

Link Letter No. 5 April 2014

Dear friends,

Happy Easter!

I've now completed my first six months in Lima. In many ways it feels like I've been here for ages, I've visited so many different churches and projects, my Spanish is improving and I feel settled in Lima as a city. On the other hand, until the end of last month, I still wasn't settled in a church regularly and was still unsure as to what I'd be doing during the next six months.

One thing that has really come into focus during the last couple of months was my need to lay down my expectations about the work I would or wouldn't be involved with (to be honest, I thought that I didn't really have clear expectations) and continue to be open to how God wants to use me, even in areas I am not particularly comfortable with or don't have experience in. This is

good as it means I am truly vulnerable and so really am dependent on Him rather than my own skills and abilities.

Thankfully, I was able to have my second official meeting with the bishop at the end of March, which I felt was a really positive meeting. We had previously discussed a couple of different churches where I might be



Anna Sims

CMS mission partner

Peru

Anna Sims is a CMS mission partner who has just moved to Peru to begin work with local churches using community development and the arts in mission. She is an arts educator who is interested in the therapeutic uses of art and will be using her skills and training to support local churches' work with children and families in deprived communities.



Arequipa camp

able to attend regularly and serve. At my second meeting, my choice to go to La Ascención was approved. The church is in the ground floor of the diocesan offices and it has just gone through a change in leadership and has a tiny congregation. Last week I led the children's session; they were very patient with my Spanish and enthusiastic about the passage (John 9 – when Jesus heals the man who was blind from birth). Amazingly, two new young people turned up this week and I was able to tell them



Leading a devotional at the young people's camp in Lima

about the activities and events we have for the young people at a diocesan level of which I am involved.

My work with the youth leaders will continue until September as I am helping cover some absent / less mobile staff until then. This area of ministry has really surprised me as it was something I'd never thought about before I got here. I am not naturally inclined towards working late nights, participating in dramas and skits and all the shaving-foam type games that go along with this kind of work. However, it fits in with my extraverted personality and my love for working in a team setting.



Ica

time with them and helping out with the different activities. I spent most of February assisting with the summer camps and particularly enjoyed leading the morning devotions (I tried to make them interactive and creative) about Jesus' meeting with the Samaritan woman at the well. I am continuing to help with local activities (including a workshop on sexuality and follow up events from the camps) as well as assisting Lizbeth

and Paul with the annual regional pastoral visits which started with Ica at the end of March.

Another ministry I am exploring at the moment is the work in the maximum security prison. I have visited a couple of the women's prisons in Chorrillos and feel really drawn to this prison in particular. Whilst there during my first visit, some of the inmates told me about a British woman who had just been moved

there, so I made contact with her and have been visiting her as a personal visitor as well as going in with the prison ministry "Cadena de Amor" (Chains of Love). I am planning to visit with Cadena de Amor more regularly during the next couple of months to try and get a better



Teenager's camp in Lima

understanding of the situation and context there.

There are also a couple of other areas where I may be able to use my creative skills leading workshops but the timing hasn't really worked out at the moment but that may be something that I can try and pursue again once I've reduced the number of hours I am studying Spanish.

Please pray for me over the next few months as I



Water balloon volley camp in Arequipa

continue to study Spanish, get more involved with La Ascención church, support the youth ministry and explore different opportunities within the prison ministry.

Thanks again for your prayers and ongoing support,

*Love
Anna x*

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A boy enjoying a watermelon at a children's event in Ica

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