

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



April / May 2009
Hope springs eternal!



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

Dear Praying Friends,

Thank you for your prayers over the last couple of months. We thought it was about time for an update on what we've been up to, so here's the latest from us and Lima, Peru!



Prayer time in Ventanilla

Sarah's News: God is continuing to really bless the ministry with children here. It has been great to be around on Tuesday afternoons again in Ventanilla (as well on Saturdays), where, with the help of some mums, I'm running 'The Ark' playscheme with extra teaching on one of the animals that went into the ark each week, followed by crafts. There are fewer children Tuesdays which gives me a good opportunity to be able to chat more and pray with them. It was interesting this week to observe a game some of the younger ones were playing at home time. Carlitos climbed onto the cross at the front of Church calling, '¡Mirame Sarita, soy Jesús!' (Look at me Sarah, I'm Jesus!). Surrounded in Peruvian Roman Catholic culture by Jesus hanging on the

cross, it was a good chance to talk again about why Jesus died and what happened afterwards. We then went on to act out the resurrection with great vigour! Please pray that the children would really know Jesus and his power in their lives. To encourage and involve parents I did a talk on how parents can help their children in their studies. It was well-received and I'm planning other topics. I am also programmed to deliver 'The Ark' training to teachers at Santísima Trinidad on 20th May and so am busy buying resources etc. It was planned for April but unfortunately on my way home from town my taxi was involved in an accident and I managed to break my nose and cut my forehead on the seat in front of me. Four weeks on, the nose is straight and I just have a few small scars that are healing everyday. As I've also had a cold since the day before the accident, I've been having to rest more than I would like and would ask for your prayers for my ear that is still partially blocked from the cold and the flight back from the jungle (see below). Elsewhere, all is ticking along nicely at the San Juan Evangelista Sunday School and Compassion project!

Paul's News: Being close to achieving something is, I am finding, far more frustrating than being nowhere near! As a football manager once said "It's not the despair that kills you, but the **hope**!" Last time we wrote I mentioned the possibility of a full time Peruvian youth worker and since then your prayers on the subject have begun to be answered. The diocese supports the idea, we have the right person available, we have even been given an office and a desk for them (!); we "just" need to find the money to employ them. I also mentioned the youth alpha course with a group from a middle class area in Lima which I'm helping to run. Thank you for praying as we have a couple of new members to the group which is brilliant. However, we do still seem to lack the critical mass that it needs to really get going. We held a youth gathering for the church's youth groups around Lima and just over 50 attended which was great and yet we really yearn to see many more young people excited to follow Christ. I have felt God prompting me to be more active in mentoring some of the young



Youth from San Patricio posing!

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Broken noses past (Paul in October) and present (Sarah in April)! Do pray for safety and good health!

people I work with and have been taking the first steps with that as well, meeting up with some of the guys from the different groups we work with. In the next couple of months we hope to visit Arequipa and Ica again to encourage, strengthen and inspire the youth ministries in these areas. Finally for now, we are planning to take some of the older youth on a mission to trip in July to support the diocese's mission in Juliaca. We are holding training sessions with this small group and are excited that God might raise up more young Peruvian missionaries. In each of these ministries and the others I am working with (the young people in San Juan Evangelista and San Patricio) I feel God has led us to

where we are and we need to trust Him for he next step. May he lead, inspire and show his power! Please join with me in praying for each of these opportunities and that God will work as he sees fit so that many young people would choose to follow him. "We wait in **hope** for the Lord; he is our **hope** and our shield" (Psalm 33:20).

Bite-size Highlights:

- ⇒ Sarah's family visited us for two weeks over Easter. It was wonderful to see them again and we enjoyed a few days away with them in Iquitos, the peruvian rainforest.
- ⇒ Sarah's sister Claire and husband Rob are expecting a baby in early June. We're so excited! Our first nephew or niece!



Breakfast in the jungle with Sarah's parents!

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- The diocese being keen on employing a Peruvian youth worker and that the right person is available!
- New participants in the youth alpha course.
- A lovely time with Sarah's parents
- Ever-deepening relationships with the children and mums
- Personal and ministry gifts/greetings from the UK that have arrived at just the right time to encourage us!

Please continue to pray for:

- God to inspire, guide and provide in all the opportunities to work with young people across the diocese - especially for a Peruvian youth worker to be able to begin work soon.
- The mission trip to Juliaca in July and for the training sessions in the months beforehand.
- For 'The Ark' launch at Santísima Trinidad School, 20th May
- For the children and young people to really *know* Jesus
- For safety and good health, bearing in mind Sarah's lengthy cold, blocked ear and recently healed nose!
- The safe arrival of Claire and Rob's baby, and that Sarah will be able to manage being so far away from them all!

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 12

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:

They say "home is where the heart is". We have many ties to the UK - family, friends, a house, many wonderful experiences and years of life there. At the same time we now have many ties to Peru. Friends, adopted family (!), a (rented) house, many wonderful experiences and years of life there (anyone spot the similarity?!). Where is "home" and what does it mean "to come home"?

In the next year or so we expect to arrive in the UK for a time of what is interchangeably called home ministry, furlough or even "holiday" (don't believe it every other mission partner we have spoken to has told us!). We'll be visiting supporters, sharing our experience and seeing family and friends. Whilst great to be back in the UK, we will also be away from "home", from "work" and from many friends. How should we prepare for this? When should we visit? For how long should we stay? What should we plan to do with our time?

Thank you for reading and praying! You make a difference! With lots of love and prayers from us both, Paul and Sarah