

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



December 2008 and January 2009
A new toilet and other exciting developments!



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

Dear Praying Friends,

Thanks for praying over the last couple of months. Much has happened and we feel we have been blessed in lots of our work. Please keep praying - it makes a big difference!

Sarah's News

Thanks for your prayers for the Christmas activities; everything went really well! The nativity play at San Juan Evangelista went smoothly with several parents attending and the party at San Patricio was lovely. It was great to see the older boys whoop with joy when they recognised their gift to be a football despite the wrapping! I'm enjoying being able to focus more on the children's ministry at our own church and at San Patricio. Despite the after-Christmas lull we are still seeing around forty children at Sunday school and it has been great to welcome two more Sunday school teachers and another helper to the team. This has meant we have been able to split the children into three age-appropriate groups (I teach the 5-7's). Last week two of the team and I attended a training course on how to run a holiday club and hope to organise one in February (the last month of the school summer holidays).

I now help two afternoons a week at our church's 'Compassion' project. It is great to have the chance to get to know these children better, to be able to provide a link with Sunday school and just to be available to listen. As previous teaching experience is not a requirement to be a tutor, I'm also glad to be there as someone who the tutors can come to if they need help with classroom management ideas or just need someone to share their joys and struggles with!

The children at Misión San Patricio are such a delight! Another delight is that we now have a toilet at the mission! We will no longer need to break our journey at the supermarket on the way. Thanks to a team from the U.S. we also have a sounder structure which has given us much more space in the shade, very necessary in this heat! Apart from 'The Ark' on Saturdays, the mission is also running workshops during the week for the children. I'm running an English club on Tuesdays for about forty children (aged 2-11 so quite a challenge!) and hope to continue a workshop on Tuesdays at the beginning of the school term (possibly on health issues; watch this space!).



Christmas dinner at friends
on the 24th December

Paul's News:



Seeing in the New Year with friends
Jasper, Anaelica and Lizbeth

There are a few exciting opportunities in the youth ministry and I am really looking forward to see how they progress. The group that have been meeting in our home here in Surco are about to launch an Alpha course for their friends starting Tuesday 27th January. It would be great for the first session to go with a bang so we hope that many of their friends will accept their invitations and join us. With the young people at San Patricio I've begun a leadership course on Tuesday afternoons which we hope will help them to grow and take on more responsibility for the group so that in the future I will be able to leave them to it more and put my energies into other areas. Teófila,

Paul and Sarah's Contact Details:

Post: Artesanos 150 #151, Apartado Postal #116, Lima 33,
PERU

Tel: +51 1 273 2721

Mob (Paul): +51 1 990919306; Mob (Sarah): +51 1 990919307

E-mail: paulandsarahinlima@hotmail.com

Skype: paulandsarahtester

Facebook (See Photos): PaulandSarah Tester



Registered Charity 221328 Registered Company 65048

Allen Gardiner Cottage,
Pembury Road, Tunbridge
Wells, Kent TN2 3QU
Tel: 01892 538647
Web: www.samsgb.org

the wife of our vicar at San Juan Evangelista has begun a baking course on Saturday afternoons (with thanks to friends at Christ Church, Quarry Bank) and many young people have been coming. We hope that this might be an opportunity to share about Christ with them and to try to involve them with the existing youth group. Recently there was a gathering of the different Church groups with the intention of encouraging them to come to the summer camp. I spoke at the event and we hope that the camp (6th-8th March on the theme of "Holiness") might be a success and bless all involved. Most of the youth groups are now in the midst of frantic fundraising activities so that as many young people as possible can attend.

Bite-size Highlights:

- ⇒ We celebrated Christmas on the 24th in the evening with our good friends, Juan, Lily, Karen, Tanny and Lynn.
- ⇒ We had a lovely holiday between Christmas and New Year, staying with friends in Los Organos in the very north of Peru, taking advantage of their house's close proximity to the beach!
- ⇒ At New Year we hosted a celebration with friends Lizbeth, Jasper and Angelica. Lizbeth, Jasper and Paul make up the group that coordinate the diocesan youth ministry.
- ⇒ Friends in the UK have been sponsoring a student, Karen, through university and she recently graduated with a degree in education with very good marks. We continue to look for sponsors for young people involved with the church's youth ministry so if you're interested, please get in touch.
- ⇒ Paul has been preaching and leading Bible studies at church and hopes his Spanish is being understood!
- ⇒ The trustees of our mission agency, SAMS, and another, CMS, have recently agreed to merge. Please keep all involved in your prayers, particularly those in the UK who will undoubtedly be unsettled by the related changes.



Enjoying the beach with Giovanna, Martin and their son Therius on our trip "up North"

For your prayers:

Please thank God for:

- For Luis Augusto, Nilda and Ana who are helping at Sunday School.
- For God blessing us with so many children at San Juan Evangelista and San Patricio.
- Exciting opportunities for Paul in the youth ministry.
- A lovely time over Christmas and New Year

Please continue to pray for:

- Good health and energy for all we're involved with (Sarah has been fighting off one bug after another).
- God's protection over siblings Jorge (11), María (5) and Victor (6) from San Patricio. That their home would be a place where they are loved and secure
- The Youth Alpha course starting on the 27th January.
- Funds so that all the young people will be able to attend the youth camp and for all the preparations for the camp still to be done.
- The young people involved with the baking course and that they would want to find out more about Jesus.
- Plans for a holiday club at San Juan Evangelista.

What would you do? - Going deeper No. 11
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:

Over the Christmas period we had the chance to visit friends and have a much needed break. We love to travel and explore Peru as it is an incredible and beautiful country. However, most Peruvians don't get to travel much due to financial pressures and so when we mention that we're going away we often hear the response "Again?" or "Can you take me with you?!".

Should we travel less so that the differences between us and many of those we work with are less obvious? Should we not tell people that we are going to travel during our break (tricky!)? Should we accept that we're just different and that many people will view us as people who are rich and travel a lot?

Thank you for your support. With lots of love and prayers from us both, Paul and Sarah