

News from Paul and Sarah Tester: CMS Mission Partners in Lima, Peru



January - March 2010
"Coming to a town near you soon?"



"The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life" - John 4 v 13-14

Dear Praying Friends,

We are finding it hard to get our heads around but on the 12th March, two and a half years after leaving the UK, we will be returning to visit friends and family and to share about all that has been happening here in Peru. We are looking forward to meeting up with many of you over the next few months before we head back to Peru in August. This newsletter is a taster of what you may well hear more of soon. So settle in and read what's happened in the last two very busy months!

Paul's News: People often write and say how busy both of us sound. Well I think the last two months have topped previous records! I was enjoying a few hours sleep in my tent by the beach on the first night of the last of the summer youth camps when my mobile rang and my worried Mum told me about the huge earthquake that had happened in neighbouring Chile and of the Tsunami warnings that were out for the whole Chilean and Peruvian coasts! As I and other youth leaders prayed, listened to the latest information and decided whether to try and evacuate the young people from the campsite in the dark I was more aware than ever of the responsibility we have for the lives of our young people. Thankfully we did not have to leave and our part of the earthquake scare was over. Many in Chile were not so lucky and we ask you for your prayers for the difficult situation that many Chilean's, including many from the church, are struggling to deal with.



Sisters Nirian and Ariana from San Pablo with their school stationery for the new school year

That responsibility for the lives of young people and their need to engage with Christ is something that continues to drive what I do here. Over the last two months I, as part of the diocesan youth ministry, have had the chance to share with around 160 young people about Christ and what he has done for us and the impact that can have in our lives. Through two sports and arts weeks, two youth camps plus youth groups and activities I have had the chance to sow the seeds of the gospel of Jesus to many young people. Please pray that these seeds might grow and develop into strong faith in each of these young people. Please pray for the leaders I will be leaving behind as we visit the UK and that they will continue to share the gospel faithfully with the young people through their words and actions.

Sarah's news

The 2 ½ months summer holiday is a great chance to do extra activities with the children. In Ventanilla 'El Arca' has been busting at the seams with up to 65 children on Tuesdays and Saturdays. The teacher in me has also enjoyed the challenge of teaching Maths and English workshops to a group of twenty 4-11 year olds. An answer to prayer is that three very capable Mums have agreed to lead the 'play' part of the project in my absence and Deacon David will be doing the Bible teaching. 'El Arca' at San Pablo is a joy. The children



Please pray for Nikole, a 13 year old, who has started and continues to lead the youth group at St Luke's, Arequipa! An inspiration to us all!

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especially enjoy acting out the Bible stories and are keen to ask on our arrival who will be acting that day. Unfortunately Mari has been very busy at work but Lily and I are grateful to Jo (a new volunteer from the UK who will be here until August) who is a great help and is getting stuck in to the project. As in previous years we have been blessed with a donation to buy stationery for the new school year and 140 children from the missions have received 2 exercise books, a pencil, rubber and pencil sharpener, much to their parents delight! At San Juan Evangelista we were thrilled with the high turnout of children at the Holiday Club we ran for four days in February and the summer workshops for the children at the Compassion project have been lots of fun. My highlight was teaching art to the 3-5's and getting very messy with salt dough! Yesterday at the celebration of their work it was lovely to see their excitement as they were given their final painted and varnished models and to listen to them as they named their snails, snakes and other random unidentifiable objects! I am finding it a very emotional time saying goodbye to these children I have grown to love, particularly to those who have been abandoned by a parent, and ask for your prayers.



Sarah being mobbed by the children as they greet her for her birthday!

Bite-size Highlights:

- ⇒ At our church in San Juan Evangelista we have been joined by a short term volunteer from the UK, Jo, who will be helping with several of the things we will be leaving behind there. We're really pleased to have her here with us and that she will be able to help keep things going!
- ⇒ The diocese has been given a donation from SAMS Ireland to help support the youth ministry here, providing for Lizbeth, the diocesan youth coordinator, and for resources for the youth ministry which is great!
- ⇒ Sarah celebrated her birthday on the 27th February (having been woken at 3am by Paul ringing from camp, two hours drive away, asking her to find out more information about possible Tsunami's!)

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- All of the youth activities which God has blessed! We have many testimonies of lives changed and young people challenged to live for Jesus.
- Carmen, Judith and Isabel who will be leading El Arca in Ventanilla and Isabel who prepares the refreshments

Please continue to pray for:

- The follow up from the youth camps and activities. For young people to stay strong in their faith and for the many youth leaders who share with them. Please pray for perseverance and strength for them to live as God would have them live.
- Those continuing in the children's ministry. That the children will know that they are loved by an unchangeable God who will never leave them
- Goodbyes
- Our journey back to the UK - for safety, good health, no connection problems, for all the paperwork to be completed smoothly and for no loss or damage to luggage (or us!).
- Our arrival back in the UK - For time to adjust, for good time to spend with our families and friends and for safety in travel around the country.
- Our time in the UK - For people to be challenged and encouraged by what we share and for God to provide for our return to Peru.

We know "What would you do?" is one of the most popular parts of our prayer letter but for this issue we're including our "Tour Dates" instead! Maybe you can come and join us at some point? We're also hoping to get a few midweek meetings booked in soon! Watch this space!

12th March - We arrive in the UK
 28th March - Stapleford Citadel, Nottingham
 18th March - All Saints, Anchorsholme
 11th April - All Saints, Hunmanby
 2nd May - St John's, Welling
 9th May - St Cuthbert's, Cheadle
 23rd May - Holy Trinity, Aylesbury
 30th May - St Thomas', Brampton, Chesterfield
 13th June - St Mary's, Woodchester
 20th June - St Peter and St Paul's, Headcorn
 18th July - St Nicholas', Hardwick, Gloucester
 25th July - Christ Church, Quarry Bank
 1st August - St Mary's, Balderstone, Rochdale
 19th August - Return to Peru

Thank you for your part in God's mission! With lots of love and prayers from us both, Paul and Sarah