

Paul, Sarah & Sophia Tester



September 2013
Giving it all away!

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,

This last couple of months has probably been the most difficult time for us in Peru since we arrived, for many different reasons. That said, we are encouraged by all God is doing here amongst the children and young people that we work with, particularly as others grow and take on responsibility. Amongst all of the challenges, God continues to draw people to Him and it is an honour to be playing a part in his work. In this latest period it has seemed that God is helping us to encourage others to use their gifts in service of Him.



Juan, one of the mission team, sharing his testimony with the young people in Ajuac



Monica, who also went on the mission trip speaking at the Youth Alpha retreat

At the end of July Paul led a group of young people from Lima, where the Anglican church is well established, to the Central Andes where the church has new missions. The young people went to encourage and share with the young people in Jauja, Ajuac and Huancayo. Each young person had saved up for the trip and, from the little they have, gave so much. Paul's main role was getting people organised and prepared, getting them to the right place and helping run the programme whilst the young people themselves were responsible for all of the activities. They shared testimonies, led games, teaching slots, worship, devotional times and it was great to see their maturity and desire to share Christ with others. There were times to chat and pray with the young people there and we have since been invited back to follow up what has been started. We hope that we are planting the seeds for a regional youth ministry in the area. Do pray for the follow up.

The following weekend Paul was also leading our church's Youth Alpha retreat. We took over twenty young people who have been taking the course as part of the Compassion project at church. Whilst being responsible for the retreat Paul was encouraged to see the teenager's tutors and some of the older young people leading the talks, worship, small groups and games. The young people have mentioned the feeling of peace and forgiveness whilst being prayed for in ministry times. Some

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have since begun to attend the Saturday youth group and we continue to pray for their spiritual growth.

Also in August was the Diocesan Youth Ministry's youth leader workshop in Lima with three sessions looking at "The profile of a leader", "The use of games and icebreakers" and "Christian Counselling". Paul has previously been heavily involved in organising these events but this time was able to take more of a back seat as the event organiser was the youth ministry's intern, David. He consulted with other leaders, chose the topics, organised the speakers and led the day. Paul was able to concentrate on bringing young leaders from San Juan Evangelista and San Pablo to the workshop, and on chatting to other leaders during the day.

Sarah and Sophia have had a more difficult time keeping busy over the winter months as children tend to stay inside (despite temperatures being about 65°F!). However, we have found some lovely swimming lessons. 'Quack, quack!' shouted Sophia with delight the first week on seeing the rubber ducks in the pool. Sophia takes after her dad and will happily participate in the activities as long as she has a ball in her hand! We have also been busy supporting a mum, Maritza, from Church whose daughters will hopefully soon be moving home after several years in care. On being asked by the mum how she can repay us, it has been good to share with her about God's love.

We are very much looking forward to the next three months in the UK (we leave Peru on the 30th September) where Paul will complete the second term of his MA in Youth Ministry and Theology at King's College London and where we will all have the chance to see family and friends. We will visit link churches (see the itinerary below) and hope to catch up with many of you whilst there. Each time we travel it is always interesting to see how those we leave here in Peru develop and take on responsibilities in their service of Christ. We pray that as we have seen in the last few months, by giving others the chance to serve, more young Peruvians may receive the good news of Jesus.



Sarah, Sophia and friend on a trip to the zoo.
Sophia loves growling when she sees a lion!

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- A successful mission trip to Jauja, Ajuac and Huancayo.
- The Youth Alpha course at San Juan Evangelista
- The renewal of our resident's cards - after four separate visits to immigration!
- That Sophia continues to grow and develop well and is a happy little girl.

Please pray for:

- The follow up to the mission trip in the central Andes.
- Continuing spiritual growth in the young people of San Juan Evangelista.
- Safety as we travel to the UK on 30th September
- Those we leave behind with extra responsibilities, especially those in the youth ministry (Lizbeth, David, Susan), young leaders at San Juan Evangelista (Monica, Roxana) plus those leading groups at San Pablo (Julio, Norma, Lily).
- For Maritza and family as they adjust to being together again.
- Paul as he studies and for God to uphold us and refresh us whilst in the UK.
- Forthcoming youth events (Family Fun Day - 28th September & National Youth Leader's Retreat - 8th-10th November)

With love and prayers, Paul, Sarah and Sophia XXx

UK Itinerary at present:

Sunday 13th October - St Thomas', Chesterfield

Sunday 17th November - All Saints, Anchorsholme

Sunday 3rd November - Christ Church, Quarry Bank

Sunday 1st December - St John's, Welling

Do pop in and see us if you can!