

Paul, Sarah & Sophia Tester



December 2012

The Obligatory Christmas Prayer Letter!

CMS Mission Partners in Lima, Peru

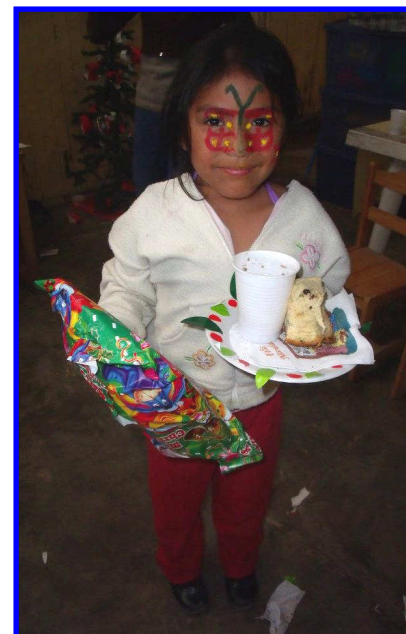


"The water I give will be an artesian spring within, gushing fountains of endless life" - John 4 v 13-14

Dear Praying Friends,

An editorial in the premier newspaper in Peru ended with the following this week, "Why don't we get the family together and have a good time any other weekend of the year? Why don't we surprise our partner with a gift on a normal day just to celebrate being together? Why don't we think about the poor children in summer? Maybe if we did Christmas would be a much calmer date and we wouldn't be so worried about doing so many good things in just one month." We hope this letter finds you calm and ready for Christmas and that the introduction inspires you to spread the "good things" out around the year. However, as Christians Christmas is such a special time, all because of the arrival of that special baby so many years ago, and we all want to celebrate it in the best way possible. For us, that means that this year we will spend Christmas in the UK for the first time in over five years. It will, of course, be extra special as Sophia is now with us and we are so excited about being with family for this special day. We hope and pray it will be a blessed time for you as well.

Here in Peru, we are beginning the increase of activities for Christmas. Paul is organising celebrations for the different youth groups that he helps lead and Sarah is helping organise presents for children in different missions in Lima. Do please pray that the celebrations would go well and most importantly, in what is now perhaps a bit of a cliché, that people are touched by the reason for the celebration. Having recently experienced holding a new born baby in our arms, it makes us even more amazed that God would choose to empty himself and be born into this world and dwell amongst us, starting in such a fragile way.



At last year's Christmas celebration at San Pablo mission - Paneton, hot chocolate, presents, face painting...



Paul and the young people on the "Happening" weekend

Poor Mary and Joseph had to travel a long way and "rough it" when Jesus could be born. Paul recently travelled 520 miles to Juliaca, in the south of the country and at nearly 4000m above sea level. He went with the diocesan youth ministry team to help the mission there with an evangelistic weekend for young people called Happening. His "roughing it" included sleeping on floors, the altitude playing tricks on his digestion and both the altitude and the young people ensuring he got less sleep than when with the frequent waking Sophia! But at the end of it all, it was of course worth it. As we shared the gospel with the young people it was a joy to see them be challenged, respond

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and particularly to see their desire to pray (James 1:2). Do please pray for the young people who attended, for the ministers, Rev'd Luis and lay minister Victor who will be continuing to work with them and in general for the church in Juliaca, Santa María Magdalena.

Sophia continues to thrive and delight us. She brings joy to lots of different people everyday with her smiles (the security man, the street vendor, the shop keeper, the President's body guard etc). She enjoys jiggling about on her own two feet, spoon feeding herself and trying to get as much water as possible out of her baby bath and onto her bedroom floor! This month she visited the girls from Sunday School who live in a children's home and San Patricio mission where she enjoyed meeting many of the families with whom we have worked there. She is particularly looking forward to meeting more of her own family at Christmas and playing with her cousins.



Sophia and family visiting friends in Ventanilla!

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- The Happening weekend and the young people who attended and encountered God.
- A chance to visit the UK, see family, study and visit supporters.
- Sophia's continued development, good health and cheery disposition!

Please continue to pray for:

- The Christmas celebrations, especially those at the missions and parishes where we work and for the children and young people involved.
- The follow up with the young people who attended Happening and that they would choose to continue in their walk with Jesus.
- Our journey to the UK, 20th - 21st December (particularly that our active daughter will be able to get some sleep as her first ever flight will be 12 hours long!)
- Paul's MA studies in Youth ministry and Theology.
- Those leading ministries in our absence.
- The summer youth camps (Arequipa 25th-27th Jan, Teenagers Lima 7th-10th Feb, Youth 22nd-24th Feb)

With love and prayers, Paul, Sarah and Sophia XXx

Testers in the UK!

We will be in the UK from the 21st December until the 18th March. A number of people have asked about an address in the UK to send Christmas cards to. Thank you!

Please send post to 19 Redshank Road, St Mary's Island, Chatham, Kent, ME4 3NX.

Our schedule for link church visits whilst in the UK is:

13th January - St Mary's, Balderstone, Rochdale

27th January - St Peter and St Paul's Headcorn and the Suttons, Kent

(1st February - Friday Night Live, SAMS Ireland)

10th February - St Cuthbert's, Cheadle

17th February - All Saints, Hunmanby

24th February - St Mary's, Woodchester

3rd March - Holy Trinity, Aylesbury

Do pop in if you are nearby! This stay is a shortened visit but will still include the CMS conference (15th-18th Jan), health check ups, Paul's studies and time with family as well. We are planning to return to the UK again in Autumn 2013 so Paul can complete his studies and we plan to visit our remaining link churches then. We hope to catch up with as many of you soon whilst in the UK.