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Pat was an energetic coordinator of the Diocese of Peru's programme of social outreach, with its many projects. She now focuses on the ministry of her own church of Jesús el Nazareno in Pamplona Alta, Lima, and was ordained deacon to its congregation in November 2006. Much more information about some of the projects Pat is involved in, including Shalom which works with children with disabilities, can be found at: [www.patinperulatest.blogspot.com](http://www.patinperulatest.blogspot.com)

## Link Letter No.5 January 2014

### Dear friends,

2014 has begun with different activities and very hot weather, although we are experiencing some very freak showers, with real drops of rain – quite unusual for Lima!

The Shalom building is progressing well; all the actual construction work is complete apart from a few walls on the ground floor as the workforce are still needing to use the bathrooms until a new one upstairs is completed. We still don't actually have the licence but no one from the local government has been to bother us as I have the word of the mayor. I will follow up the paperwork in the next week or so. They are plastering the external walls and internal patio and getting organised to paint the inside walls. We are also at the fixtures and fittings stage with this week's chore being to choose all the ceramics for the flooring. We have been looking at various options and have made some decisions and hope to define everything by the end of the week.



*The Shalom building project*

I am really anxious to have a real "church" space, to define us as a church that has a project and not the other way round. I long for the day when we don't have to get everything out of the cupboard for the services or the prayer and bible study time during the week when we gather together with mothers and children during the therapy sessions.

I am also getting ready to re-plan my life living in Pamplona and being "on hand" will mean fewer bus journeys and more time to develop the pastoral

ministry in Shalom. We have some lovely bench seats all around the roof area – I can imagine wonderful times of community up there! The other day I sat on the roof and was overcome by how great God is and how great is the community around us – a real mission field for the future!

As I write, the situation in the community of Nazareno is tense and difficult. People have invaded several open spaces in the area

and are squatting on the land, marking out their space and trying to establish their possession. The other evening as I arrived in Nazareno, the police were evicting those who had invaded the space around the community football pitch and tear gas was being used. The whole community was affected and the whole evening was very tense. Please pray that the situation calms down and that a peaceful solution is found for all those involved.

### **To recap the end of 2013 since my last link letter...**

... for the Shalom team November was a busy, but very rewarding month, with two campaigns and opportunities to serve and extend contacts and influence. During 7-9 November we were in Ica, five hours from Lima. In conjunction with Health Bridges International (HBI) and a local parents' group, we ran an evaluation clinic for 77 children and adults with Down syndrome, the youngest being 14 days old and the oldest 50 years. It was a wonderful experience and on Sunday we held an open air service where we considered Mephiboseth and David, and how we are all sons and daughters of the King.



*The Sunday open service in Ica*



*The people invading the spaces in Nazareno. Here they are with plastic separating their space on the hill*

Then at the end of the month it was a privilege to host the physical therapy team of Medical Ministry International (MMI), who brought wheelchairs, supports and other equipment for numerous patients here in Lima. They also did general consultations.

We worked three days in Shalom and on Thursday we went to Caraballyo to a friend's centre for the disabled and then Friday to the Anglican Mission church of San Patricio in Ventanilla. It was a week of mixed emotions – tears of joy from a mother receiving a wheelchair that was going to make it a bit easier for her to care for her child and take him to therapies, and tears of sorrow as parents come to terms with

their son's condition of muscular dystrophy. There were also my own tears as I was overwhelmed by God's presence and the call to serve Him and minister to these children and their families.

It was then straight into Christmas activities, an all-singing, all-dancing end of year party in a local community centre near Shalom with our nativity tableau and gifts given by a local girls' school. There were also other gatherings and visits by friends of Shalom celebrating with us the glorious news of "God with us".

Therapies started well on Monday 6 January; our new indicative of a "prepayment" in December to separate therapy slots meant that the beginning of the year was very calm. Most parents signed up before Christmas and by 7 January "old" and "new" children were allocated a schedule and 65 are now receiving regular therapy. We also started language therapy one morning a week, in addition to each afternoon, so we are expanding.

We also said "goodbye" to Luis, our occupational therapist, who had been working with us off and on for several years. Meanwhile, the process to recruit a replacement went well and we called in Katty who used to come and help out. She has joined the team and is proving a great addition. A previous language therapist, Milagros, also rejoined the team in November and Anghello continues as our physical therapist.

Up in Jesus El Nazareno, Revd Juan Carlos Marces and wife Penny began the marriage course with four couples in September and after a few interruptions, continue on to finish this month. It has been a great encouragement to see these couples solidify their commitment to each other and to Christ, especially Faustin who is Etelvina's husband. They celebrated 33

years of marriage early in January and it is amazing how God has answered Etelvina's faithful prayers throughout many years to see her husband alongside her in church. He is now a regular and a real support and encouragement to all.

Children on summer holiday fill the streets but once a week those in Nazareno come to classes in the church for games, bible stories, crafts and English all rolled into one. We have 30 registered and attending so far – with mothers requesting we open everyday! I wish I was able to go more often but other



*With Rolando receiving his chair and crutches in the MMI campaign (a Diabetes amputee patient from the neighbourhood)*



*Traditional dancing at Shalom's Christmas party*

demands and responsibilities don't allow. The young people are beginning to help out although many are working or studying to supplement income and education.

I was grateful for a short break between Christmas and New Year to get away to one of my favourite locations down south on the coast, Paracas. I went with new CMS mission partner Anna Sims, who is also staying with me for the moment. We had three days away and enjoyed walks, boat rides, sea life, the beach and the sunsets.

It is diocesan camp time so pray for all the leaders and young people who will gather during the summer to study (and have fun) together. In Nazareno we are planning some outings as a precursor to a new teenage group for those leaving Sunday school this year, 11-12 year olds.

As yet I am not entirely sure about my home leave and deputation schedule. I was due back at the end of last year but need to see the building completed and get everything underway in its new location. There really is no good or best time to leave things, especially when God is doing so much and you see so much more that could be done! I don't want to miss out on anything! So I ask for your patience and hope that these link letters (and I promise to write more frequently!) will be a source of information and thanksgiving as we serve together to build His kingdom and reach out to those marginalised because of their disability.

Once again I have been reminded of the verses from Ephesians 3: *"Now to Him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to His power that is at work within us, to Him be the glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! AMEN!!!!!"*

**Praise:**

- Marriage course, especially Faustin and Etelvina, also Genaro and Ena; Beatriz and Jose Maria.
- Advances with the building.
- Medical campaigns and new contacts made.
- New children in Shalom and expansion of therapies.

**Prayer:**

- Timing for my home leave.
- Therapy team in Shalom.
- Summer diocesan youth camps.
- New ministries in Shalom once the building is completed.
- Invasion situation in Nazareno community.
- Teenager and youth ministries in Nazareno.

Blessings, love and many thanks for your participation through prayer, giving and communications.

With love and blessings

Pat

[www.cms-uk.org](http://www.cms-uk.org)



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