it is exciting to see the young people taking responsibility and see the fruits of time



### Paul and Sarah Tester

CMS mission partners

### Peru

Paul and Sarah are CMS mission partners working 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.

invested in their lives. Do please pray for the group and particularly Monica, Roxana and Jesús who are now organising things. In San Pablo the young people have begun to take responsibility for different parts of the group – giving talks, running the games, organising the food and drink, and cleaning up before and after. Please pray that their faith in Jesus, which has brought this about, will continue to deepen. Paul is no longer involved directly with youth ministry at San Patricio in Ventanilla. There are now four young people attending church regularly, although their families don't. Paul visited recently to encourage them and there is a genuine desire to engage with them within the church leadership. Please pray that they might overcome the difficulties of being involved in church without the full support of family and without a specific group to support them as God continues to encourage and call them.

Sarah and Sophia are thrilled to have found a nearby park where babies go to play with their nannies/grannies every morning. The babies take their toys, which of course they aren't interested in, and then play with each other's. Sophia is very proud that she can now walk and enjoys following her best friends Rupito and Renato around. It is interesting to see how her language is developing as she spends a significant time each day hearing Spanish. Her first words were, "Dad" and "Mum" closely followed by "chau", Spanish for "bye"!

Sophia enjoys spending Friday afternoons with Dad while Mum goes to San Pablo. Sarah is so enjoying spending time with the children there and has also begun teaching again at Sunday school at San Juan Evangelista. It has been wonderful to see how God is working in the lives of Maritza and daughter Fabiola who are now attending church. Maritza has been so keen to come and has even done a reading. She seems like a different person and has been holding down her job and been committed to taking Fabiola to school. Praise God!

**Please thank God for:**

- Paul getting his MA assignments completed and handed in by the deadline.
- Sarah getting back into children's ministry at San Pablo and San Juan Evangelista.
- Sophia settling back into life in Peru and for her first birthday on 9 May.
- A blessed time at the youth camp in Lima in April.
- The faith and commitment of the young people in the different youth ministries.
- Maritza and Fabiola attending church.

**Please pray for:**

- Young people here to put God first as they continue in their daily lives.
- The young people at San Juan Evangelista, San Pablo and San Patricio; that each would continue to grow in their relationship with God.
- Sophia's continued wellbeing and joyfulness as she enters her second year.
- God to continue to guide us and for us to listen to Him as we seek to serve Him as he wants.

**What would you do?**

Another child related dilemma this month! You have your daughter's first birthday coming up. In Peru, birthdays are very important and normally there is a big party to celebrate the first one. Being very different, your daughter is a bit of a local celebrity. You want the day to be one where she isn't overwhelmed by all the fuss and can enjoy her day. How do you celebrate, give people the chance to celebrate with you and yet make sure that your daughter enjoys the day most of all?

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With love and prayers,

*Paul, Sarah and Sophia xxx*

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